

CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT FROM 31 OCTOBER TO 27 NOVEMBER 2017.

Finance/Administration.

Accounts and administration are all up to date.

Preliminary work towards the Precept calculation has been completed.

BDC said that "...any new properties that are now occupied will form part of the 2018/19 tax base calculation. Any properties occupied **after** 30 November 2017 **will not** be included until the following year".

Working towards the submission of the grant application re Improving Local Places.

General Maintenance.

Contractor requested to cut back shrubbery marked out by the Chairman along the raised footway opposite Rickstones Farmhouse, Rickstones Road.

Rectory Lane.

The additional submission has been made to the BDLHP for the following to be introduced: signs indicating 'Lane unsuitable for HGVs'; signs indicating 'Road Narrows'; a 20mph speed limit to be introduced for the whole of Rectory Lane.

BDC Community Governance Review.

BDC are to consider all representations at a meeting scheduled for 29 November 2017 at Causeway House, commencing at 19.15 hrs.

Network Rail – Potters Crossing.

Information received indicates that the Inquiry will not resume any earlier than late summer 2018.

Planning Applications.

Dealt with as per the November Minutes.

Information has been received that Essex Fire & Rescue plan to demolish the 2 derelict residential buildings at Kelvedon Park.

Highways Maintenance.

'No through road to vehicular traffic' signs are to be erected at the entrance to Foxmead.

Damaged bollards at Oak Road junction with Henry Dixon Road reported via ECC Highways website.

All malfunctioning streetlights along Rickstones Road have again been reported to ECC.

A120 re-routing.

At the ECC Cabinet meeting on 23 November the following were discussed: receive the results of the consultation; give a view on the routes examined by the feasibility study to date; convey its thoughts on both these aspects to HE and Government. The Cabinet cannot decide on preferred route status, as this can only be undertaken by HE in association with Government. Preferred route status would follow most probably in either 2018 or 2019, dependent upon progress made with the scheme's development and funding announcements.

Braintree District Local Highways Liaison Panel.

For the very latest information remains as follows:

- a. *7.5T weight restriction, Oak Road* - The Chairman has met with the ECC Cabinet Member who indicated that there are now three statutory objections, plus the fact the ECC are not minded to take any further action until such time as the route of the A12 has been determined.
- b. *Extended 30mph limit along Church Road* - Discussions continue regarding a possible reintroduction of the original proposal for a 40mph "buffer" zone.
- c. *Rectory Lane* - the stopping up of this lane has been rejected although discussions continue. 'Quiet Lane' signs are expected to be erected at both entrances to Rectory Lane before the end of 2017/2018.

- d. *Oak Road* - a new scheme submitted re HGVs ignoring weight and height warnings going down Oak Road to the railway bridge. Numerous residents have complained recently, police called, etc as HGVs try to reverse back causing chaos. The 2 suggestions to the BDLHP are to liaise with all satnav providers to detail the road as unsuitable for HGVs and to install some form of height warning system between the Rickstones Road junction and Hoo Hall Lodge to alert drivers to go no further if they are in over-height vehicles. ECC has to date advised that they are not aware of a suitable height warning system that could be used in that location and that a signage review is being undertaken. The Chairman has suggested to ECC that at a minimum a prominent height warning sign should be erected between the recycling area and the Hoo Hall turn on the left hand side going down Oak Road towards the railway bridge in order to try to stop HGVs from going any further than that point.
- e. Having received a request from a local resident, The Chairman has submitted a new scheme - erection of "Beware Horses" warning signs along Rickstones Road.
- f. A new scheme for improvements to the junction of Rectory Lane and Rickstones Road has been submitted. (Suggested that the 2 current, out of date, bend warning signs be replaced with current standard 20mph advisory signs warning of bends plus concealed junction. Also that the road lining at the junction be looked at to make it as safe as possible with consideration given to make it safe for pedestrians crossing while using the John Ray Walk.
- g. A new scheme is to be validated re the bend on Church Road close to the northern bound bus stop opposite where the wall has been damaged outside the residential property.
- h. The request for a 30 mph limit along the Colemans Bridge A12 slip road has been formally submitted to the BDLHP.
- i. A new scheme to be submitted re Rectory Lane as follows: For the erection of signs indicating 'Lane not suitable for HGVs'; signs indicating 'Road narrows'; and the introduction of a 20mph speed restriction along the entire length of Rectory Lane from Rickstones Road to Forest Road."

Liaison with Chairman.

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

Keith Taylor (Parish Clerk)
27 November 2017