

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP – JOINT MEMBER PANEL

Meeting held at the Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City
at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 25 June 2007

MINUTES

PRESENT: **Representing North Hertfordshire District Council:**
Councillors: Mrs F. Hill (Chairman) John Booth, Tom Brindley, L. Kercher,
Joan Kirby, M. Kirkland and D. Miller.

In Attendance: Committee and Member Services Officer.

PRESENT: **Representing Hertfordshire County Council:**
County Councillors: M.R.M. Muir (Vice-Chairman), Dr. N. Agar, D. Billing, N.
Brook, A.F. Hunter, and R.A.C. Thake.

In Attendance: North Herts District Manager – Hertfordshire Highways.
North Herts Lead Assistant District Manager – Hertfordshire Highways.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: That District Councillor Mrs F. Hill be appointed as Chairman of the Joint Member Panel for the ensuing Civic Year.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: That County Councillor M.R.M. Muir be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Joint Member Panel for the ensuing Civic Year.

The Chairman then welcomed Members and officers to the first meeting in 2007-2008 of the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel, and wished Steve Greenhill of Hertfordshire Highways a speedy recovery from his indisposition.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from County Councillors Doug Drake and Derek Ashley.

4. **MINUTES – 23 APRIL 2007**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2007 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

5. **NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman proposed, and the JMP agreed, that this representation would be heard after Item 11 on the Agenda.

6. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

County Councillor M.R.M. Muir stated that the residents of Icknield Way, Baldock were in his Baldock Town Ward. They were in attendance at the Meeting, having previously presented a petition to Baldock and District Committee, and now wished to speak to the Joint Member Panel.

7. **RESPONSE TO PETITIONS REFERRED TO THE JOINT MEMBER PANEL**

The North Herts District Manager (NHDM) for Highways explained the main points of his report on the traffic and parking problems presented in the petition by the Ickleford Road Residents Association and of the survey carried out by the Police at the junctions of Ickleford Road, Hitchin and halfway down its length. The results showed that the main issues appeared to be parking problems, rather than safety due to speeding, use as a “rat run”, large lorries using the road etc. As a result, Ickleford Road would be added to the list to bid against other projects for Hertfordshire Highways (HH) funding.

The Members were not happy with this decision, as they felt that matters were not moving forward for the residents of Ickleford Road, but the NHDM pointed out that it

came down to a question of funds, and that the number of urgent highways projects far exceeded the amount of money available for them.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel noted the report of the North Herts District Manager and resolved that Ickleford Road be entered onto the Local Issues List, to be considered for future funding;
- (2) That potential parking schemes are addressed by North Herts District Council imminently;
- (3) That the North Herts District Manager informs the lead petitioner of the Ickleford Road Residents Association, of the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel's resolution in respect of their petition.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To consider Ickleford Road for future Hertfordshire County Council funding for a possible Sustainable Transport Scheme, and that North Herts District Council consider the case for residents' permit parking schemes when prioritising its resources.

8. ITEMS REFERRED FROM NHDC AREA COMMITTEES

The North Herts District Manager advised that there was just one item for consideration by the Joint Member Panel, i.e.

Baldock and District Committee Draft Minutes – Report on a Petition and Presentation by Residents of Icknield Way, Baldock

Two representatives of the residents of Icknield Way, Baldock gave a short presentation to the Panel, to reinforce the report of their presentation to the Baldock and District Committee, which was distributed to Members with the JMP meeting Agenda.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the North Herts District Manager at Hertfordshire Highways be requested to undertake a review of the traffic management issues raised by the residents at Icknield Way, Baldock, taking into account the detailed analysis survey results;
- (2) That the North Herts District Manager be requested to report back to the meeting of the Joint Member Panel to be held on 15 October 2007 with proposals for the management and alleviation of the traffic issues in Icknield Way and surrounding roads in Baldock.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To confirm the support of the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel for sound traffic management control to be placed in Icknield Way for the benefit of local residents in the interests of highway safety.

9. HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS INTEGRATED WORKS PROGRAMME: 2007-2008 UPDATE

The Lead Assistant District Manager (LADM) North Herts updated the Joint Member Panel on the delivery of the 2007/09 Integrated Works Programme (IWP) within North Hertfordshire.

The LADM talked them through the list of repairs which had been done and those still on the waiting list. Members of the JMP mentioned urgent projects in their Wards which they considered to be of high priority, such as the accelerated deterioration of a section of road in Barkway, which was now considered a Health & Safety risk; two different speed limit signs on the same section of carriageway in Graveley, just after a "New Speed Limit in Force" sign; and an update was requested on Ridge Avenue in Letchworth, which was in bad repair and needed

resurfacing, but was only on the reserve list. The LADM was asked by the Chairman and agreed, to bring a report back to the Joint Member Panel's next meeting on 15 October 2007 to inform the Panel what was being done about these and other highway projects.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Quarterly Report on programme and progress be noted by the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel;
- (2) That the North Herts District Manager reports back to the Joint Member Panel on structural assessments, asset management plans etc. at the next meeting on 15 October 2007;
- (3) That the officer feedback for the comments raised by the Joint Member Panel at their meetings on 29 January and 23 April 2007 be noted.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that Members continue to be informed of the performance on key service activities.
- (2) To ensure that the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel is able to comment on and influence the development of the Future Works Programmes.

10. JOINT MEMBER PANEL DISCRETIONARY FUNDED PROJECTS

The North Herts District Manager provided details of a programme of deliverable schemes for the current year to ensure that any unallocated funds (currently £31,250) from the Joint Member Panel Discretionary Budget for 2007-2008 would be transferred to maintenance works under the Highways Extra programme currently identified as reserve schemes.

The North Herts District Manager provided details and costings of schemes currently on the Highways Extra reserve list, including footway repairs. Due to some confusion, the NHDM is to clarify the funding availability situation.

Following a question from a Member, The North Herts District Manager is to clarify exactly what funding is available for footway repairs, as well as for other works.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the contents of the finalised Hertfordshire Highways IWP and Highways Extra 2007-2008 delivery programmes be noted;
- (2) That the outstanding balance of the £31,250 should provisionally be used on footways, as alternative funding had been found for the Berkeley carriageway works. Ridge Avenue is to stay at the top of the list as a priority. The officers are to decide the priorities on footways, but Tannery Drift is to take precedence for Royston.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure that the Joint Member Panel are able to allocate funds from their Discretionary Budget for 2007-2008 in an effective manner.

11. OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The North Herts Lead Assistant District Manager (LADM) gave details of the operational performance of Hertfordshire Highways (HH) over the six-month period between November 2006 and April 2007, inclusive.

The performance indicators were used to measure how HH's Works Team was performing against agreed and published performance standards.

RESOLVED: That the data supplied on the Operational Performance Indicators for the inclusive period November 2006 to April 2007 be noted and that the Panel continues to receive an update report at each future meeting.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure that Members continue to be informed of the performance on key service activities.

12. FROM ITEM 5 - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEASURES IN CODICOTE

District Councillor T. Brindley (Codicote Ward) requested that the provision of automated pedestrian crossings and a vehicle-activated sign in Codicote High Street and St Albans Road, Codicote be discussed as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Brindley explained that he used both highways extensively, as he was a Department of Transport registered driving instructor. He considered that these sections of highway were particularly dangerous for pedestrians, and it was his considered professional opinion that there should be two automated pedestrian crossings (at locations to be determined), and a vehicle-activated speed sign (location to be determined).

The North Herts District Manager for Hertfordshire Highways explained that it is customary for the Parish to do the consultation on these measures, and then come to Hertfordshire Highways with the results. This is now in progress, and the schemes and measures will be prioritised and the project placed on the Integrated Works Programme (IWP) to await appropriate funding.

RESOLVED: That the North Herts Highways District Manager be requested to make contact with Codicote Parish Council and obtain details of the public consultation and report back to the next meeting of the JMP, to be held on 15 October 2007 with an indication of what could be done to alleviate the identified problems.

The Chairman thanked Members and officers for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 9. 15 p.m.

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Chairman