

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR OADBY AND WIGSTON HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
AT THE OADBY AND WIGSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICES, STATION ROAD,
WIGSTON ON TUESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 2.00PM

PRESENT

County Councillors	Borough Councillors
Cllr G A Hart (Chairman)	Cllr D M Carter
Cllr G A Boulter	Cllr R Fahey
Cllr M H Charlesworth	Cllr L Darr
Cllr J Kaufman	Cllr K Loydall
Cllr H E Loydall	Cllr J W Boyce
Cllr D A Gamble	

The following also attended the meeting:

County officers present: T Kirk, F Blockley, S Dann and S Merrigan

Borough officer present: M Hall

185. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

186. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

187. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

188. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

189. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th July 2016 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

The Chairman confirmed that all actions arising from the minutes had been either dealt with or have been added to this agenda.

190. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

191. Traffic on the Parade

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport regarding the traffic on the Parade. The report was introduced by Mrs Blockley with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Blockley stated that a report will be provided at the next Highways Forum. This will allow officers to carry out the traffic counts on the Parade that have now been commissioned.

Cllr Darr stated that the issue is not only traffic volume it is illegal parking. He went on to say that the illegal parking causes problems with the buses passing each other. It was agreed that enforcement is what is needed on the Parade.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
 - i) that a report be brought to the next Highway Forum on the data collected by officers following the traffic surveys to be carried out in the next couple of months.
- a) 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 Kirk with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Kirk went through the responsibilities of the Lead Local Flood Authority which now lies with Leicestershire County Council. It was felt that due to the complexities of this area as well as recent flooding events across the county it would be beneficial to bring a report to the Forum to clarify the role that the County Council have following the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act in 2010.

Mr Kirk stated that the role of LLFA dictates a number of statutory duties that need to be performed which includes the investigation of flooding incidents in ordinary watercourses including surface water systems as well as enforcement under the Land Drainage Act (1991). He went on to say that the LLFA can only recommend solutions to the relevant parties (Severn Trent Water, Anglian Water, Environmental Agency (EA), Highways Agency, LCC as local highway authority or riparian owners) and then co-ordinate a solution, not provide that solution.

Mr Kirk highlighted paragraph 5 of the report which states that, since April 2015, the LLFA is a statutory consultee on planning applications of 10 or more houses and the guidance means that such development must ensure that it discharges at no more than greenfield rates. He also highlighted the problems with an aging drainage network which new developments have to connect to, which often need upsizing to cope with the capacity.

Mr Kirk clarified that the County Council also has a role in relation to Highways Drainage which is the role of the LCC Highways and not the LLFA and liaison must take place with STW/AW to resolve any issues as the gullies and connections are often connected to their network.

Mr Kirk confirmed that all issues must be reported using the contact details on the report.

He stated that the ongoing issues in Oadby and Wigston Borough are a flood investigation on Meadowcourt Road and Rosemead Drive. Meadowcourt Drive is also a site for a combined ST/LCC bid to the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal committee.

Cllr G A Boulter CC referred to Page 16, paragraph 9 regarding the road gullies. He said that he had reported a blocked gully to the Customer Service Centre on 18th March and an attempt to unblock it happened on 21st September when it was clear that it was going to be impossible to unblock. He was concerned about the length of time it took. He stated that there were gullies on Station Road that have been blocked for 2 years or more. Mr Kirk agreed to get the information from Cllr Boulter after the meeting and an update will be brought back to the next meeting.

Cllr H E Lloydall stated that she found the update difficult to follow, and thought that members of the public would probably struggle with it. She said that it felt as though the County Council were passing the buck and it was unclear where the line of responsibility

fell. She stated that when you ring 305 0001 you don't get anywhere and Severn Trent doesn't answer to anything. She asked if she could have guidance as to what to tell residents where they won't get fobbed off.

Mr Kirk responded that this was the reason for this report and the contact details in paragraph 9 as it is now the responsibility of the County Council to investigate flooding events and co-ordinate a solution.

Cllr J W Boyce raised a concern about the flooding which accumulates on Gloucester Crescent and due to the road being low the water flows into the houses. He asked that if the first port of call was the County Council, would they be the second port of call as this would be a highways drainage issue. Mr Kirk agreed that would be the case and would get highways colleagues to contact Cllr Boyce to get the detail of the exact location where the flooding is for officers to investigate and respond to Cllr Boyce.

Cllr M H Charlesworth CC asked whether the Environment Agency have passed on the relevant information to the County Council about the LLFA role with regard to responding to planning applications and asked if the County Council have the expertise and the resources to mitigate this. Mr Kirk responded that this was arranged as part of the recent departmental restructure in July and a specific team have been set up with responsibilities for flooding.

