

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
AT THE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH COUNCIL OFFICES ON TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
2016 AT 4.30PM

**PRESENT**

<b>County Councillors</b>	<b>Borough Councillors</b>
Cllr R Camamile (Chairman)	Cllr M B Cartwright
Cllr D C Bill	Cllr W J Crooks
Cllr K W Lynch	Cllr M A Hall (substitute)
Cllr M T Mullaney	Cllr J Kirby
Cllr I D Ould	Cllr B E Sutton
Cllr J Richards	Cllr P Wallace
Cllr D A Sprason	Cllr B Witherford

The following also attended the meeting:

County officers present: A Carruthers, F Blockley, M Palfreyman, S Dann and S Merrigan

Borough officer present:

183. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

184. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors O'Shea and Bray and Borough Councillor Cook.

185. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to discuss.

186. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

187. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

188. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

UPDATE ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES UNDERTAKEN BY LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AS THE LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY

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

Ms Carruthers explained that this report was written due to the number of flash flooding events that happened in June and August of this year in different parts of the County that caused problems for property owners.

It was felt that due to the complexities of this, it would be beneficial to bring a report to the Forum to clarify the role that the County Council have now taken on, following the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act in 2010.

Ms Carruthers stated that the County Council now carry out the Lead Local Flood Authority role (LLFA) 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) or the highways authority) who may be responsible and to then co-ordinate a solution. It was stressed that the LLFA had no responsibility to implement the solution.

Ms Carruthers stated that the LLFA is also a statutory consultee of planning applications for developments of 10 houses or more or commercial developments. The County Council will assess and advise on the surface water drainage systems and associated flood risk in relation to those development applications.

Ms Carruthers also stated that Water Utilities such as Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water who look after the surface and foul water systems have a responsibility to provide a drainage network for new developments to connect to.

Ms Carruthers stated that Highways also have a role which is separate to the LLFA as the highways authority to clean and maintain the highway drainage system.

Ms Carruthers stated that Riparian Owners are responsible to ensure the ditches and water courses on their land are clear and free flowing. The County Council has powers under the Land Drainage Act to enforce this.

Ms Carruthers summarised that the LLFA role was to identify the causes of flooding and ensure the co-ordination of the relevant agencies in providing a solution. The complexities of the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in flooding and drainage matters was acknowledged. The LLFA also has a role in being the main point of contact for the public in relation to flooding events.

Ms Carruthers stated that in the report there was an update on the Flood Alleviation schemes at Barleston Road, Newbold Verdon, Ashby Road, Hinckley and Desford Road, Newtown Unthank and on-going flood investigations for Balliol Road, Burbage.

Ms Carruthers highlighted the combined Local Levy funding bid to the Trent RFCC board which was submitted earlier this year, which will be a key source of funding. The modelling and flood mapping work allow us to bid for further flood defence grants.

Cllr J Richards CC asked if the rule for the developments over 10 houses would apply to developments of over 10 caravans. Ms Carruthers said she would imagine it would but would ask the Planning officers to confirm this and advise Cllr Richards.

Cllr B E Sutton BC raised his concern about the grips put in grass verges for drainage purposes as he felt that these were dangerous for tractors, trailers and horses when they need to use the grass verges.

Cllr I Ould CC stated that he thought a major change would need to happen with the Environment Agency (EA) playing their part in cleaning out their water courses as there would be no benefit from maintaining water courses on your own land if there are problems downstream. Ms Carruthers agreed with the scale of the challenge but suggested that this needs full co-ordination of all parties.

Cllr Kirby asked for a list of rivers that the EA were responsible for. Ms Carruthers explained that this information was published on their website.

Cllr W J Crooks BC said that he felt that applications were being approved at planning stage that he felt that the County Council should have been involved with and felt that this needed looking at.

Cllr D C Bill CC stated that Severn Trent were putting in a Flood Relief scheme on Leicester Road at the top of the hill and he had concerns following a meeting where Severn Trent advised that the flood water would go into the big pond which he thought had been approved to be filled. He asked whether this had been co-ordinated between the County Council, Severn Trent and the EA to address the impact of the situation which would be created. He felt a solution is needed to where this water will go once the pond is filled in. He stated that he had previously discussed this with Lonek at the County Council but he felt it was worth raising this again.

Ms Carruthers explained that as the role of LLFA officers engage with agencies when issues of flooding are raised with us. She said that she wasn't aware of the details of this particular case.

