

## Melksham Local Highways & Footway Improvement Group

	Item	Update	Actions and recommendations	Who
	<b>Melksham LHFIG – Notes of virtual meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 16:30 hrs</b>			
<b>1.</b>	<b>Attendees and apologies</b>			
	Attendees:	Cllr Jonathon Seed – Chair Cllr Jon Hubbard Linda Roberts – Clerk to Melksham TC Pat Tucker – Keevil PC Alan Baines – Melksham Without PC Malcolm Jones – Steeple Ashton PC Andy Cadwallader – Area Highway Engineer Mark Stansby – Snr Traffic Engineer	Area Board to note.	AB
	Apologies:	Cllr Mike Sankey Cllr Nick Holder		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Notes of last meeting</b>			
		The notes of the previous LHFIG meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2022 are to be presented to the Area Board on 7 <sup>th</sup> November.	LHFIG to note.	All

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3.	Financial Position			
		<p>In addition to the increasing cost of materials the government introduced two changes to legislation which are impacting contractors' prices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The removal of the entitlement to use red diesel and rebated biodiesel from most sectors from April 2022 to help meet its climate change and air quality targets. These tax changes have ensured that most users of red diesel now use fuel taxed at the standard rate of diesel since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.</li> <li>ii) The introduction of the Health and Social Care Levy in April 2022 (for one year only) increases the employers National Insurance contributions for staff of 1.25p in the pound.</li> </ul> <p>Under the Term Maintenance Contract Ringway are entitled to be compensated for costs associated with these two changes to legislation. In March 2022 an estimated annual adjustment to the rates was agreed at 4% for the 2022/23 financial year. However, taking into account recent rapid inflation and the government policy changes described above, a further increase of 7.25%, in addition to this 4% has been agreed.</p> <p>In summary, an increase of 11.25% is to be applied to all orders placed in 2022/23.</p> <p>This increase is not applicable to any design, legal or assessment fees.</p> <p>All bills have now been settled for 2021/22, giving a Closing Balance of £31,469.31. (see Appendix 1). This underspend is carried forward to 22/23.</p>	Area Board to note	AB

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		The current balance for 2022/23, less previous commitments stands at £41,436.36 (see Appendix 2).		
<b>4.</b>	<b>Priority schemes</b>			
a)	6055 – Broughton Gifford - Gateways and Traffic Management measures.	<p>The scheme, plus some remedial work, has been completed at a final cost of £14,357.13. The original estimate was £25,000. This was funded on a 50/50 basis with the Parish Council.</p> <p>Highways have met Parish representatives to discuss safety concerns at the cobbled feature. It has been agreed that two bollards are to be installed to help highlight this feature and these can be supplied and installed at an estimated cost of £1060. An example of the bollards are included as Appendix 3</p> <p>Following discussion the group were content to fund these bollards.</p>	To recommend to the Area Board an allocation of £1060 to complete this project.	Chair  Highways
b)	A365 Shaw Bath Road Footway improvements – funded by Section 106 monies from George Ward Gardens development.	<p>Resurfacing of the footway from the new drop kerb to the first field access, towards Shaw is to take place during during 22/23.</p> <p>Construction was pencilled in for October half term week, but due to other commitments this has been cancelled. A new date will be announced in due course.</p>	Highways to action  Area Board to note	Highways  AB
c)	Issue 9-20-9 – Melksham Sandridge Road – request to improve footway link to Maple Close	<p>The legal process to dedicate the land has begun but an issue has arisen in that the land being offered up is seemingly not registered to the property of concern.</p> <p>The matter is currently in the hands of the solicitors and until resolved no further action can be taken.</p>	Area Board to note	AB

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d)	Active Travel Scheme - Farmers Roundabout – signing to promote use of shared use cycle route to and from Holt Road and town bridge.	<p>Scheme to be funded from a third tranche of Section 106 money from the George Ward Gardens development.</p> <p>Signing work has been completed at a cost of £1,965.65</p> <p>There are funds remaining (£13,034.35) specifically to improve cycleway signing within the town.</p> <p>Town Council to consider where additional improvements are needed.</p>	<p>Area board to note</p> <p>Town Council to consider and forward requests</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>Town Council</p>
e)	Melksham Dunch Lane – funded by Section 106 monies from George Ward Gardens development	<p>Consultation on full closure over rail bridge or one way operation from east to west and new parking controls to be carried out by the Town Council.</p> <p>Town Council confirmed that Consultation will be carried out in the New Year.</p>	Area Board to note	AB
f)	Active Travel Scheme - Melksham Town Bridge – drop kerbs and signs.	<p>Preliminary design work has been completed. Preliminary costs, including legal fees for road closure and a 20% contingency fee are estimated in the region of £14,000.</p> <p>Town Council confirmed that this issue is no longer a priority for them.</p>	To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is closed	Chair
g)	Issue 9-21-5 – Littlemarsh old section of A350 – Speeding, littering and anti-social behaviour	<p>The Parish Council have opted to pursue road markings to include hatching to “narrow” the entrance and a SLOW marking. The work is to be included in the next round of ad-hoc road marking jobs.</p> <p>Markings installed - awaiting bills from contractor</p>	To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is closed	Chair

