



Hampshire Action Team for East Hampshire

Action Notes for HAT Highways Meeting

Monday 29 March 2010

2.00 pm

The Maltings Centre, Alton

Attendance (P = Present NP = Not Present A = Apologies Received)

HAT Members

Councillor James (Chairman), (P)

Councillor Carew (P)

Councillor Clarke (A)

Councillor Joy (P)

Councillor Kemp-Gee (P)

Councillor J West (P)

Hampshire County Council Officers

Colin Taylor, Area Director, Environment Department, (P)

Stuart Giddings, Environment Department, (P)

Ruth Olczyk, Environment Department, (P)

Kate Fryatt, HAT Officer, (P)

Andrew Tiffen, Environment Department, (P)

Partners

Alisdair Twedde, East Hampshire District Council (P)

Sarah Hobbs, East Hampshire District Council (P)

Councillor Bob Ayer, East Hampshire District Council / Petersfield Town Council (P)

Councillor H Ayer, East Hampshire District Council (A)

Councillor Comber, East Hampshire District Council (P)

Councillor Mike Ashton, East Hampshire District Council (P)

Cllr Carter, East Hampshire District Council (P)

David Fawcett, Amey (P)

Stephie Gordon, Worldham Parish Council (P)

Robin Twining, Worldham Parish Council (P)

Mary Thywell Jones, Worldham Parish Council (P)

Keith Budden, Liss Parish Council (P)

John Tough, Bramshott & Liphook Parish Council (P)

Robin Hall, Headley Parish Council (P)

Sue Halstead, East Hampshire Association of Town and Parish Councils (P)

Dave McAlister, Binsted Parish Council (P)

Jenny Turner, Bentley Parish Council (P)

Eric O'Farrell, Four Marks & Medstead Parish Council (P)

Sue Hodden, Binsted Parish Council (P)

Councillor James opened the meeting and thanked the Highways officers for all their hard work during the severe winter. In addition he passed his thanks to Stuart Reynolds, Assistant Director for Environment, Hampshire County Council for all his hard work over the years. Stuart is retiring at the end of March. Kate Fryatt was also thanked for her hard work with East Hampshire HAT. Kate will be focussing on other HAT areas from May and a new officer, Jane Biscombe, will be joining the HAT Team and will work with East Central HAT.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Clarke (Hampshire County Council), John Clarke (Hampshire County Council), Julie Amies (Hampshire County Council), District Councillor Hilary Ayers (East Hampshire District Council) and Jenny Larby (Hampshire County Council).

2. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting and previous Actions

A verbal update which was given of all the actions and updates. The following issues and actions were identified from matters arising:

ACTION 1: Officers to resend the information relating to Speed indicator Devices to Cllr Joy.

ACTION 2: An update on the Village 30 initiative to be sent to all HAT Members for them to cascade to Parish and Town Councils.

Colin Taylor, Area Director explained that there was no viable solution currently for back up power to traffic lights. Solar trickle charge batteries may be possible but these would not represent value for money as they are very expensive and the Key Performance Indicators for traffic lights functioning properly is very high at 99.7%.

An issue raised by Worldham Parish Council relating to a pedestrian crossing on the B3004 is omitted from notes of the December meeting. (The issue is covered fully under Any other Business).

Binsted Parish Council enquired about time scales to erect the vehicle tonnage restriction signs.

ACTION 3: Ruth Olczyk to liaise with Binsted PC.

At this point in the proceedings the Chairman called forward Items 4 and 5 on the agenda.

3. Presentation from Amey

Amey gave a presentation and updated Members on their recent work to respond to the severe weather conditions that had been experienced. During an average winter gritters are used 35-36 times. During January alone gritters were used for 21 days and for a total of 54 days over the whole winter. On average 9,000 tonnes of salt is normally used during winter, however this winter 20,000 tonnes were used. Salt supplies nationally were allocated in accordance with central governments directions. A key success during this

time was the informal partnership arrangements whereby partners worked together with a single focus to improve access.

Amey have had 50 dedicated pothole busting teams of staff to focus on repairing potholes. Amey are now looking at network restoration and are developing a programme which is cost effective and efficient. The programme is likely to last 6-12 months.

Amey are keen to develop a closer relationship with Members and are currently in dialogue with the County Council to agree a new way forward and closer working arrangements.

A discussion took place any the key salient points are noted as:

- Amey are attending the Association of East Hampshire Parish and Town Councils meeting in June to give a presentation about pothole repair.
- There have been problems with surface dressings which have failed. Some areas will have remedial dressing works. It was noted that surfaces dressed late in the season are more likely to suffer from loose chippings. Currently Hampshire County Council is testing various product types of surface dressing to overcome previous problems.
- It was noted that damage from snow plough needs to be minimized.
- All potholes are assessed individually – there is no set policy regarding pothole dimensions and priority repair.

A discussion took place regarding the Highways network and total mileage within East Hampshire. Members are concerned that priority is given to more urban areas and that rural roads within East Hampshire should receive additional resources. It was explained that Hampshire County Council have applied to central Government for additional funding for Highways works following the severe winter damage.