Cllr Bill raised a concern about some minor flooding near Payne's garages in Hinckley. This issue has been going on for 40 years and in order to build a new drain along the boundary the trees would have to be removed, although residents chose to keep the trees due to the noise problem. Ms Carruthers said that she would look into this and report back to Cllr Bill.

Cllr D Sprayson CC asked when the Flood Alleviation Scheme in Barleston would be completed. Ms Carruthers stated that this would be within this financial year by April 2017.

Cllr Sprayson raised concerns about Rothley Brook which is in his patch and also running into Groby and Glenfield. He said that when planning applications are received they never seem to acknowledge Rothley Brook as an issue and he would like it to be added to the 'look at' list for planning applications.

Ms Carruthers reiterated that any flooding issues should be submitted to Leicestershire County Council. She went on to say that there is currently a backlog of 30 incidents and so we need to manage expectations in terms of the complexities of the issues where all the details have to be co-ordinated and understood and a suggested solution proposed.

Ms Carruthers clarified to Members what is meant by the role of Statutory Consultee. It means that County officers offer advice to the planning authority and it is then the planning authority's decision whether to follow that advice.

Cllr B Witherford BC asked when different agencies are involved in providing a solution to a flooding issue, who would communicate the solution back to whoever raised the issues. Ms Carruthers explained that if there was only one agency involved it would be them but if it was a complex issue with many agencies involved this would be co-ordinated through the LLFA.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) officers to investigate whether the rule for developments over 10 houses would also apply to developments of over 10 caravans and advise Cllr Richards; and
- iii) officers to investigate some minor flooding near Payne's garages in Hinckley and report back to Cllr Bill.

#### 189. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 36

A petition with 15 signatures from Mr J R Pells will be presented. The petition requests a bus shelter on the bus stop on Coventry Road at the bottom of King George's Way.

The wording of the petitions is as follows:

*"I am writing on behalf of the people on the sheets enclosed to see if it is possible to have the shelter put back on the bus stop at the end of King George's Way on the Coventry Road. We understand it was moved because it was blocking a drive surely it can be moved along a bit as it is the stop where most old age people live and use to go to Nuneaton, Atherstone etc to visit relations etc"*

The Chairman accepted the petition and stated that Mr Pells was unable to attend the meeting but had confirmed that he now had 40 signatures. The Chairman confirmed that officers would investigate the issue and that a report in response to this petition would be available at the next meeting.

Cllr Bill stated that he sympathised with Mr Pells and gave a bit of background to the issue. He said that 5 years ago a bus shelter was requested but when it was installed it created problems for a resident getting in and out of their driveway. A request was then granted to remove the bus shelter. He went on to say that there are many elderly people living along that road who regularly use the buses so he felt that it would be very helpful to have a shelter installed especially with winter coming up.

The Chairman advised that this issue will be investigated and a response will be brought back to the next meeting.

#### 190. HINCKLEY AREA PROJECT UPDATE

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport which updated Members on the Hinckley Area Project. The report was introduced by Mr Palfreyman with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Palfreyman took Members through the report and gave an overview of the funding of the 4 zones of this project. He confirmed that zones 1 and 2 were now completed, zone 3 was 75% through the programme of works, the details of which can be found in the report.

Cllr Richards raised the matter of the crossing in Earl Shilton. It was confirmed that there had been a meeting on site today to discuss this.

Mr Palfreyman referred to an issue on Regent Street where the works were substantially complete apart from signing and lining. He stated that Cllr Kirby had raised concerns about the lights. Mr Palfreyman confirmed that the signal timing was due to be looked at and officers will investigate if anything can be done to improve the issue subject to funding being available.

Mr Palfreyman updated Members on what is included in Zone 4, details can be found in the report. He confirmed that a bid had been submitted to the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) in March 2016 and a decision will be made in the Government's 2016 Autumn Statement. He went on to say that even if the bid is unsuccessful further works will proceed to ensure the authority is best placed for any future bidding and to secure developer contributions.

Cllr Richards thank Ms Carruthers and Mrs Blockley for meeting her on site at The Hollow in Earl Shilton at the crossing and listening to her concerns about traffic speed and congestion. She looks forward to hearing a satisfactory outcome after investigations are carried out.

A concern was raised about the safety of a parking space on Main Street, Barwell from the works on Zone 3. Ms Carruthers and Mrs Blockley agreed to take this back and arrange for a site visit.