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h)	Issue 9-22-1 – Melksham Footway linking Hazelwood Road & St Michaels Road – Request for lighting	<p>Issue submitted by Cllr Hubbard and Melksham Town Council.</p> <p>The location of a live feed is unclear (from existing records) and therefore it is difficult to give a robust estimate. Our consultants suggest a sum of £4,000 should cover the installation of 1 lighting column, located approximately at the mid point of the footway link.</p> <p>Town Council confirmed their 50% contribution to proceed.</p>	<p>Area Board to note</p> <p>Highways to arrange installation.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>Highways</p>
i)	Issue 9-22-4 – Melksham Westbury View – request for Access Protection Marking	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Town Council</p> <p>At the last meeting, the group agreed to the provision of an access protection marking outside No 34.</p> <p>Markings to be painted imminently.</p>	<p>To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is closed</p>	<p>Chair</p>
j)	Issue 9-22-5 – Melksham Spa Road – safety concerns at access to & from Wharf Court	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Town Council</p> <p>Highways have been unable to identify a prescribed sign for this situation. Both Wharf Court and Meadowsweet Place are private accesses and visibility from these accesses satisfied the planning requirements.</p> <p>2 x SLOW markings to be painted imminently.</p> <p>Cllr Hubbard asked if the Give Way lines could be reinstated at the entrance to Wharf Court?</p>	<p>Area Board to note.</p> <p>Highways to consider give way lines</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>Highways</p>
k)	Issue 9-22-10 – Berryfield Semington Road – request to install 2 bus shelters	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council</p> <p>There is a Section 106 fund of £20,662 to provide 2 x shelters with seating, high access kerbs with RTI facility (or to be ready for RTI installation).</p>	<p>Area Board to note</p>	<p>AB</p>

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		<p>Parish have met Highways on site. On the East side there should be sufficient space for a full size shelter but on the West side the highway extends to the back of the footway only, and so a cantilever shelter would be the only option.</p> <p>The project will be advanced when staff resources become available.</p>		
l)	Issue 9-22-12 – Bowerhill Halifax Road – request for drop kerbs to link Brampton Court with Sunderland Close	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council</p> <p>Parish have met Highways on site. It was agreed that the best solution is to provide 3 sets of drop kerbs, each side of Brampton Court and then over to Halifax Road. The ball park estimate is therefore closer to £3,500.</p> <p>At the last meeting the LHFIG agreed to prioritised this project but did not commit any funding.</p> <p>The Parish have set aside a £1750 contribution to take this forward.</p>	To recommend to the Area Board an allocation of £1,750 for this project, to match the Parish contribution.	Chair
m)	Issue 9-22-16 – Berryfield – request for direction signs to new village hall	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council</p> <p>Request for directional signs for motorists via Telford Drive and Pedestrians from Semington Road via new footway opposite New Inn.</p> <p>An order for the signs has been placed with the contractor and installation is anticipated towards the end of the calendar year.</p>	Area Board to note.	AB
n)	Issue 9-22-8 – Steeple Ashton – Speeding Issues at village entrances and Parking on High Street	Issue submitted by Steeple Ashton Parish Council	To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is closed	Chair

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		<p>Gateway road markings are to provided on approach to the speed limits on Common Hill and Ashton Common and the yellow transverse bars are to be refreshed on Edington Road.</p> <p>To deter parking, access protection markings are to be painted at the junction of Acreshort Lane and a length of hatching adjacent to Ashton House.</p> <p>The markings are to be installed imminently.</p> <p>An additional post has been supplied to assist SID operation.</p>		
o)	Issue 9-22-17 – Melksham Without (various roads) – request for Parking Control Measures	<p>Issue Submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council</p> <p>Request for a Parking Review at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semington Canal Bridge</li> <li>• Lancaster Road Bowerhill</li> <li>• Avro Way Bowerhill</li> <li>• Merlin Way Bowerhill</li> <li>• Mitchell Drive Bowerhill</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the canal forms the boundary between Melksham Without and Semington Parishes and that measures would be needed on both sides of the bridge. Parking controls within Melksham Without are included in the same legal Order as Melksham Town and so this also presents an opportunity to consider any pressing parking issues within the Town boundary.</p>	Highways to write to Semington Parish and Melksham Town to invite them to submit requests for other parking controls	Highways
<b>5.</b>	<b>New Requests and ongoing Issues</b>			

