

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS
FORUM FOR MELTON HELD AT THE MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES ON
TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT

County Councillors	BOROUGH COUNCILLORS
Cllr A Pearson (Chairman)	Cllr P M Chandler
Cllr P Posnett	Cllr J Wyatt
Cllr J T Orson	Cllr S Lumley
	Cllr E Holmes

The following also attended the meeting:

County officers present: P Crossland, F Blockley and S Dann

Borough officer present:

146. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting. He also welcomed Gareth Evans who is attending the meeting for an extra item on Lag Lane, Thorpe Arnold and also David Groom on an extra item the Chairman has agreed to add to the agenda.

147. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor B Rhodes.

148. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman agreed to take the following items as urgent items.

- Safety Review at Lag Lane, Thorpe Arnold (Gareth Evans)
- Proposed Hill Climb Event (David Groom)

The Chairman asked Mr Groom to present his item.

Mr Groom distributed a hand-out which gave some historical information and photos of the Kettleby Hill Climb held between 1901 and 1910. Mr Groom informed Members that Kettleby Hill is now referred to as Broughton Hill. One of the photos shows the area of the recent land slip. Mr Groom asked Members if they would support him in trying to organise a Hill Climb event. He highlighted that it would be a fairly major event and would attract a great deal of tourism to the area. It would however mean closing the road and he acknowledged the difficulties and costs involved with this. Mr Groom mentioned other areas that have similar events and that they have proven to be extremely popular. Mr Green asked if there is any way a re-enactment could be arranged at this site as there is already the history associated with this location and it is also known to be a measured mile which is important with this type of event.

Cllr J Orson CC gave his full support to this idea and felt that it was a one-time only opportunity. He also acknowledged the costs involved with the road closure and the issues with it being held on an A -road but he felt that this was outweighed by the fact that it would be a huge tourist attraction for Melton.

Mr Crossland said that he thought there was a DfT publication which sets a precedent for these events. He did however have concerns about having the event on this particular road and felt that a major event like this would be better held on a more minor road and preferably on a Sunday. Mr Crossland stated that although the County Council would not push this they could assist if the funding and the organisation of the event were being handled by a third party. Mr Crossland agreed that he would ask officers to look at the suggestions put forward by Mr Groom and report back.

The Chairman agreed and stated that he was fully in support of this proposal as he felt it was good for the local economy of Melton Mowbray and suggested that Mr Crossland ask if the relevant officers could contact Mr Groom (contact details provided) to see if this can proceed. The Chairman invited Mr Groom back to the next meeting and asked for an update to be added to the agenda.

Cllr Orson added that he was pleased that this was being looked at, for what it could achieve for Melton and to relive part of our history which he felt is of national importance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That this urgent item be noted; and
- ii) that officers contact Mr Groom for the details of his proposal and investigate the possibilities of this event being held. An update will be brought to the next Highway Forum.

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Orson CC declared a pecuniary interest in item 6e (page 23) as a local landowner. He agreed to leave the meeting whilst that item was considered.

150. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th July 2016 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

151. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES

152. a) NETHER BROUGHTON HILL A606 LANDSLIP

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport on the landslip at Nether Broughton. The report was introduced by Mr Crossland with a copy filed with the minutes.

Cllr E Holmes BC asked officers if this road was going to be kept open as she felt the works hadn't been completed properly and that the slip would happen again. Mr Crossland answered that as the slip happened on private land this was dealt with by the Landowner and their insurance company.

153. b) SAINSBURY'S, NOTTINGHAM ROAD TURN LEFT AND POSSIBLE
DECOMMISSION OF LIGHT CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport regarding the left turn on Nottingham Road and also the decommissioning of the light controlled pedestrian crossing near Sainsbury's which had been raised at the last Highway Forum. The report was introduced by Mrs Blockley with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Blockley advised that the word 'facilities' in the update needed to be replaced with the word 'demand'.

The update was noted.

154. c) ACCIDENTS AT CROXTON KERRIAL

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport regarding the accidents at Croxton Kerrial. The report was introduced by Mrs Blockley with a copy filed with the minutes.

Cllr J Wyatt BC stated that he couldn't understand why there had been so many accidents. Mrs Blockley stated that all the data will form part of the investigation which is due to be carried out. She went on to say that the investigation will look at the type of accidents that have occurred and check for any commonalities.

Mr Crossland referred to a recent report on road safety which was discussed at the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee which showed that the majority of Leicestershire's accidents happen in rural areas, he stated that the focus would be on these areas.

The Chairman asked if an update on this can be brought back to the next meeting.

