

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS
FORUM FOR NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE HELD AT THE NORTH WEST
LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES ON
THURSDAY 12TH JULY 2007 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT

| County Councillors | District Councillors |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr J G Coxon (Chairman) | Mr T Gillard |
| Mr P A Hyde | Mr J Hoult |
| Mr S D Sheahan | Mr G Jones |
| Mr C A Stanley | Mr D J Stevenson |

The following also attended the meeting:

County Officers present: A Warrington, D Richards, R Bradbury, D R Bradbury

District Officers present: None

174. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the Forum meeting.

175. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J K C Legrys CC, Mrs L A S Pendleton CC, Mr R D Bayliss DC, Mr D Howe DC, Mr T J Pendleton DC and Mr A C Saffell DC.

176. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

177. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

178. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 15th February 2007 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

Mr Bradbury agreed to ask Mr B Smith to communicate with Mr P A Hyde CC on the issue of protocol and petitions.

179. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE ON ISSUES CONSIDERED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr Warrington on behalf of the Chairman updated Members on issues from the previous meeting. He confirmed that Members had made enquiries over the makeup and attendance at the meetings. He explained that the government's neighbourhood agenda encouraged the creation of Community Forums, which is being discussed between County and District Councils. During these discussions, the role of Highway Forums may be considered. He also reminded Members that under the current constitution Parish Councillors can attend meetings as members of the public and with the approval of the Chairman speak on specific agenda items.

The Chairman asked Mr D Bradbury to give an introduction to Highway Forums for the benefit of new Members.

Mr Bradbury explained that the Forums were established in 2003 as a result of the Highway Network Best Value Review to discuss highway matters. The first meeting took place in Market Harborough in June 2003. The Forum has no formal decision making powers, but can make recommendations to try to influence and advise the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management.

Each Highway Forum's membership comprises the number of County Councillors in the area and the same number of nominated District Councillors. There is also provision for a named substitute for each District Member. The Lead Member for HTWM is also a Member of the Forum.

The Forum discusses district wide issues. Purely local issues which do affect the whole of the district should be discussed outside of the meeting with officers.

Members who have issues should not wait for the Forum meeting but contact officers directly to discuss.

New Members were invited to speak to Mr Warrington and Mr R Bradbury outside of the meeting to obtain contact names and telephone numbers.

180. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE TRANSFER INNOVATION FUND PROGRAMME

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on the Transport Innovation Fund Programme. The report was presented by Ms Richards with a copy filed with the minutes.

Ms Richards gave a general update to Members. She explained that the issue centred around road congestion and the damaging impact on the economy and people's lives. The study would run scenarios looking at the predicted position on what the level of congestion would be in 2016 and 2026.

The 6Cs (Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicester City, Derby and Nottingham) were successful in a bid for funding to undertake a TIF study. The study is planned to complete its findings by 31st March 2008.

Ms Richards confirmed that she would let Members know if the rail link Leicester to Burton was to be considered in the transport scenarios for the programme.

Members highlighted the fact that Bardon Aggregates transported 15 tonnes of materials by rail everyday to London. This saved over 250 lorry movements a day. An improved rail network could result in increased passengers, increased business use and decrease in congestion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted; and
- ii) that Ms Richards let Members know whether the rail link Leicester to Burton was to be considered in the transport scenarios for the programme.

181. 2007/08 HIGHWAY CAPITAL AND REVENUE PROGRAMMES

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on the 2007/08 Highways Capital and Revenue Programmes. The report was presented by Mr Bradbury with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Bradbury explained that this was a standard report and with the approval of the Chairman asked for questions.

Mr Bradbury confirmed that schemes undertaken at the C5122 would follow each other.

Mr S D Sheahan CC gave thanks to officers for the schemes being progressed in his area.

Mr Bradbury confirmed that works on the C7211 would follow each other and be coordinated together.

Members thanked officers for work undertaken at South Street/Lower Church Street Ashby.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted.

182. PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – CURRENT POSITION

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management updating Members on the current position of the TRO Programme. The report was introduced by Mr Bradbury with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Bradbury explained to Members that this was a standard report and with the approval of Members asked for questions.

Mr Sheahan highlighted the problem of the Westminster Industrial Estate which the county and district had inherited from the police under Civil Parking Enforcement. He went on to say that at present ticketing vehicles did not solve the problem. Local initiatives had been introduced to try to alleviate the problem. Mr Sheahan asked that an update on the effectiveness of CPE comes to the February 2008 meeting.

Members suggested that introduction of CPE would not alleviate the problem of cars parked on pavements / footpaths. A particular example was highlighted in Ellistown at specific times of the day when children are being dropped off and picked up at the school.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted; and
- ii) that an update on the effectiveness of CPE be brought to the February 2008 meeting.

183. PETITION – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – WHITEHILL ROAD ELLISTOWN

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on a petition for a pedestrian crossing, Whitehill Road, Ellistown.

Mr Hyde, the local Member thanked officers for the report and stated that he was content with its findings.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted.

184. WEIGHT RESTRICTION REPORT

The Chairman agreed to allow a member of the public Mrs Lindsey Lester to speak on this agenda item.

Mrs Lester confirmed that she was a town councillor for Ashby Wolds and stated that she was appalled at the amount of heavy goods vehicles travelling through Albert Village especially in the vicinity of Occupation Road

The police when they do attend stop lorries but do not penalise them. She went on to ask if the monies given to the police to provide a weight restriction service is well spent. The police do not respond when they are contacted by telephone and do not respond to website enquiries.

Finally she stated that the new roundabout was a real problem for residents and asked if HGV signs stating no access to the landfill site could be considered.

Mr Sheahan thanked Mrs Lester and confirmed that he had questioned whether the police were the correct agency in partnering under a trading agreement to enforce weight restrictions on lorries. He asked if officers could look at the Junction layout coming out of Veolia Environmental Services.

Mr Warrington agreed to ask officers to speak to the police on the Occupation Road issues and come back to Mr Sheahan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted;
- ii) that officers look at the junction layout coming out of Veolia Environmental Services; and
- iii) that officers speak to the police on weight restriction issues in Albert Village especially around Occupation Road and discuss with Mr Sheahan.

185. HIGHWAYS SERVICES EFFICIENCY REVIEW

The Forum considered a report by the director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management on the Highways Services Efficiency Review. The report was introduced by Mr Warrington with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Warrington explained that the report updated Members on the fundamental changes that the Department is undergoing to secure efficiency savings without reducing service quality. Mr Warrington highlighted the three main strands in the review.

- Rationalise the approach to procurement of external services. Looking to have one contractor.
- Streamline the management arrangement in the department incorporating the consolidation of area offices.
- Introduction of a formalised review process on a continuing basis reviewing processes to increase efficiency.

The impact on the delivery of highway services will see the reduction from 6 to 4 of District Engineers and the closure of remote bases. However front line staff will be maintained in each area. Mr Warrington confirmed that the management of North West Leicestershire services will be concentrated at the Mountsorrel Depot.

Members were concerned that proposals for staff to work from home may not be suitable for all staff. Problems can arise if an office environment cannot be fully centred in a family home. Members asked if the staff have been involved in discussions.

Mr Warrington in answer stated that dialogue would be undertaken with staff where any issues will be discussed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste Management be noted.

186. ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT

There were no ongoing actions outstanding.

187. FUTURE ISSUES

There were no items discussed.

188. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that the date of the next meeting is Thursday 1st November 2007.

189. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

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

12 July 2007

Chairman

6.30 – 7.20 pm

Date