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a)	Issue 9-19-9 – Bowerhill Falcon Way – Request for Bus Shelter near Kingfisher Drive for southbound travel.	<p>The Parish propose to install a 3 bay shelter measuring 3.06 m x 1.3m which will be RTI compatible. This will require a base (3.5m x 1.5m) complete with electrical ducting and connecting chamber.</p> <p>A ball park estimate to construct the base and install the electrical items should be in the region of £3,000 to £3,500, with legal fees of around £1,500.</p> <p>Highways unable to proceed until the land dedication issue has been resolved.</p>	<p>Issue needs to be resolved in discussion between MWPC, Heron Homes and WC (Allan Creedy)</p> <p>Area Board to note</p>	<p>MWPC</p> <p>AB</p>
b)	Issue 9-19-11 – Bowerhill Portal Road – Request for Bowerhill nameplate and white gates	<p>A suitable location has been agreed with Highways between Herman Miller and the first hangar.</p> <p>The parish have opted for a single gate and village nameplate at a ball park estimate of £3000, inclusive of traffic management. The Parish have set aside a £1500 contribution.</p>	To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is added to the Priority Schemes list and to allocate £1,500.	Chair
c)	Issue 9-22-3 – Melksham The Crays – request for drop kerbs	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Town Council</p> <p>Drop kerbs to facilitate access for wheelchair users at the junction of The Crays and Montague Place. A Ball Park cost for this project is between £2,000 and £2,500.</p> <p>Town Council have confirmed their 50% contribution, £1,250.</p>	To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is added to the Priority Schemes list and to allocate £1,250.	Chair
d)	Issue 9-22-6 – Melksham Sandridge Road junction with Snarlton Lane – request for signs to direct drivers to Snarlton Farm	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Town Council</p> <p>Issue concerns HGV deliveries attempting to access the Farm via Snarlton Lane. Highways have considered direction signs to deter this and a proposal is included as Appendix 4.</p>	To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is added to the Priority Schemes list and to allocate £475.	Chair



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		<p>A ball park estimate to undertake this work is £950, inclusive of temporary traffic management.</p> <p>Town Council have confirmed their 50% contribution, £475.00.</p>		
e)	<p>Issue 9-22-11 – A350 Beanacre - request for measures to control entry speed at north end of village</p>	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council</p> <p>A suitable site for a gateway feature was identified and the gateway could include white gates, village nameplates and additional road markings.</p> <p>A ball park estimate to undertake this work is likely to be between £8,000 and £10,000, inclusive of traffic management.</p> <p>Whilst remaining a priority for the Parish, they have asked for further time to source funding for this project.:</p>	Area Board to note	AB
f)	<p>Issue 9-22-13 – Bowerhill DeHavilland Place and Dowding Way – Request for footway extensions and drop kerbs</p>	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council</p> <p>An alternative crossing point, to give access into the Industrial Estate and beyond was identified at Cheshire Close to Pegasus Way.</p> <p>The work required includes one set of drop kerbs, possible short extension of footway (to line up the crossing point) and removal of 2 x concrete bollards. A ball park estimate is likely to be in the region of £2,500.</p> <p>The Parish have set aside a £1250 contribution to take this forward and request that construction is combined with the Halifax Road request, Issue 9-22-12</p>	To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is added to the Priority Schemes list and to allocate £1250.	Chair
g)	<p>Issue 9-22-15 – Melksham junction of Church Street and High Street and Lowbourne –</p>	<p>Issue submitted by Melksham Town Council</p>	Highways to follow this up with their Signal consultants.	Highways