4. Progress with 2009/10 Capital Programme

Members noted and acknowledged the paper and tables and made the following points:

- Several 2009/10 schemes have been deferred due to the severe winter conditions. These will be carried forward to 2010/11
- Table 3- Forest Centre, Bordon. There are still some outstanding issues regarding Traffic Regulation orders.

ACTION 4: Officers to look at Forest Centre and liaise with local Member.

ACTION 5: The following actions were requested by HAT Members regarding below reference numbers:

From table 4:-

- 31 & 32 – officers to update Councillor Joy

- 6, 37, 85,86 – officers to update Councillor Carew
- 23, 13 – officers to update Councillor Payne
- 61- this should be London Road and not Portsmouth Road

From table 5:-

- 42 &43 are thought to be the same scheme

5. Priorities for Capital Programme 2010/11

Members noted the paper and acknowledged that the highways maintenance programme is subject to change as funding may be required for highway restoration works following the severe winter weather damage. In particular, it was noted:

- Problems with drainage A3 London road (Table 6). There is a drainage problem within the A3 which is a Highways Agency responsibility which is causing problems on the County Roads. They are working Hampshire County Council to resolve the problem.
- Cradle Lane – this is being dealt with by culture, Communities and Rural Affairs as it is a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT).
- Table 8 – A325 Birdworld. The parish representative thinks there are now developers contributions available.

ACTION 6: Officers to investigate availability of possible developers contributions for A325 footway near Birdworld.

- Catherington Lane scheme in Table 8 and item 9 in Table 10 need to be linked together.
- Table 8 – Councillor Carew requests officer advise him via telephone of anticipated start date

There was a long discussion regarding the Traffic Management, signing and road marking programme which members have previously prioritised. For a variety of reasons there is a backlog of schemes with a number of actions outstanding. In order to assist clear the backlog of schemes the following action was agreed.

ACTION 7: HAT Members to review their priorities within Table 11. No new items to be prioritised but where Members wish to amend /update priorities they need to discuss this with officers prior to 9th April. Ruth Olczyk send out electronic communication to all Members detailing this.

7. Review of winter maintenance and implications of the winter weather for the highway network

A County review on winter maintenance is being led by Chris Lait, building on the successes and lessons learned during the severe weather conditions experienced this year.

Emergency planning worked well overall however some gaps were identified. The current policy focuses on clearing priority routes on the Highways. A new winter maintenance policy is being developed which will focus on both highways and community needs. Several partnership events are planned to help develop this policy.

In order to assist self help Hampshire will be providing additional salt bins for community use. Community Action Teams, Community Groups and Resident Associations have been requested to assist in identifying appropriate locations for consideration by the highway units.

There are plans, subject to appropriate permissions, for Hampshire to build a new salt barn in order to increase salt resilience from 12 to 18 days.

The HAT was reminded that the County Council's Policy and Resources Select Committee is carrying out a review of winter maintenance. The interim findings will be available in July. The importance of receiving input from districts and boroughs was highlighted.

During the course of discussion, Members highlighted the following local points to feed into the review:

- Improved communication with Parish and Town Councils during severe conditions would be advantageous
- Parish and Town Councils wish to be involved in the planning process of any new policy
- Improved cross boundary working between Hampshire and Surrey
- Salt bins are empty in some areas and are not refilled (e.g. around Whitehill)
- Consider attaching labels to salt bins reminding communities that the contents are for public use only, and that theft could result in prosecution
- A3 bus corridor needs to be a high priority
- Pavements around GP surgeries need priority clearance.
- Rural areas needing solid fuel supplies for heating need consideration in long periods of severe weather.

Thanks were expressed to all officers, Partner agencies, emergency services, farmers and communities who assisted with snow clearance during the severe conditions.

8. Local and Strategic Issues

Members acknowledged the Local Transport Plan (LTP 3) update. All members have been invited to a series of workshops. There will be a consultation in approximately 12 weeks time.

8. Any Other Business

The following points were raised:

- Horndean will benefit from the Building Schools for the Future Programme but there are local concerns regarding school access.

ACTION 8: Highways officers to contact Children's services and then liaise with Councillor Payne and District Councillor Ashton.

- Bridleway 504, Binsted is not yet open. The Parish was advised to discuss with Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs whose remit includes bridleways.
- Worldham Parish raised several speed limit and safety concerns.

ACTION 9: Worldham Parish to e-mail details of their issues to Colin Taylor and Kate Fryatt so they can be considered and added to the log of HAT issues.

- The issue of HGVs being misdirected onto unsuitable minor roads was raised again. Officers advise Members that the Intelligent Travel Systems Team have been in contact with manufacturers of HGV satellite navigation systems, and that over time the problem will be eliminated.
- Plans are in hand to hold a stakeholder event in June regarding the Shipwrights Way long distance multi-user path from Alice Holt Forest to Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
- Members were reminded to report Highways faults/issues online at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roads/online-facilities/all-forms.htm> or via e-mail to roads@hants.gov.uk

Meeting closed.