Cllr Kirby thanked Mr Palfreyman and the County Council for looking into the issues at Hinckley Parks School and she welcomed further improvements to the parking issues. She stated that she was pleased about the school's 20mph zone and hoped that motorists adhere to this.

Cllr Witherford thanked Mr Palfreyman for his presence in Hinckley and the efforts he has made to look at the issues around the town.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) following an issue raised about the lights on Regent Street, Mr Palfreyman confirmed that the signal timing was due to be looked at and officers will investigate if anything can be done to improve the issue, subject to funding being available, and will contact Cllr Kirby; and
- iii) following a meeting on site with Ms Carruthers and Mrs Blockley, officers will investigate the issues of crossing, traffic speed and congestion at The Hollow in Earl Shilton and contact Cllr Richards with the results.
- iv) Mrs Blockley to arrange a site visit, following a concern raised about the safety of a parking space on Main Street, Barwell from the works on Zone 3.

### 191. 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 and Public Representatives Satisfaction surveys, and to notify of the 2016 Public and Public Representative satisfaction surveys. The report was introduced by Ms Carruthers with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Carruthers advised Members that this is the ninth year this survey has been carried out. She went on to say that it was a very important exercise which provides benchmarking information as well as the results being potentially helpful in the DfT's Incentive Funding documentation for authorities seeking to achieve the maximum Level 3 which impacts on the future highways maintenance funding received by Councils.

She 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 than some other areas. She also noted that our ranking for satisfaction with the maintenance of the roads was very good considering the 20% reduction in funding for this. It was highlighted however that the true impact of this funding reduction would more likely be seen over the next 5-10 years.

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

Cllr Bill asked how this matched up with the highway maintenance consultation which is currently being carried out. Ms Carruthers answered that the survey is about measuring perception and performance and is carried out by IPSOS MORI who are independent. The

A-roads to Zebra consultation, which closed on Sunday, was specifically seeking views on how we maintain our highways assets in the future with the reducing amount of funding available. Ms Carruthers stated that there had been 450 responses to the A-roads to Zebras consultation which will be assessed and then be reported to Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny and then to the Cabinet in December to consider the broad principles of this future maintenance approach.

Cllr Crooks stated that, as a cyclist, you realise how good Leicestershire Roads are when you go over the border to other counties.

#### 192. 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 Ms Carruthers with a copy filed with the minutes.

Ms Carruthers took Members through the report and explained the County Council's role in highway drainage.

Ms Carruthers explained the challenges of effectively managing what are often historic drainage systems along with grips used in rural areas to collect and discharge water to water courses or drainage ditches.

Ms Carruthers updated Members on new evidence based approach being put in place for emptying and maintaining gully pots, with a camera investigation team to help and support. There are 6 mechanical tankers to empty gullies across the county and work is being undertaken on recording data on what comes out of the gullies. This will enable a more efficient regime with a reduction in clearing those that don't need doing as regularly as others and working smarter using a more risk based approach.

A comment was made about the issues with gullies being full of leaves as happens in Barleston. Ms Carruthers stated that we have had a programmed approach up until now with reactive work happening as and when but in the future it will be a much more intelligent approach based on our knowledge of the system and hence the frequency areas require cleansing.

Ms Carruthers stated that this may be something the community may want to get involved in and formed part of the recent highways maintenance consultation.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted.

#### 193. 2016/17 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMES – INFORMATION ITEM

The Chairman informed Members that the LED Programme had been appended to this report.

Cllr Crooks highlighted an issue with the surface dressing in central Barlestone where the surface looks like it is being scraped off which may cause a problem in winter with the ice. He thinks there is a similar problem at the bottom of the B585 Newbold end which is a lorry route.

Members noted the report.

194. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT WORK – CURRENT POSITION – INFORMATION ITEM

Members noted the report.

195. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

There are no on-going actions.

196. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The Chairman asked Members to let officers have in writing any items for consideration for future agendas within 10 days of the date of the meeting. These items can be sent to Sue Dann, email [sue.dann@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sue.dann@leics.gov.uk) or to the Chair.

197. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED ARE URGENT

There are no items the Chairman has decided are urgent.

198. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – 4.30pm** in the Council Chamber at Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council offices.

199. CHAIRMANS CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked Members and officers for their attendance at the meeting.

27<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Chairman

4.30pm – 5.40pm

Date

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