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
8TH MAY 2012 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Councillors</th>
<th>Borough Councillors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cllr R Camamile (Chairman)</td>
<td>Cllr W J Crooks</td>
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<td>Cllr D C Bill</td>
<td>Cllr D M Gould</td>
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<td>Cllr K W Lynch</td>
<td>Cllr M R Lay</td>
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<td>Cllr I D Ould</td>
<td>Cllr K Morrell</td>
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<td>Cllr D A Sprason</td>
<td>Cllr B E Sutton</td>
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<td>Cllr D O Wright</td>
<td>Cllr B Witherford</td>
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The following also attended the meeting:

County Officers present: V Turner, T Kirk, D Wright, A Yeomanson, M Wilson, D R Bradbury

Borough Officers present: S Smith

140. CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

141. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S L Bray CC, Cllr J Richards CC and Cllr D W Inman BC.

142. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

143. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

144. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2012 were confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

145. CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

The Chairman asked Mr Yeomanson to update members on Nutts Lane and congestion when the A5 is closed.

Mr Yeomanson advised the Forum that the County Council had no proposals at present for works on Nutts Lane to address congestion issues. However, via the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, a proposal to improve the headroom at the A5 railway bridge has been put forward to the Highways Agency to be considered for ‘Pinch Point Programme’ (PPP) funding.
PPP is a £200m national initiative focused on delivering smaller scale schemes on the Strategic Road Network that can help to support local economies.

If the headroom were to be improved, this would remove the bridge strike problem and should reduce road closures on this section of the A5. A PPP proposal has also been put forward to the Highways Agency to improve the A5/B4114 Smockington Hollow junction; similarly, Warwickshire County Council has put forward a proposal for improvement at Longshoot. It is understood that the Highways Agency will make a decision on PPP funding priorities later this year and an update will come to a future Forum meeting.

Cllr D C Bill CC welcomed what has been put forward to the Highways Agency. He emphasised the need to decrease the number of heavy vehicles using Nutts Lane. He commented that commercial drivers of heavy vehicles have commented that the adjustment of the lights at Longshoot would solve congestion problems.

Cllr K W Lynch CC stated that drivers of heavy vehicles use satellite navigation to access Nutts Lane in order to reach the industrial estate. A way around this would be to put no access for heavy vehicles signs up on the A5.

Mr Wright commented that the County Council was of the opinion that Nutts Lane needs to be kept as part of the strategic network. It was essential that heavy vehicles have access to the industrial estate.

Cllr B E Sutton BC stated that there needed to be a pedestrian bridge parallel to the Nutts Lane canal bridge. He had obtained 4 quotes for construction in the region of £20k which was far cheaper than the quote of £200k that the County Council was estimating.

Officers were asked to discuss with Cllr Sutton.

146. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 36

The Chairman accepted a petition from Cllr Lynch calling for the 40mph speed limit on Sapcote Road to be reduced to 30mph as traffic flows too fast, causing danger for local residents.

147. RESPONSE TO PETITION: REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON HEATH LANE, EARL SHILTON

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport in response to a petition requesting traffic calming measures on Heath Lane, Earl Shilton.

The report was introduced by Mr Turner with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Turner took Members through the report and the various investigations undertaken. None of the investigations met the required traffic calming criteria. Therefore, the County Council was unable to implement traffic calming in Heath Lane, Earl Shilton on road safety grounds.

RECOMMENDATION

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

148. RESPONSE TO PETITION: OPPOSING THE WITHDRAWAL OF FREE HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT BETWEEN FIELD HEAD, MARKFIELD AND GROBY SCHOOLS

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport in response to a petition opposing the withdrawal of free home to school transport between Field Head, Markfield and Groby Schools.

The report was introduced by Mr Kirk with a copy filed with the minutes.
Mr Kirk took Members through the report and its conclusion that, subject to agreement by the County Council’s Cabinet, the Council would be undertaking a re-assessment of the walking route.

However, the Cabinet met this morning and deferred the report brought in front of them and asked for further information. Therefore the re-assessment of the route would be deferred.

Cllr M R Lay BC was concerned that the resource implications of £4500 per academic year was incorrect. There is no cost implication because the service provided to pick up children at Field Head is a free bus service. He also asked if any action had been taken to reimburse parents recommended in the Ombudsman’s report.

Mr Kirk, in reply, explained the criteria behind the calculation of the £4500 saving. On the issue of the reimbursement of parents, he was unable to comment until the Cabinet had made its decision.

Cllr Lay found the explanation of the £4500 saving very confusing. The saving should be relevant to the route, not the average seat saving over the county.

Cllr D A Sprason CC agreed with Cllr Lay’s comments. He confirmed that he was a Member of the County Council’s Cabinet and that the report presented to Cabinet today had been sent back to officers for more detail. The Ombudsman has raised several issues which Cllr Sprason had raised previously.

The Cabinet needs to be clear on all the issues presented in the report.

Members asked that an update on the possible re-assessment of the route come to the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted; and

ii) that an update come to the next meeting on the re-assessment of the route Field Head to Groby Schools.

149. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 (LTP3) UPDATE

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on LTP3. The report was introduced by Mr Yeomanson with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Yeomanson took Members through the report giving the background behind LTP3 and highlighting its key objectives, together with the implementation plan.

He stated that LTP3 focuses on moving from a reactive approach to an area-focused approach. Loughborough and Coalville have been identified as the two initial areas of focus. Mr Yeomanson confirmed that the next area of focus will be decided later this year.

Cllr D M Gould BC asked what the criteria was behind the selection of Loughborough and Coalville.