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	<p>request for audible warning at signal controlled crossing points</p>	<p>Highways commissioned their Traffic Signal Consultants to investigate this matter and they have advised the following:</p> <p>This issue was fully investigated around 10 years ago, but for safety reasons the audible warnings have been deliberately disabled at this crossing point. Whilst alterations to the operation of these crossings were made, so that all three crossing points are green for each crossing sequence, these signals are not linked to the stand alone crossing, located approximately 55m away, by Costa / Parsons Nose public house. The concern remains that at quieter times (when traffic volume is low) the risk of confusing audibles from either site outweighs the potential benefit of enabling the audible system. Visually impaired pedestrians should continue to use the tactile cones fitted at both crossings so that they are aware of when it is safe to cross.</p> <p>Highways have taken this advice on board, and with safety the primary concern, no changes will be made here.</p> <p>Town Council are content with this response but have asked why the audibles remain switched on at the crossing by Costa?</p>		
h)	<p>Issue 9-22-18 – Bowerhill, Bowerhill Lane – request to replace staggered barriers with bollards to allow access to shared use path using a pony and trap.</p>	<p>Issue Submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council</p> <p>The path is recorded as Public Highway and links Bowerhill Lane with Hornchurch Road. The barriers have been placed to deter children running into the carriageway at each end, and possibly to prevent motor vehicles from using the link?</p> <p>The Parish Council no longer wish to proceed with this issue.</p>	<p>To recommend to the Area Board that this Issue is closed.</p>	<p>Chair</p>

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i)	Issue 9-22-19 – Whitley, Corsham Road – request to alter staggered barriers on alleyway between Corsham Road and Eden Grove.	<p>New Issue submitted by Melksham Without Parish Council</p> <p>Safety barriers causing access issues to users of mobility scooters.</p> <p>Following a discussion highways agreed to visit the site and to make recommendations at the next meeting.</p>	Highways to investigate	Highways
j)	Issue 9-22-20 – Keevil, Martins Road – request to alter barriers and improve condition of footpath surface.	<p>New Issue submitted by Keevil Parish Council</p> <p>The footpath in question is a Right of Way, KEEV27 and provides access to the recreation ground. Safety barriers installed at Martins Road end cause access difficulties to users of mobility scooters, wheelchairs and children's buggies.</p> <p>Following a discussion it was agreed that a site meeting be held, to include the Rights of Way officer and Parish representatives.</p> <p>Recommendations will be reported at the next meeting.</p>	Highways to arrange a site meeting.	Highways
<b>6.</b>	<b>Other items</b>			
a)	<b>Pavement and Footway Improvement Schemes (pre-LHFIG)</b>	<p>Area Highway Engineer confirmed that repairs at Berryfield had been completed and Philip Close remains on the list with funding allocated, but no start date at present.</p> <p>The footpath link between Union Street and King George V Playing Field remains with the Major Maintenance team.</p>	<p>Area Board to note</p> <p>Highways to chase Major Maintenance team for an update</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>Area Highway Engineer</p>
b)	<b>Deadline for submitting LHFIG Requests</b>	All requests are to be submitted two weeks prior to a meeting taking place. Requests received after the deadline will be held until the following meeting.	All to note	All

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		The deadline for our next meeting is therefore 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2023.		
7.	<b>Date of next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, at 16:30 hrs. Meetings to be held on-line until further notice.</b>			

## Melksham Local Highways & Footway Improvement Group

Highways Traffic Officer – Mark Stansby

Area Highway Engineer – Andy Cadwallader

### 1. Environmental & Community Implications

1.1. Environmental and community implications were considered by the LHFIG during their deliberations. The funding of projects will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of environmental, social and community wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

### 2. Financial Implications

2.1. All decisions must fall within the Highways funding allocated to Melksham Area Board.

2.2. If funding is allocated in line with LHFIG recommendations outlined in this report, and all relevant 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributions are confirmed, Melksham Area Board will have a remaining Highways funding balance of **£33,431.36**

### 3. Legal Implications

3.1. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

### 4. HR Implications

4.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

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## **5. Equality and Inclusion Implications**

5.1 The schemes recommended to the Area Board will improve road safety for all users of the highway.

## **6. Safeguarding implications**

6.1 There are no specific Safeguarding implications related to this report.

## **7. Recommendations to Melksham Area Board**

7.1 To close the following Issues:

Active Travel Scheme at Melksham Town Bridge, 9-21-5 Semington Little Marsh, 9-22-4 Melksham Westbury View, 9-22-6 Steeple Ashton, 9-22-18 Bowerhill Lane to Hornchurch

7.2 To add the following Issues (with funding) to the Priority Schemes List:

9-19-11 Bowerhill Portal Road (£1,500), 9-22-3 Melksham The Crays (£1,250), 9-22-6 Melksham Snarlton Farm signs (£475), 9-22-13 Bowerhill Cheshire Close (£1250).

7.3 To allocate funding to Issues already on the Schemes Priority List:

6065 Broughton Gifford (£1060), Bowerhill Halifax Road (£1750)