

<p style="text-align: center;">North Herts Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel 23 June 2008</p>
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<p>*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM No.</p>
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TITLE OF REPORT: ITEMS REFERRED FROM NHDC AREA COMMITTEES

Please refer to the following pages which are referrals to the JMP from NHDC Area Committees during the first Committee cycle of the 2008-2009 Civic Year.

1. Hitchin Area Committee – 3 June 2008
2. Letchworth Area Committee – 4 June 2008
3. Royston and District Committee – 11 June 2008

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HITCHIN COMMITTEE

3 June 2008

Extract from Draft Minutes

18. CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer (CDO) provided a comprehensive update on her activities since the meeting of the Hitchin Committee held on 18 March 2008 and updated the Committee on the following: The School Surgery was held on 19 May 2008 with thanks to the Councillors who attended; A positive meeting was held on 22 May 2008 regarding the Brampton Park/Balmoral Road possible Residents Association or Neighbourhood watch, with a further meeting on 4 June 2008; A grant application will be forthcoming at a future Committee Meeting from Soundbase; a meeting was held regarding Windmill Hill on 19 May 2008 which confirmed that accessibility, improvement to the Dell and Policing were high on the agenda and that the Cadwell Lane Task and Finish Group had produced a list of recommendations.

The CDO advised the Committee that additional schemes for traffic management in Hitchin had been put forward as detailed at Paragraph 3.16 to the report. The Committee were unanimous in their support for these new schemes to be referred to the NHHP – JMP to the next meeting to be held on 23 June 2008.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer since the meeting of the Hitchin Committee held on 18 March 2008 be noted and supported;
- (2) That the Members of the Cadwell Lane Task and Finish group meet with local residents and The Head of Housing and Environmental Health to review progress regarding the recommendations of the Cadwell Lane Task and Finish Group, as mentioned in minute 12 above.

RECOMMENDED TO NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP - JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

That the Committee endorse the list below to be added to the list previously given to the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership - Joint Member Panel.

- (i) Pedestrian phase at Cadwell Lane Traffic lights;
- (ii) Woolgrove Road vehicle activated 'slow down' sign near St Faiths Close where a number of frail people live;
- (iii) Pedestrian crossing in Purwell Lane at Mill Lane, where children cross who use Mill Lane as a short cut from Mary Exton School;
- (iv) Old Hale Way, pedestrian crossing near Our Lady's School.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure that the Hitchin Committee are advised of the activities of the CDO and note the activities of voluntary groups.

LETCHWORTH AREA COMMITTEE

4 June 2008

Extract from Draft Minutes

17. **LETCHWORTH GATE AND JUNCTION 9 OF THE A1(M)**

The Chairman lead a discussion based on the report presented to the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnerships - Joint Member Panel on 21 April 2008. Members expressed strongly that, although the traffic congestion had been relieved at Letchworth Gate, congestion further into the town, especially at Pixmore Way, Radburn Way and Lordship had increased. Members stated that they would not wish to see a dual carriageway at Letchworth Gate; that problems were caused by people turning left from the roundabout rather than using the slip road; that a solution to the problems with the slip road from the A1(M) could be to install traffic lights on the slip road; that there was a need for experts to look at the larger area, not just the junction of the A1(M)

RESOLVED: That Councillor Booth be requested to inform the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel of the concerns and suggestions raised by the Members of the Letchworth Area Committee.

RECOMMENDED TO NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP – JOINT MEMBER PANEL: That views of the Letchworth Area Committee regarding Letchworth Gate and Junction 9 of the A1(M) be advised to the next meeting of the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel to be held on 23 June 2008 as follows:

- (i) That the Letchworth Area Committee would not wish Letchworth Gate to become a dual carriageway;
- (ii) That a wider view of the traffic congestion be taken to include areas of Letchworth such as Pixmore Way, Radburn Way and Lordship;
- (iii) That consideration be given to installation of traffic lights at the junction of the slip road from the A1(M) Junction 9.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that Letchworth Area Committee take a full and effective part in the decisions regarding Letchworth Gate and Junction 9 of the A1(M)

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

11 June 2008

Extract from draft minutes

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – TRAFFIC ISSUES, BARKWAY ROAD, ROYSTON

Mr Ray Griffin addressed the Royston and District on the problem of speeding traffic in Barkway Road, Royston. Mr Griffin revealed that the road in question, on which he lived, was commonly lined with parked vehicles on both sides, and despite this, estimated traffic speeds down the centre of the highway were in excess of 60mph, from before 7am until after 6pm on most days of the week.

Despite Mr Griffin's requests to the Police for speed checks to be carried out, nothing had been done, and a member of Hertfordshire Highways had stated that in his opinion the situation was not especially severe.

Mr Griffin asked the Royston and District Committee for their assistance in eliminating the risk to local residents posed by the speeding vehicles, perhaps by installation of 30mph speed signs or vehicle activated (VA) signs, or by the installation of speed humps.

The Chairman thanked Mr Griffin for putting before them the problem of speeding traffic in Barkway Road, Royston, and agreed that the situation was extremely dangerous for road users and pedestrians alike. The Committee discussed the problem and made suggestions as to how to alleviate the danger presented. Mr Griffin was advised to ensure that all his neighbours wrote letters to the relevant authorities regarding the speeding traffic, and send copies to the Chairman of Royston and District Committee. It was also suggested that there should be a review of traffic signs in the area, stating that speed restrictions could be painted on the road surface rather than on signs, as this was just as effective and would not only mean that they would not be obstructed by vegetation in due course, but this process would also cost less than erecting signs.

The Committee agreed that proper signage was vital for the affected area, and strongly advised that the Police should be requested to set up mobile speed checks on Barkway Road, using the radar gun purchased with Royston and District Committee funds, as this was one of the best deterrents available, causing speeding motorists to slow down when the radar gun came into view. It had previously been used to good effect in the villages surrounding Royston and it was highly likely that this would act as a deterrent in Barkway Road.

The Chairman asked Mr Griffin for a copy of the letter he had received regarding this matter, written by Steve Greenhill of Hertfordshire Highways, and sent to Oliver Heald MP. Mr Griffin agreed, and the Chairman suggested that he presented his concerns on the matter of speeding on Barkway Road, Royston, to the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel on 23 June 2008.

RECOMMENDED TO NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP - JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

That Mr Ray Griffin should address the Joint Member Panel on the problem of speeding traffic in Barkway Road, Royston at the next meeting of the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel to be held on 23 June 2008 and clarify his concerns and suggestions for traffic management.