



Broomfield Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Broomfield Parish Council held in Broomfield Village Hall on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

23/247	Members attending. Chair: Cllr Bleet, Cllrs Thomson, Bowman, Perera-Morris, Scott, Howell, Barnes, Blake, Boreham and Travis. Also present, Clerk, Mark Hembury Also present was City and County Councillor, Mike Steel. Resolved. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Odelana, Taylor and Faulds. Proposed by Cllr Travis and seconded by Cllr Barnes. All in agreement.
23/248	Declarations of interests None received.
23/249	To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th March 2024. Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council meeting of 20th March 2024 are accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Bowman. All in agreement.
23/250	Public Question Time. No members of the public were present.
23/251	The following report was presented by Councillor Steel – Local Highways Panel (LHP) refresh LHPs have suffered from over-demand, delayed delivery, and inappropriate requests, which have hindered their original goals. Consequently, a review of their purpose and operation has been launched with an outcome that refreshes the approach. The main change is that the 12 divisional LHPs will address lower cost schemes that have an immediate impact, and will refer larger long term schemes to a “Chairmans panel”. This will be enhanced by a commitment to undertake scheme validations within 4 weeks of submission. This validation process will prioritise schemes according to addressing known safety issues, improvements to safety, sustainable transport goals, local support, environmental improvements, affordability, and deliverability. It means that the limited LHP funds will be focussed on these priorities! Schemes currently in the funding queue will be re-assessed (validated and prioritised) according to these criteria. Where PCs are able to fund schemes, they will still need to progress through the validation process first, but I hope that this will be quicker and enable PCs to fund such schemes in a shorter timeframe. I am a member of the funding sub-group which recommend schemes for funding over the next year. We met on 3rd April and produced a number of recommendations which include some from my division. These need to be ratified at the full Chelmsford LHP meeting 10th April. I have been communicating with the Clerk on the “lamppost” SID process and have put him in touch with the officer who will manage the process/ It is not live yet. Member Led Highway Defect Repairs I stated previously that there will be a new scheme starting April 2024, but this will be expanded and include pavements and other defects. It is being funded by an £8M grant from Central Govt which has to be spread over 75 ECC divisions. Effectively, I get to direct the extra Chelmsford team for 4 weeks over the year. Having been selected as a Cllr to initiate the scheme, I have been collecting defects from my PCs and residents and have submitted the following for the first batch. As this is a new scheme, I do not know if all of these can be done

in the first batch! For future batches, I need location (What3words and Highways Track-It ref) and photo.

Carriageway Defects

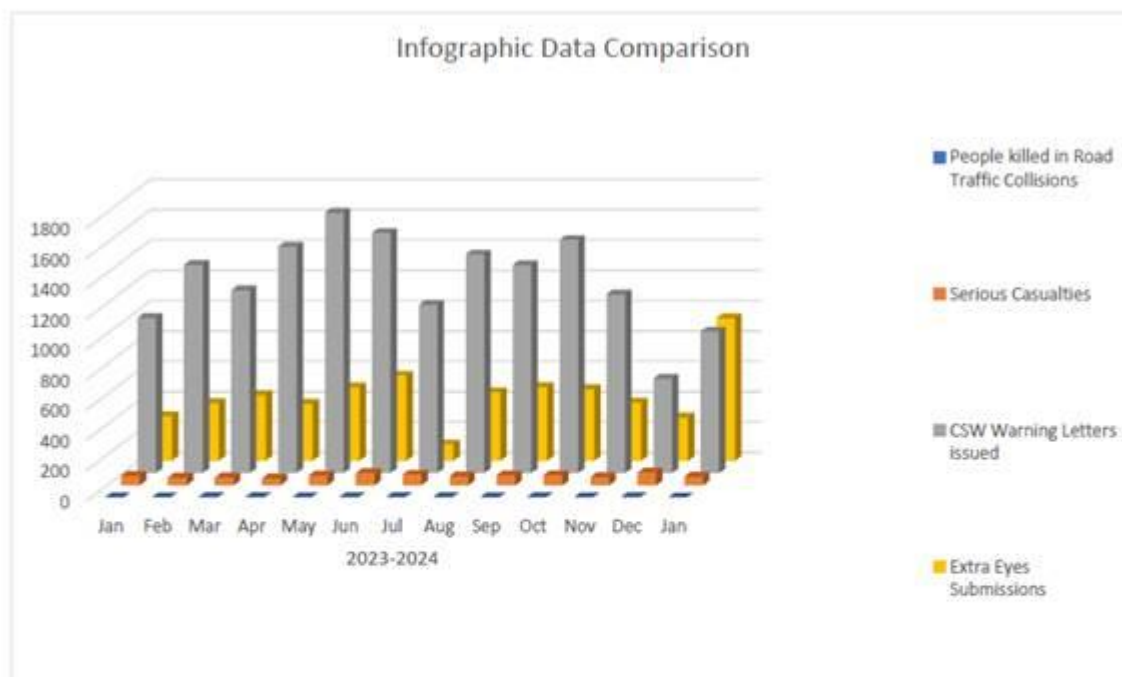
- 1 Writtle – junction of Lodge Road and St John's Road
- 2 Writtle outside funeral directors, opposite Rose and Crown
- 3 Writtle St Johns Road
- 4 Writtle - Ongar Road (119) between Longmeads Close and Redwood Drive
- 5 Writtle – outside fish and chips shop – drain surround
- 6 Great Waltham Great Waltham Junction Bury Lane/Mashbury Road/Barrack Lane
- 7 Main Road, Broomfield - drain and island
- 8 Highwood The Street
- 9 Roxwell Vicarage Road and The Street
- 10 Howe Street Mill Cottage, which is next door to Mill House
- 11 Little Waltham On Cranham Road Opposite Domsey Lane turning
- 12 Great Waltham road to Brook Mead
- 13 Pleshey Road The entire length of Pleshey Road, from the junction near Drop Farm to Walthambury Farm,

