

Hampshire Action Team for New Forest

Action Notes for HAT Highways Meeting
Friday 9 April 2010, 2:00pm, Lyndhurst Community Centre, Lyndhurst

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

HAT Members

Cllr Evans (HAT Chairman) (P)
Cllr McEvoy (HAT Vice Chairman) (P)
Cllr Kendal (P)
Cllr Thornber (A)
Cllr Mans (P)
Cllr Heron (P)
Cllr Rippon- Swaine (P)
Cllr Rice (P)
Cllr Weeks (P)
Cllr Harrison (A)
Cllr Dash (P)

HCC Officers

Jo White(P)
Dominic McGrath (P)
Kevin Fuller (P)
Ruth Olczyk (P)
Bevis Ingram (A)
Abigail Walton(P)

Partners

Cllr Treleaven (NFDC) (P)
Cllr Shotter (NFDC) (NP)
Nick Hunt (NFDC) (P)

Chris Gregory (NPA) (P)
Paula Freeland (NPA) (P)

Kunle Kolaro (Amey) (P)

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Thornber, Councillor Harrison and Bevis Ingram.

A minutes silence was observed for the two Hampshire Fire and Rescue Firemen who had lost their lives in service.

It was noted that Kevin Fuller would be retiring in May and Councillors thanked Kevin for his dedication, help and support over the years.

2. Notes of Highways Meeting held on 13 November 2009

The notes were agreed as an accurate record, with the following amendment: Councillor Heron to be listed under Hampshire County Council Members and not partner organisation representatives.

List of previous actions on local issues

The list of previous actions on local issues was noted.

3. Presentation from Amey

Amey gave a presentation which focused on winter maintenance, potholes and network restoration.

Winter Maintenance

- Worst snow in Hampshire for a generation
- 42 Priority one routes (average length 35 miles per route)
- 54 separate gritting days (21 in January alone)
- Over 20000 tonnes of salt used(30/11-07/03) Normally 9000 tonnes for whole season.
- 24 hour shifts on 18 days
- 5000 tonnes of salt used between 5-14 January.
- Snow ploughs and blowers
- Cross Partnership working
- Impact on “business as usual”

Lessons learnt:

- Need for larger salt storage and more reserves
- There are plans to build an additional salt depot in Micheldever
- More salt bins allocated to areas (up to 4000)
- Reviewing priority routes
- Looking at community based salting as opposed to just a highways point of view

Potholes:

- 50 dedicated gangs
- Additional resource/plant used
- Pothole Busters signage
- Innovative methods (Jetpatcher)
- Impact on other planned works

Network restoration:

- Move to Network restoration
- Resurfacing /large patching work
- Still defining programme and resource
- Road closures/coordination with other works

4. Review of Winter Maintenance and implications of the Winter weather for Highway Network

Kevin Fuller gave a brief account of what went well and what is being reviewed in terms of winter maintenance.

- Impacts included highway network disruption, increase in trips and falls, schools and colleges closed, difficulty accessing old and frail with essential services
- The Highways Winter Maintenance plan was implemented and all operations followed the plan bringing majority of primary road network passable within a day or so
- Proactive communications established; daily updates to members, partner organisations and the press
- Emergency planning, Local Resilience Forum and command processes generally worked well
- Partner organisations helped with snow clearance

What is being reviewed

- Highways Winter Maintenance Policy
- Policy and Resources Scrutiny Review of County Council Winter Resilience

What is under consideration

- Resilience of salt stocks
- Increased network treatment and priorities
- Resource for snow clearing
- Footway treatment
- Community self help
- Provisions of grit bins
- Communications

A number of issues were discussed as follows:

- Councillors expressed concern that a lot of vulnerable people could not get to the main gritted roads, and if the weather had continued for any longer they may not have coped. It was confirmed that this is being reviewed and fed into the scrutiny review currently underway.
- The Jetpatcher is an excellent piece of kit for central carriageways, but repairs don't last that long and cannot be used on rural roads on the edges. Amey confirmed that there are different solutions for various pot holes- and the technique depends on the integrity and surrounding area.
- There is a joint working group with Amey and Totton Highways department. Cllr Gibson, HAT Chairman for Test Valley is the representative for Highways West.

- Councillors thanked Amey and Hampshire County Council Highways officers for the excellent work carried out during the course of the bad weather.

