

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HAVERHILL AREA WORKING PARTY/ONE HAVERHILL BOARD
(Special Meeting)

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2011 at 9.00 am
in the Haverhill Leisure Centre, Ehringshausen Way, Haverhill

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs K D Richardson (Chairman of the Haverhill Area Working Party, in the Chair)

Haverhill Area Working Party

Councillors Ager, Ms Byrne, French*, Mrs Gower*, Marks*, McManus and Redhead

ONE Haverhill

Roger André, Lyn Burgess, Borough Councillor Gordon Cox, Haverhill Town Councillor Pat Hanlon, Clair Harvey, Sarah Howard, Gordon Mussett, Geoff Rivers, Warren Smyth, Philip Sullivan, Mary Taylor and PC Will Wright (substituting for Inspector Peter Ferrie)

* Also Member of ONE Haverhill

BY INVITATION: Luke Barber, Suzanne Buck and Sam Cliff of Suffolk County Council's Highways Section
Suffolk County Councillor Guy McGregor, Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning

23. Substitutes

The following substitution was declared from the ONE Haverhill Board:-

PC Will Wright substituting for Inspector Peter Ferrie.

No substitutions were declared from the Haverhill Area Working Party.

24. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillors Mrs Rushbrook and A Whittaker of the Haverhill Area Working Party; and from Reverend Nigel Bishop, Borough Councillor Jeremy Farthing, Inspector Peter Ferrie, Haverhill Town Councillor Ernie Goody, Elaine Hewes and Alex Till of the ONE Haverhill Board.

25. Declaration of Interests

Members' declarations of interests are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

26. Haverhill High Street Improvements: Progress

The Working Party/ONE Haverhill Board considered Report C137 (previously circulated) which sought approval for proposals to enhance the High Street in Haverhill prior to formal consultation.

On 1 December 2010 the Borough Council's Cabinet resolved that:-

'the sum of £750,000 of Growth Area Funding be allocated to the project for Environmental Improvements to the High Street, Haverhill and that approval of detailed design and community consultation and engagements be overseen by the Haverhill Area Working Party.'

Subsequently, on 27 April 2011, the Cabinet approved the Terms of Reference for the High Street Improvement Scheme (minute 155 (3) referred), which included delegating authority to the Haverhill Area Working Party for managing the total £750,000 budget for the Scheme and approving the final project design.

Since then, the Working Party had been involved with the development of the project and on 8 September 2011, the Working Party was advised by Highways Officers from Suffolk County Council (SCC) that due to issues raised when undertaking detailed traffic surveys, a revised scheme was now proposed. A detailed discussion had been held at that meeting and the Working Party had expressed concern regarding a number of matters connected with the proposed design for the new Scheme. This culminated in a request to further discuss the project at this specially arranged meeting with representatives of ONE Haverhill before the recommendations contained in Report C137, which was originally considered by the Working Party on 8 September 2011, could be approved.

Members of the Working Party and the Board confirmed that they had received and noted an email of concern previously submitted by ONE Haverhill Member, Haverhill Town Councillor Ernie Goody.

The Working Party and the ONE Haverhill Board received a presentation on the proposed design for the revised Scheme from Luke Barber, a Project Manager from SCC's Highways Section. He summarised that the aim of the Scheme was to provide:-

- (1) environmental improvements to Market Hill and the High Street;
- (2) a central pedestrianised area to include Queen Street, Market Hill and the High Street;
- (3) a new simplified Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to be adopted which would be easier to enforce; and
- (4) an environment where traffic would flow at low speed at times outside the restricted hours.

Mr Barber continued to explain what would be involved in implementing the new TRO, which included:-

- (a) imposing an Access Restriction Order relating to:-
 - (i) making Swan Lane open to two-way traffic;
 - (ii) restricting access to through traffic in Swan Lane, at its junction with Murton Slade, Camps Road and for the full length of the High Street and Queen Street to Eden Road on Sundays to Thursdays between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm, and on Fridays and Saturdays between 6.00 am and 6.00 pm;
 - (iii) relocating the provisions market on Fridays from Market Square to the High Street; and

- (iv) signalling the junction between Swan Lane and Lordscroft Lane;
- (b) imposing new Waiting and Loading Restrictions in the restricted access zone;
- (c) imposing a twenty miles per hour speed limit in the restricted access zone; and
- (d) erecting bollards in Quakers Lane to prevent vehicular access in this bridleway.