155. d) UPDATE ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES UNDERTAKEN BY
LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AS THE LEAD LOCAL
FLOOD AUTHORITY

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport on the responsibilities of Leicestershire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority. The report was introduced by Mr Crossland with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Crossland stated that the County Council now carry out the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) role for the County. The role of the LLFA dictates a number of statutory duties that need to be performed which include the investigation of flooding incidents and the identification of the relevant parties (Severn Trent Water, Anglian Water, Environmental Agency (EA), Highways Agency) who may be responsible and then co-ordinate a solution, although not providing that solution.

Mr Crossland stated that from 15th April 2015 the LLFA is also a statutory consultee of planning applications for developments of 10 houses or more or commercial developments where they would assess and advise on the surface water drainage systems and associated flood risk.

Mr Crossland highlighted from the report that there were 2 flood alleviation schemes for Melton Borough for 2016/17. These were Main Street, Stonesby outside Alma

Barn and Main Street Wymondham. There is also one Local Levy Bid for the Melton Borough where money had been requested for a watercourse in Long Clawson. Cllr P Chandler BC stated that she was pleased that this is being dealt with as she felt this has been a major issue over the years.

Mr Crossland mentioned the responsibilities of the Riparian Owners who have a duty to ensure the ditches and water courses on their land are clear and free flowing. This may mean notices being served to individuals and costs of a significant amount being requested in some instances. He reiterated that the County Council are not funded to solve the problem, only investigate the issues and make recommendations.

156. e) MELTON MOWBRAY TRANSPORT STRATEGY UPDATE

Cllr Orson left the meeting at this point.

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport regarding the Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy. The report was introduced by Mr Crossland with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Crossland went through the update and highlighted that paragraph 4 onwards detailed the work being done with Melton Borough Council and provided evidence that a relief road is needed for Melton.

Mr Crossland distributed a leaflet to Members which publicises the benefits of the scheme to Government. He went on to say that with the current government agenda transport schemes need to relate to growth.

Mr Crossland confirmed that a decision on whether the bid is successful will be made by the DfT and is likely to be announced in the autumn statement and also highlighted that paragraph 18 of the update details other options to help deliver the infrastructure.

Cllr P Posnett CC stated that she had been to the Conservative Conference and the main discussion points were on the importance of growth and housing. She also added that Alan Duncan MP was in support of this scheme.

The Chairman thanked officers for the excellent report and felt it was very thorough and important to Melton.

Mr Orson re-joined the meeting at this point.

157. f) DRAIN AND GULLEY CLEANING

Mr Crossland stated that he was going to defer this update and discuss it alongside item 8 which is a report on the Management of Highway Drainage.

158. g) TRAFFIC FLOWS AROUND STREETS SURROUNDING BROWNLOW SCHOOL, MELTON

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport regarding the traffic flows around the streets surrounding Brownlow School, Melton. The report was introduced by Mrs Blockley with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Blockley took Members through the report and highlighted that unfortunately there were bottlenecks reported at every school in the County and that the County Council's priorities were on accidents and areas of growth.

Mrs Blockley stated that with this in mind the evidence shows that it doesn't meet the criteria for any work to be done but officers can look at doing some work with the school around Safer Routes to schools and a School Travel Plan.

Cllr S Lumley BC stated that a one-way system was in place here previously which was put in due to the very narrow roads but when cars were parked you could not get cars through both ways and he felt that this area might be classed as worse than others. Mrs Blockley reiterated paragraph 4 in the report and the fact that it does not meet the criteria so there is no funding for any further works. Mr Crossland added that one-way systems tend to make motorists driver faster generally.

Mr Crossland highlighted the importance of working with schools on their School Travel Plans.

Cllr Posnett stated that as a Governor at Brownlow School she remembers Councillor Matthew O'Callaghan implementing the one-way system, which was not all day and the confusion it caused with many of the residents hating it. She added that the school have tried everything to alleviate this problem and have found that nothing works as parents insist they have no time to walk their children to school before they go to work.

Mr Crossland informed Members that in other areas yellow lines have been put down but this can cause problems as when the Police are talking to one parent, other parents are dropping children off around them.

Cllr Chandler highlighted that he was aware of parents organising a walking bus in other areas with kids becoming fitter and less obesity and children were walking 1.5 miles with other children joining along the way.

Cllr Wyatt stated that along that road the houses are 1930 style with no driveways/garages and he felt that it was this that was causing the parking problems.

The Chairman added that this primary school is the biggest in Leicestershire with an excellent reputation and attracts many children. He thanked Cllr Lumley for raising the issue and the officers for the update.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That all the updates of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) that an update on the investigation of the accidents in Croxton Kerrial be brought back to the next meeting.

159. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 36

A petition containing 19 signatures from Mrs Vivienne Layland will be presented. The petition requests parking restrictions on the two streets below Northfield Close (Laycock Avenue and Elgin Drive) on certain days.

