

**MINUTES OF THE HARLOW LOCALISM PANEL  
HELD ON**

24 January 2011

11am –1:05pm

**PRESENT**

**HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Tony Hall (Chairman)

Maggie Hulcoop

**OFFICERS**

Adam Littler (HDC)  
Chris Stoneham (ECC)

Cath Shaw (HDC)

Jane Smith (HDC)  
Rosa Tanfield (ECC)

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor Eddie Johnson (HDC)  
Councillor Mike Garnett (HDC)                      Councillor Elizabeth Webster (ECC)

**ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor Simon Carter (HDC)  
Councillor Joshua Jolles (HDC)                      Councillor Muriel Jolles (HDC)

**PUBLIC**

Mr Black                      Mr Bracey                      Mr Harrison                      Mr McLintic  
Ms Snell    Mrs Steer    Mr Weavers

15. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

16. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 October 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to:-

- (1) 13(e)(ii) traffic calming in Commonsides Road being shown as a “reserve” scheme.
- (2) 13(e)(iii) flashing signs in Brookside being changed to “Vehicle Activated Signs”.
- (3) 13(e)(iv) “as much as possible within resources” being added to the replacement of block paved footpaths at Church Langley.

17. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

18. **WORK PLAN 2010/2011**

**RESOLVED** to note the Work Plan for 2010/11.

19. **HARLOW GRITTING ROUTES**

The list of roads to be gritted in Harlow by Essex County Council (ECC) in severe winter weather conditions was received, for information, by the Panel.

The Panel noted that ECC had set up a pilot scheme this year, distributing grit to a limited number of Parish Councils and Residents' Associations in Essex to enable them to take responsibility for spreading grit on footpaths in their communities. A report on the outcome of the pilot scheme would be presented to the Panel later this year.

Arising from a discussion about local residents gritting pathways outside their own properties and the possible risks of litigation, Rosa Tanfield advised that guidance was available on the Government website [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) and also undertook to provide a copy of Essex County Council's guidance note on the matter at the next meeting of the Panel. Cath Shaw agreed that a summary of the guidance should be included in the October 2012 *Harlow Times* magazine.

Concern was also expressed by the Panel about the lack of gritting of some pathways in the Town. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed in more detail by the Environmental Service Improvement Team and reported back to the Localism Panel, if appropriate.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

20. **REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES, SCOPE AND OPERATION OF THE PANEL**

The Panel received a proposed draft report to the Environment Policy Working Group reviewing the principles, scope and operation of the Highways Localism Panel.

The Panel endorsed the proposed recommendations to the Environment Policy Working Group and also made an additional recommendation that its non-confidential meeting papers (agenda, minutes and reports) be published on the Council's website for public perusal.

**RECOMMENDED** to the Environment Policy Working Group that:-

- (i) the Localism Panel's Terms of Reference remain unchanged;
- (ii) the Community Forum be abolished;
- (iii) an 'open' section be introduced at future Panel meetings during which representative organisations and members of the public can raise issues for consideration by the Panel;
- (iv) in early 2012 consideration be given as to whether to broaden the scope of the Panel's work to other areas of activity, such as oversight of Harlow Council's functions in relation to un-adopted highways;
- (v) the Panel's non-confidential meeting papers be published on the Council's web site for public perusal.

21. **HARLOW DISTRICT COUNCIL – 2010/11 & 2011/12 PROGRAMMES**

Rosa Tanfield, Highways Liaison Officer for Essex County Council (ECC), presented a report on the 2010/11 and 2011/12 programmes.

2010/11 Programme

- (i) Maintenance Works  
The Panel noted that the works for 2010/11 had now been completed. Arising from a discussion about the disruption caused by maintenance works around the Town, Rosa Tanfield outlined the various ways that planned projects were advertised and also provided a web address for a new multi-agency hub for information relating to UK traffic and highways ([www.elgin.gov.uk](http://www.elgin.gov.uk)).
- (ii) Locally Determined Budget  
The Panel noted that ECC Officers were liaising with Harlow Councillors to agree locations for replacement block paving in Church Langley. Rosa Tanfield undertook to discuss the criteria for repair/replacement with the on-site engineers.

2011/2012 Programme

- (iii) Future Schemes  
The Panel noted the proposed programme of road and footway maintenance schemes for 2011/12 and requested

that it be circulated to all Members of Council for comment by 4 February 2011.

Arising from a discussion about proposed resurfacing works to the service road at Prentice Place, the Panel requested that repairs to the car park at the front of the site also be considered in the scheme of works to be undertaken.

(iv) Traffic Improvement Requests

A number of queries were raised about the traffic improvement requests for Old Harlow ward (Appendix E). Officers undertook to provide an update on the parking review for the area at the next meeting of the Panel.

The Panel noted that two additional schemes had been added to list and were concerned to learn about the loss of a school crossing patrol at St Luke's Primary School. Arising from a discussion about ECC's pilot scheme to restrict speed outside schools to 20mph, Rosa Tanfield undertook to provide an update on the scheme at the next meeting.

(v) Glossary

Rosa Tanfield noted the request for a glossary of terms to be included in future reports.

22. **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2011**

Essex County Council's (ECC) Local Transport Plan 2011 was received by the Panel.

The Panel requested that a link to the Plan on the ECC website be circulated (by email) to all Members with a deadline for comments to the County Council by 11 February 2011.

**RESOLVED** to note Essex County Council's Local Transport Plan 2011.

23. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that a meeting would be held at the end of February/early March 2011 and that the details would be confirmed, by email, by Jane Smith in due course.

CHAIRMAN