5. Progress with 2009/10 Capital Programme

Updates on the maintenance, special maintenance, minor works, capital programme scheme and traffic management had been provided.

Table 1: Maintenance and special maintenance

Most schemes have been completed for 2009/10. Some have been deferred to 2010/11 due to dealing with network restoration due to the heavy snow and rain.

It was noted that Longstock Crescent : Totton was not listed on table 1 and Moyles Court: Ellingham had slipped to 2010/11 programme.

Action: Kevin Fuller to investigate and report back

Table 2: Capital Programme Scheme

All schemes had been completed or were underway, with A326 Safety Improvements completed by June 2010 and Loperwood completed by April 2010.

It was noted that Rhinefield Road is a reserve scheme, however investigations are underway on land ownership.

Councillors reported that as a result of the Roman Road South: Dibden Purlieu scheme, a number of trees had been cut down which had resulted in a number of complaints about an increase in noise.

Action: Kevin Fuller to investigate and report back

Table 3: Traffic Management Programme

It was reported that a number of these schemes will be carried forward to 2010/11- Marchwood Lorry Issues and A326 Speed Limit.

It was noted that all informal lay bys had been closed off on the A326, and this needs to be monitored in terms of causing other problems such as parking on grass verges.

Table 4: Agency Traffic Management Programme

The programme had been successfully completed.

A request was made for waiting restrictions on Salisbury Road: Fordingbridge to be reviewed again. The Police are issuing tickets as they consider it to be dangerous.

Action: Nick Hunt to investigate and report back

6. Priorities for Minor Capital Programme 2010/11

Table 5: Minor Works Sub-Programme:

Priorities for the Minor Works sub programme had been agreed by Members at the previous Local Highways meeting held on the 13 November 2009.

Councillors were advised that the budget had increased so the programme can accommodate the reserve scheme as well.

Councillors reconfirmed the following schemes as their priorities

- 1) Gorley Road, Ringwood (footway construction)
- 2) Moat Lane, New Milton (improved pedestrian link)
- 3) Hamptun Crescent, Totton (footway construction)
- 4) Clough Road, Ringwood (footway construction)
- 5) Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst (proposed footway-land negotiations. construction anticipated 2011/12, subject to outcome.

Table 6: Traffic Management:

Councillors were advised that the list of Traffic Management Schemes is very ambitious and is dependent on funding and resources being available.

Councillors were asked to highlight any particular top priorities from the list in table 6. It was agreed that Ruth Olczyk would consult with Councillors individually to prioritise the programme.

The following schemes were highlighted as priorities at the meeting

- Rollestone Road, Fawley
- Rockbourne to Sandleheath Road

Action: Ruth Olczyk to consult Councillors to obtain their priority Traffic Management Schemes.

In regard to the review of speed limits, Councillors were advised that there would have to be a good reason for bringing the speed down to avoid objections from the Police.

Kevin Fuller advised Councillors that Martin Wiltshire would be leaving the Traffic Management Team, and Paul Garrod starting on the 4th May.

Table 7: Proposed Agency Traffic Management Programme

It was reported that there is an additional reserve scheme included which is Lymington: loading restrictions on the High Street and waiting restrictions including Daniell's Walk and other roads.

There was a request for another reserve scheme: vehicle parking at Ipsley.

Action: Nick Hunt to review and report back

7. Proposed Capital Programme 2010/11

Councillors noted the Maintenance Capital Programme for 2010/11 and the Capital Programme Schemes and Study Programme.

Table 8: Maintenance and special maintenance Schemes

Councillors asked whether the Programme could be revised and queried Longstock Crescent, Totton and Broomy Plain Road, Fordingbridge.

Action: Kevin Fuller to investigate and report back

Table 9: Capital Programme Schemes

The programme contains only one scheme: Marchwood Accessibility Package, however it is anticipated that the Hythe and Dibden Accessibility Package may enter the programme, following recent consultation.

8. Local and Strategic Issues

Item 8 was for information only and included a paper on the proposal to re-introduce a passenger train services on the Waterside.

There was also an additional paper on the A31 widening proposal at Ringwood. The Highways Agency had indicated that any widening scheme would necessitate the permanent closure of West Street at Ringwood. Councillors expressed concern about the possible impact on the local economy of the town.

It was noted that the proposal would have major benefits and if nothing is done the congestion would only get worse.

The Highways Agency will be consulting on the proposals and will share the data and information with partners in due course.

9. Any other business

No matters arising.