The Chairman informed Members that Mrs Layland was not in attendance and he formally acknowledged the petition and confirmed that officers will investigate and a report will be brought back to the next meeting in February.

160. MANAGEMENT OF HIGHWAY DRAINAGE

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport with regard to the current approach and the County's responsibility to the management of highway drainage across the County. The report was introduced by Mr Crossland with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Crossland stated that the update at item 6f was related to this report and that he would discuss them both jointly.

Mr Crossland took Members through the report and explained the County Council's role as Highway Drainage Authority.

Mr Crossland stated that the drainage programme is currently on an 18 months cycle which has proved to be a challenge in the past. The new system will look to introduce a risk based approach with higher risk areas being cleansed more frequently than low risk areas. Mr Crossland added that there are now 6 mechanical tankers for emptying gullies and work is being carried out on recording the data of what is removed from the gullies which will be assessed and will inform officers of where there can be a reduction in cleaning. This will enable officers to work smarter with a more effective risk based approach.

Cllr E Holmes BC stated that when it rains on High Street, Waltham there is a strong smell of sewerage. Mr Crossland informed her that as a historic village it will probably have a combined sewer. He stated that this would be a Severn Trent issue but he said that he would ask officers to investigate whether there was a record of any problems in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) That officers will investigate whether there are a record of problems with the sewer system on High Street, Waltham and report back to Cllr Holmes.

161. NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT (NHT) PUBLIC AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE SURVEYS; 2015 RESULTS AND 2016 PARTICIPATION

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the results of the 2015 National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public Representatives Satisfaction surveys, and to notify of the 2016 Public and Public Representative satisfaction surveys. The report was introduced by Mr Crossland with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Crossland stated that the survey is used to monitor customer performance satisfaction.

Mr Crossland highlighted that the survey showed that the public were more willing to see reductions in public rights of way, subsidies of the buses and community transport services rather than highway or winter maintenance. He added that our ranking for satisfaction with the maintenance of the roads was very good considering the 20% reduction and he stated that pot holes had reduced from over 8000 to 5220. Mr Crossland pointed out that the condition of the network is one of the best of any County Council.

Mr Crossland explained that the full Public Representative Survey 2015 report is appended for Members and the full Public Satisfaction survey is available on the Website.

Members noted the report.

162. 2016/17 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMES – INFORMATION ITEM

The Chairman highlighted the LED programme of works which was appended to this report.

Members noted the report.

163. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORK – CURRENT POSITION

Members noted the report.

164. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

There were no outstanding on-going actions.

165. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

The Chairman asked Members to submit any items for consideration for future agendas in writing within 10 days of the date of the meeting. Such items should be sent to Sue Dann by e-mail: sue.dann@leics.gov.uk

166. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDED WERE URGENT

The Chairman asked Gareth Evans to present to Members the issues on Lag Lane, Thorpe Arnold.

Mrs Blockley advised that she had produced an update on the issues raised by Mr Evans and this was distributed. Unfortunately, some of the report was missing due to a printing error but a copy will be attached to the minutes for information.

Mr Evans stated that the Parish Council had informed him that there was no funding for a VAS for Thorpe Arnold.

Mr Evans stated that he appreciated the effort and support of Mrs Blockley and Mr Bullen and was happy to continue to work together to try and find a solution. Mr Evans asked what the next steps will be.

Cllr Holmes asked about a Mobile Speed Indicator Device and asked if one of these could be provided temporarily in the short term.

The Chairman thanked Mr Evans and Cllr Holmes for their efforts in raising this to the Highways Forum and also for Mrs Blockley's efforts in meeting with them and trying to work through a solution. The Chairman asked if an update could be brought back to a future meeting when there is something further to report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
- ii) that the update produced by Mrs Blockley be attached to the minutes; and
- iii) a further update on any progress be brought to a future Highway Forum.

The Chairman asked Members if they are any items to be dealt with by officers or for the next agenda. The Chairman agreed that the following were to be added to the agenda:

Cllr Wyatt raised a concern about the tarmacking on Sherrard Street where the man hole has lifted and gully left untouched where tarmac has left one inch away from the kerb stones. It was agreed that officers will look into this and contact Cllr Wyatt.

Cllr Wyatt raised an issue that the lights in the pay and display car park were not working. Mr Crossland confirmed that this would be a Borough Council issue. Cllr Wyatt added that the lights were completely out on the street as well. Mr Crossland confirmed that this may be a problem with Western Power.

The Chairman raised an issue about overgrown hedges along the road from Melton to Samworth. Mr Crossland stated that this would be the Landowner's responsibility and would ask officers to look into this, serve notice if necessary, and report back to the Chairman.

167. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that the date and time of the next meeting will be **Monday 20th February 2017 at 4.30pm at the Melton Borough Council offices.**

168. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked Members and officers for their attendance.