The Working Party/ONE Haverhill Board was then informed that consultation with key stakeholders and the public was anticipated to be held during December 2011, with the statutory advertisement of the TRO Notices and statutory consultation taking place in January 2012. Should objections to the Order be received, the proposed TRO would be considered by SCC's Rights of Way Committee in March 2012. A Public Inquiry would then be required to consider the objections and this was anticipated to be held in June 2012.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited each Member of the Haverhill Area Working Party to ask questions of the Highways Officers, followed by Members of ONE Haverhill and lastly, three members of the public. The officers duly responded to questions raised.

During the discussion, all persons present expressed their views and concerns on the proposals for the Scheme. Concern was principally expressed regarding the impact heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) would have on narrow roads located in the vicinity of the High Street. HGVs would be required to access delivery destinations during the periods of restricted access in the High Street and Queen Street etc, which may cause traffic congestion in adjacent narrow roads, particularly Crowlands Road and Mill Road. The Highways Officers acknowledged this concern and considered the matter required further investigation.

As the debate drew to its conclusion, the Highways Officers informed the Working Party/Board that the recommendations contained in Report C137 required amendment. Recommendation (2) should be amended to read, *'Advertise new access restriction order to cover access in Swan Lane, at its junction with Murton Slade, Camps Road and for the full length of the High Street **and Queen Street** to Eden Road. Access to be prohibited for all vehicles **Sunday** to Thursday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and Friday and Saturday 6.00 am to 6.00 pm.'* The Working Party/Board also proposed an additional recommendation that consultation should be undertaken on options to consider the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order in Crowlands Road and Mill Road to include either a one-way system and/or parking restrictions.

As authority had been given to the Haverhill Area Working Party for managing the project, only these Members voted on the recommendations and not Members of the ONE Haverhill Board.

RESOLVED:- That

- (1) consultation be undertaken on the new High Street Improvement Scheme, as detailed in the Plan attached to Report C137 and in accordance with the following revised timeline:-
 - (a) December 2011: consultation with key stakeholders and the public;
 - (b) January 2012: consultation with statutory consultees and advertise statutory Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Notices;

- (c) March 2012: should objections be received, consideration be given to the TRO by Suffolk County Council's Rights of Way Committee; and
 - (d) approximately June 2012: objections to the TRO be considered at a Public Inquiry.
- (2) (a) a new Access Restriction Order be advertised to cover access in Swan Lane, at its junction with Murton Slade, Camps Road and for the full length of the High Street and Queen Street to Eden Road; and
- (b) access be prohibited for all vehicles in these locations on Sunday to Thursday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and on Friday and Saturday from 6.00 am to 6.00 pm, as detailed in Report C137, as amended; and
- (3) consultation be undertaken on options for the consideration of introducing a Traffic Regulation Order in Crowlands Road and Mill Road to include either a one-way system and/or parking restrictions.

(Suffolk County Council McGregor arrived during the presentation undertaken by Luke Barber, SCC's Highways Section Project Manager. Borough Councillor McManus arrived and left the meeting during the consideration of the item. Lyn Burgess, Sarah Howard, Mary Taylor and PC Will Wright all left the meeting during the consideration of the item.)

(Borough Councillor Cox wished it to be recorded that each the highways proposed for restricted access during certain times of the day should be restricted at all times, with the exception of allowing access for erecting the markets on Fridays and Saturdays and providing permits for wedding and funeral cars. He wished this suggestion to be included in the consultation; however no Member of the Working Party proposed this as a formal proposal.)

The meeting concluded at 11.01 am.

**MRS K D RICHARDSON
CHAIRMAN**