Cllr J Kaufman CC raised a concern about the flooding on the A6 southbound in Oadby following the rain on Saturday. He said that when the road flooded the police closed the road and the County Council cleared the gulleys but he felt that the flooding issue is getting worse and worse in that location and felt that the gulleys should be cleared on a more regular basis. Mr Kirk confirmed there was a report later on in the agenda which talks about Highway Drainage and details the process being taken.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- j) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) that officers investigate the gulley blockages on Station Road and a chair update be brought to the next meeting.

192 Parking outside schools

The Forum considered an update by the Director of Environment and Transport on the issues of parking outside schools. The report was introduced by Mrs Blockley with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Blockley went through the report which was in response to Cllr R Fahey's comments following the last Highway Forum. She highlighted that the TRO will run alongside the scheme to lessen congestion on New Street. This has been delayed due to the legal requirement that the TROs are required to be consolidated every five years and this falls in mid-October 2016.

Cllr Fahey raised the issue that he felt what officers were discussing was nothing to do with the expansion of the school. He felt this was the first part of work that was planned 18 months ago. He asked for guidance on this as a number of councillors had a major interest in this issue from both parties.

Mr Kirk stated that clarification could be made if officers looked at the planning approval for the extension of the school and report back to Cllr Fahey. Mr Kirk also agreed to talk to the relevant officers about a School Travel Plan.

Cllr H Loydall stated that even when a TRO is implemented it is only as good as the enforcement and to enforce TROs outside a school is impossible. She advised that the

Head Teacher of Launde School had been on the local news stating that she was prepared to pay wardens to enforce the parking around the school.

Mr Kirk agreed with the sentiment, he explained that the Civil Enforcement Officers are employed by the Borough Council. He also said that it is very difficult to stop parents from parking. He talked about School Travel Plans and their suitability, officers work with schools regularly but this is about personal responsibility and safety around schools is paramount.

Cllr Darr stated that the extension to the school had been approved and the report from the County Council reported no objections. Mr Kirk advised that he would need to check what had been discussed previously in the planning application for the change of size of school.

Cllr Fahey reiterated his comment at the last Forum about red lines which he said does not cost any more than yellow lines. Mrs Blockley answered that red lines are no different in enforcement to yellow lines. Cllr Kaufman stated that whether they have red lines or yellow lines you are still allowed to set down and pick up passengers.

The Chairman closed the conversation and stated that all primary schools are having the same issues and there is no easy answer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the update of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
- ii) officers to look at the planning approval for the extension of the school and report back to Cllr Fahey; and
- iii) officers to talk to the school about a School Travel Plan.

193. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 36

A petition with 74 signatures from Mr Hunt will be presented. The petition requests the installation of traffic calming measures on Hidcote Road, Sibton Lane and High Leys Drive, Oadby.

The Chair advised Members that this petition had been re-presented and apologised to Mr Hunt on behalf of officers for the error at the last meeting. The Chair asked Mr Hunt to speak in support of his petition.

Mr Hunt thanked Cllrs Darr and Kaufman for their support on this petition.

Mrs Blockley had brought some A3 plans of the area which she handed out to Members to assist Mr Hunt in his discussions/presentation.

Mr Hunt explained his concerns about the speeding traffic in this area and asked officers to please look at this issue before an accident occurs and someone gets killed. He reported that there had already been some vehicles damaged by the speeding traffic.

The Chair thanked Mr Hunt for presenting his petition and stated that a report in response to this petition was the next item on the agenda.

194. RESPONSE TO PETITION: FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON HIDCOTE ROAD, SIBTON LANE AND HIGH LEYS DRIVE, OADBY

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the response to the petition requesting traffic calming measures on Hidcote Road, Sibton Lane and High Leys Drive, Oadby. The report was introduced by Mrs Blockley with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Blockley took Members through the report and asked Members to comment.

Cllr Kaufman stated that there was a factual error in paragraph 6 and explained this using the plans. Cllr Kaufman suggested having a bollard at the corner of Sibton Lane and Shipston Hill.

Cllr D M Carter stated that the only way to stop the speeding traffic would be to put in a second bollard.

Mrs Blockley explained that putting traffic calming measures in to an area does not always make drivers drive at appropriate speeds. She stated that currently there are 70 sites across the county that have had 7 accidents, or more, that would be a higher priority than this area.

Cllr H Loydall raised her concerns about the County not providing a resolution to this issue and felt that it shouldn't be much of a cost to move the bollard.