Mr Yeomanson explained that outside Leicester City, Loughborough, in the next 20 years has to meet the largest increase in housing. It is also the second largest economy in Leicestershire. Coalville has very strong links to Loughborough.

Officers from both the County and District Councils are looking at the developments planned around Earl Shilton and Barwell.
Cllr I D Ould CC was concerned on the effect that the developments would have on rural areas. He asked that a report come to a future meeting on the traffic assessment on Barwell and the proposed development of 2500 homes and the effect on villages in this area.

Cllr Sprason agreed with Cllr Ould’s comments and stated his concerns on the transport infrastructure arising from proposed developments around Barwell and Earl Shilton. He stated that there would be no County Council monies available with the dependence being on other funding streams to pay for transport improvements arising from these developments.

Mr Yeomanson understood Cllr Sprason’s comments. The extra demand on the transport system in the next 20 years will arise from population growth. Officers from the County and District Councils are working together to identify funding streams to meet the demands on the transport system.

Discussion ensued over Caterpillar recruiting apprentices from Coalville and Loughborough and the role of the County Council. Mr Yeomanson stated that the transport work that the County Council is doing with Caterpillar is to enable Caterpillar to meet recruitment needs that it has identified in Leicestershire. The County Council has no influence over how Caterpillar recruits its staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted, and
ii) that a report comes to a future meeting on the traffic assessment on Barwell and the proposed development of 2500 homes and the effect on villages in Cllr Ould’s area.

150. MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL HIGHWAY FORUMS

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the management of local Highway Forums. The report was introduced by Mr Turner with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Turner confirmed that the Chairmen of the seven local Highway Forums had met on the 7th December 2011 to consider optimising the effectiveness of the Forums in light of the County Council current and future efficiency and savings agenda. The following proposals were put forward by the Chairmen:

- A reduction of meetings from 4 to 3 per annum;
- Meetings to last no longer than 2 hours subject to the Chairman’s discretion;
- The Maintenance and Improvements report and the Traffic Regulation Orders report would be for information only. Any details questions should be raised outside the meeting with the officer concerned;
- Minor changes should be made to the arrangement for dealing with petitions.

These proposals were included in the revised model constitution of local Highway Forums and approved by the County Council’s Cabinet on 19th February 2012. Cllr W J Crooks BC welcomed the reduction in meetings but was concerned that contacting officers directly and receiving responses to queries was difficult at times. He stressed the need to improve communications.

In response to a question on planning issues, Mr Turner explained that the County Council was a strategic consultee on the transport issues involved with planning applications. The decision making process lies with the planning authority which is Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

The County Council has to be careful on what it recommends to the planning authority.
Cllr B Witherford BC stated that the restructuring process has made it difficult to know who to contact directly.

Mr Turner confirmed that he would be bringing a report to the next meeting showing the departmental structure.

Cllr Ould was happy with the report, but he raised an issue that was brought up several meetings ago. A meeting was to be arranged with the Environmental Agency, local elected Members and County Council officers to discuss flooding in Witherley. This has not occurred. He asked if officers could contact him to discuss.

RECOMMENDATIONS

i) That the report of the Director of Environment and Transport be noted;
ii) that a report be brought to the next meeting on the structure of the department; and
iii) that officers contact Cllr Ould to discuss why the meeting to be arranged on the flooding problem at Witherley had not taken place.

151. DEPARTMENTAL REORGANISATION

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the departmental reorganisation. The report was presented by Mr Turner with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Turner updated members on the changes that had taken place in the Highways Management Group. The report shows contact names and pictures of senior managers. He confirmed that the senior engineer for Hinckley and Bosworth was Phil Bickley.

Mr Turner explained that minor local issues such as potholes should be reported via the Customer Service Centre.

RECOMMENDATION

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

152. A REVIEW OF THE USE OF MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS BY PARISHES IN LEICESTERSHIRE (RSN ASSOCIATES)

The Forum considered a report by the Director of Environment and Transport on the review of mobile VASs by parishes in Leicestershire. The report was introduced by Mr Wilson with a copy filed with the minutes.

Mr Wilson took Members through the report. He explained that the development of simple software for use by the parishes, in order to produce data in a form suitable for the enforcement agencies, had started.

He also confirmed that the scheme would be revisited in 12 months in order to review its effectiveness from participating parishes.

Cllr Ould stated that the police attitude to enforcement was not acceptable. He produced a letter from the Chief Constable that stated:

- In 20mph areas, enforcement takes place only if speed is >25mph and drivers will only be summoned if speed is >35mph
- In 30mph areas, enforcement takes place only if speed is >35mph, with drivers being summoned if their speed exceeds 50mph

Cllr Bill asked Cllr Ould to pass the letter to him as he was a member of the police authority. He would discuss with the Chief Constable.
Cllr Sutton thought that the use of the mobile signs was brilliant. They are operable 24 hours a day and do a lot of good.

Cllr Lynch was very concerned by the Chief Constable’s letter. He also commented on the effectiveness of the mobile signs.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

153. **UPDATE ON 2012/13 MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMMES – INFORMATION ONLY**

Members were asked to note the report.

154. **PROGRAMME OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – CURRENT POSITION – INFORMATION ONLY**

Members were asked to note the report.

155. **ON-GOING ACTION STATEMENT**

There were no outstanding on-going actions.

156. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

Members were asked to let officers have any items for possible inclusion on future agendas, in writing, in advance of the meeting.

157. **ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED IS URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

158. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman asked Members to note the date of the next meeting as Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} September 2012 at 6.00pm.

159. **CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS**

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