

CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2014.

Finance.

Documentation up to date.
External audit decision awaited.

General Maintenance.

This is ongoing and up to date.

BDC Local Site Allocations & Development Management Plan.

Document received from BDC setting out timetable for the collection of evidence and public consultation procedures. (Copy in circulation box for Members)

Planning.

Comments re the Screening Opinion Request have been forwarded to BDC and a copy posted on the PC website.

Witham Town Council has given notice that they are considering requesting a local boundary change so as to incorporate the new Forest Road development site within Witham. The Chairman attended the WTC meeting and firmly stated the RPC view that all this development site was within Rivenhall Parish.

Tarecroft Wood.

Request made to ECC for an update regarding possible freehold transfer to the PC of this woodland. The reply is that this is still being investigated by ECC.

ECC Roads Maintenance.

The damaged signs in Rickstones Road will be reinstated together with the installation of a new post. This will take some time as ECC insist they must obtain confirmation from the utility companies regarding the location of local services together with the fact that a sign will have to be re-manufactured.

Requested ECC to re-paint the surface signs along Oak Road towards the A12.

LGBC New Warding for Braintree.

Contact made with local Mp, Priti Patel, who, although "...fully understand(s) the PC's concern about this decision" is unable to provide any assistance regarding the retention of Rivenhall in the ward name.

There has been no reply from the House of Lords.

Further request for Rivenhall to be included in the ward name has been sent to the LGBCE.

Highways Agency - A12.

Following yet another road accident at the A12/Oak Road junction, the Chairman has once again contacted the Highways Agency regarding junction improvements.

Braintree District Local Highways Liaison Panel.

The very latest information remains as follows:

Oak Road Railway Bridge widen footway and introduce priority working - Previously fully **AGREED** and **FUNDED**. Was due for delivery by end of March 2014. **New date for delivery November 2014**. Cost £45,000. Late due to ongoing investigations as to where cables run and dialogue with farmers about width for agricultural machinery. Still being wrongly described in the LHP lists as signal controlled [ECC were advised post the April meeting that it is not and have been again]. New plans produced and circulated at meeting - may need final tweaks as safety audit to take place.

Oak Road one-way weight restriction towards the A12 junction - Previously **AGREED** subject to surveys. Panel agreed at January meeting to put an additional £7,500 into detailed design. Main hold up is cost of signs on A12 and slowness of Highways Agency in responding. Good agreement of Panel members that the scheme needs to be delivered along with improvements to A12 junctions (Highways Agency future scheme). **New date for design delivery is now December 2014.**

Rickstones Road widening, new drainage and kerbing - AGREED, FUNDED AND DESIGN COMPLETE. Following site meeting with ECC Highways Cabinet Member, £75,000 central funds allocated so net cost to BLHP is reduced. Estimated total cost £130,772. **New delivery date February 2015.**

Church Road layby at church - Panel previously **AGREED** to commission design at cost of £1.5k. Estimated scheme cost £20k. **New date for design delivery is December 2014.**

Extend safety railing at Rivenhall School, Church Road - AGREED AND FUNDED. 22m of new railing will be installed at a cost of £3,000. Delivery date not known as this was a verbal only item - it will be minuted though. Thanked officers for moving this scheme through so quickly.

Extend 30mph (or introduce 40mph buffer) northwards along Church Road Rivenhall - Speed survey now completed (loops set at the War Memorial) and shows that the majority of drivers are exceeding the 30mph limit. ECC officers still think this isn't strong enough for them to recommend a 40mph buffer but are willing for the PC Chairman to attempt to get it through as an exception to policy - Chair of the LHP has agreed this action.

Possible 20mph restriction outside the School entrance. A letter in support of the petition submitted to ECC was sent to ECC Cllr. Bass (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transportation). Cllr. Bass has since written to the Chairman (in his role as County Councillor) to announce that he has turned down the proposal.

New, clearer signage Church Road and Oak Road warning of low railway bridge and weight restriction ahead. AGREED AND FUNDED. Final drawings for new signs to be produced. Cost £4,500.

New scheme submitted and awaiting validation - 2 small areas of grasscrete in Oak Road near railway bridge to allow parking and protect verge from further damage.

Footpaths.

The demolished sign at the entrance to footpath 48 next to the Railway Bridge on Oak Road, has been reported by Cllr. Brailey to ECC and it will be replaced in due course.

Liaison with Chairman.

Liaison with the Chairman upon various items of correspondence, the agenda for the next meeting and planning application documents.

Keith Taylor (Parish Clerk)
26 August 2014.