Cllr Kaufman said that he had previously requested a meeting on site which was agreed but hasn't taken place. The Chairman suggested that another survey be carried out and then Members will have to accept that this will be added to the priority list of schemes. A site meeting was also suggested to look at any changes that can be made i.e. closures and bollards moved etc.

Cllr H Loydall proposed that officers cost up the moving/implementation of 2 bollards between Hidcote Hill and Sibton Lane and Shipston Hill which may alleviate the problems. Cllr Gamble seconded this proposal and all Members were in favour. It was agreed that officers will investigate and come back with a chair update to the next meeting

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the update of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
- ii) that officers investigate the moving/implementation of 2 bollards between Hidcote Hill and Sibton Lane and Shipston Hill and bring a chair update to the next meeting.

195. OUTCOMES OF THE EXPERIMENTAL ORDER PERIOD EXERCISE FOR THE PROPOSED FULL PEDESTRIANISATION OF BELL STREET, WIGSTON

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport with regard to the outcomes of the impact of the experimental pedestrianisation of Bell Street, Wigston and the proposed next steps. The report was introduced by Mrs Blockley with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mrs Blockley took Members through the report and highlighted paragraph 13 and advised that, subject to feedback from Forum Members, the County Council will confirm its position with Oadby & Wigston Borough Council and should they wish to proceed with making this Experimental Order permanent, the County Council's Director for Environment and Transport will authorise this under his delegated powers.

Cllr Charlesworth advised that he had signed off on making this permanent and was very pleased that the County and District worked well together on this. He stated that he wasn't happy about the cyclists being allowed on Bell Street.

Cllr H Lloydall stated that she had also signed it off and that she felt it was a success story. She highlighted a couple of issues mainly around disabled parking although she felt that everything had been done to facilitate this. She thanked officers for all their hard work on this scheme.

Cllr Kaufman although supporting the scheme also raised concerns about the shared use with cyclists and would have preferred a separate track as he felt this was a concern for people with hearing problems.

Cllr Boulter asked about the timescales. Mr Kirk responded that if Oadby & Wigston Borough Council were happy this will move forward and an update on timescales will be brought to the next Forum.

Cllr Boyce also thanked officers and stated that it improves the town centre and makes it more attractive to the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the update of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and
- ii) that officers bring back an update on the implementation timescales to the next meeting.

196. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER PRIORITISATION PROCEDURE

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport with regard to the current procedure for prioritising Traffic Regulation Order schemes and their implementation as requested at the last Highway Forum. The report was introduced by Mrs Blockley with a copy filed with the minutes.

Cllr Boulter asked about paragraph 6 and what the time gap was between an experimental temporary Order and a permanent Order. Mrs Blockley advised that it is approximately 18 months.

Cllr Lloydall asked whether the TROs outside of schools were enforceable by the Police. Mrs Blockley confirmed that the double yellow lines were enforceable through the Civil Parking Enforcement Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

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

197. 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 to advise Members of the Forum of the results of the 2015 National Highways and Transport (NHT) Public and Public Representative Satisfaction surveys, and to notify of the 2016 Public and Public Representative satisfaction surveys. The report was introduced by Mr Kirk with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Kirk took Members through the report and highlighted the main points.

RECOMMENDATION

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

198. 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 Kirk with a copy filed with the minutes.

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

Mr Kirk 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 Kirk 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 smartly with a more effective risk based approach.

Cllr Charlesworth stated that he was happy with this approach of targeted work when needed. He raised an issue of the drains in Station Road which are full of silt that are regularly neglected.

Cllr Boulter also preferred this manual approach and advised if the system works it will be very beneficial.

Cllr Boyce asked if officers have a mapping system with all the flooding hot spots. Mr Kirk answered that they have a mapping system with the gulley pots marked. He added that the gulley emptying staff will have local knowledge and they will plan their routes.

RECOMMENDATION

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

199. 2016/17 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMES – INFORMATION ITEM

Members noted the report.

200. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS AND SIGNING AND LINING SCHEMES – CURRENT POSITION – INFORMATION ITEM

Members noted the report.

201. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

The on-going action statement was noted.

202. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The Chairman asked Members to submit any items that they want considered at a future meeting in writing to Sue Dann within 10 days of the date of the meeting. Items for the agenda can be e-mailed to sue.dann@leics.gov.uk

Cllr Kaufman asked about the co-ordination of the grass cutter and litter picker and as Blaby District Council cut the grass and also sort the litter, he asked whether it could be done the other way round. Mr Hall to speak to officers at Blaby District Council and inform Cllr Kaufman of the outcome.

203. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED IS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

204. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 7th February 2017 at 2pm in the Council Chamber at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council offices

205. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

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