

# minutes



Meeting HIGHWAYS SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (commencing at 10.30 am)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

The Hon Joan Taylor (Chair)  
Andy Stewart (Vice-Chair)

	Jen Cole		Sheila Place
	Bruce Laughton	A	Ken Rigby
A	Jim Napier		David Shaw
	Philip Owen		

## MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 September 2006, having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair, subject to the inclusion of the AA and RAC in the list of potential witnesses.

## MEMBERSHIP

The appointment of Councillor Cole in place of Councillor Haynes was noted.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ken Rigby (on other County Council business) and Jim Napier.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no declarations of interest.

## HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT

Phil Rankin, Group Manager, Communities Department introduced the report on the asset management approach to the county's highways network. He referred to the adoption of an electronic Highways Asset Management System (HAMS) and of a Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).

Councillor Stewart asked whether there was evidence that this approach was improving efficiency or standards. Mr Rankin replied that the new systems were in their early days, but already the A road network was improving well, and B and C

roads were in better condition than expected. A survey of unclassified roads was needed. Councillor Cole asked about links with the land use management system and the impact of new developments. Mr Rankin indicated that there was a surplus of land bought in the past for road schemes which would not now happen. Such land was being disposed of. Developers would continue to make contributions towards the cost of highways schemes under s106 and s207. In reply to Councillor Taylor, he indicated that asset management would assist budget planning, when it was fully operating. He added that the budget for maintenance would continue to be under pressure, and the Government was expecting further efficiency savings.

It was agreed that the code of practice which had been appended to the report should be circulated to all members.

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP**

Ross Marshall, Principal Partnerships Officer, Communities Department, introduced the report which gave details of the County Council's partnerships with Tarmac, with three district councils through the manage and operate partnerships (MOPs), and the development of a procurement alliance with Leicestershire and Derbyshire County Councils.

Councillor Owen expressed doubts about the MOPs, seeing a lack of democratic accountability and difficulties for the public in finding where highways responsibilities rested. Other members shared his concerns. Mr Marshall indicated that a leaflet for the public, intended to clarify responsibilities, was being planned. Mr Rankin explained that the MOPs replaced the previous agency arrangements, and were initially responsible for highway maintenance. However some MOPs now did improvement work, with the County Council's agreement. The MOP concept arose from the best value review of highway services. Mr Rankin said that the benefit of the MOPs could be reviewed, and that 12 months notice was required to terminate a contract.

Members referred to the value to the department of their knowledge of local highway conditions, and of information collected by, for example, parish councils. In response to comments, Suzanne Heydon, Accident Investigation Team, stated that the team did have contact with district development control officers, and did seek to gather some data on non-injury accidents. Mr Rankin drew attention the current review of footways in categories 1 to 3.

### **CYCLISTS' PERSPECTIVE**

Hugh McClintock, Pedals (Nottingham Cycling Campaign) gave a presentation on the cyclist's perspective of highways and road safety issues. He drew attention to the different types of cyclist, a hierarchy of provision to meet their needs, building provision for cyclists into schemes at the earliest stage, and improving the behaviour of drivers and cyclists.

Members discussed the Ridewise scheme, which was intended to build confidence in adult cyclists, and felt that training effort should be focussed on children. Ms Heydon pointed out that 12 to 15 year olds were most at risk. Ed Ducker, Cycling and Walking Officer, said he had been involved in drafting a five year cycling

strategy for the county council, to which Pedals had contributed. Phil Rankin observed that for any highways scheme there was a non-motorised user audit.

In reply to questions, Mr McClintock said that there was not an equivalent organisation to Pedals outside the conurbation. Mr Ducker indicated that there were cyclists' working groups on particular schemes in some areas. There was discussion about the role of cycle shops, advanced stop lines, red tarmac, and cyclists' behaviour. Asked what the county council could do to most help cyclists, Mr McClintock replied lowering speeds and encouraging better behaviour by all road users.

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

Martin Gately, Scrutiny Officer, reported that witnesses from Newark Town Council and the King's Clipstone Campaign Group had been invited for 6 November, and the Chief Constable for 18 December.

The meeting closed at 12.10 pm.

## **CHAIR**

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