Pavements

- 1 Broomfield Berwick Avenue in front of drive of 14 Berwick Avenue CM1 4AS
- 2 Great Waltham South Street
- 3 Great Waltham Chelmsford Road – on West side
- 4 Broomfield Erick Avenue, Chelmsford
- 5 Broomfield Erick Avenue, Chelmsford

Road collision data for Essex:

Infographic Comparison Data:



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
People killed in RTC's	2	2	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	2	4	0
Serious Casualties	63	51	52	45	65	81	70	60	66	67	54	83	57
CSW Warning Letters issued	1023	1374	1205	1493	1717	1584	1109	1442	1371	1538	1179	623	933
Extra Eyes Submissions	295	381	433	376	485	563	109	453	487	472	384	286	941

Casualty Reduction Initiatives:

The ECC Highways Casualty Reduction Team react to reports of serious injuries and fatalities on the roads.

In my division, there have been 2 investigations:

- A131 Braintree Rd Rabout - Gt Leighs / Goodmans Ln
- B1008 Braintree Rd / The Street - Little Waltham

B1008 Blasford Hill/The Street, Little Waltham

Intervention works:

Vegetation clearance to restore visibility splays at junction.

Review and enhance existing 'Junction ahead' warning signs on B1008.

Review and refresh/enhance road markings on B1008.

Principle:

There have been 3 injury collisions recorded at this junction in the review period; each collision involved a car turning right out from The Street across the path of a Chelmsford-bound vehicle. These three collisions resulted in 1x serious injury and 4x slight injury casualties.

Visibility for road users turning right from the side road is somewhat impeded by vegetation/encroachment

I also raised the issue of turning right towards Great Waltham when the vegetation isn't cut back and received a commitment to get involved if I had any issues with keeping the grass to a reasonable height so vehicles can see the oncoming traffic.

A131 Deres Bridge roundabout, Great Leighs

Intervention works:

Review and refresh/enhance existing road markings on northbound approach/transit and around the roundabout circulatory, including lane arrows (ahead) on both exit lanes to A131 northbound.

Review lane destination signs on northbound approach to roundabout.

Principle:

There have been 3x serious injury collisions in the review period, all involving motorcyclists travelling north across the roundabout to the A131 dual carriageway. Two of these incidents involved 'side swipe' or poor lane discipline/lane-change conflict with other vehicles negotiating the roundabout.

£100,000 announced for community safety projects in Essex

County Council has announced £100,000 funding to improve public safety across the county. From 10am on 25 March local groups will be able to apply for a grant from the council's new Community Safety Initiatives Fund. The fund aims to improve the safety of residents and address violence and crime. Grants will be awarded to local groups for projects or initiatives within their own communities. The benefit of allocating the fund this way is that these groups have the community links and local knowledge. This means the funding will be used in the best way to benefit communities. Grants from £1,000 to £2,000 will be available. The fund will be open to:

- voluntary and community organisations
- registered charities
- charitable incorporated organisations (CIO)
- not-for-profit companies limited by guarantee
- community interest companies (CIC)
- town, parish, or community councils

Applicants will need to demonstrate that their projects will improve or promote public safety in their local community. The full criteria is available on application but projects will be considered that:

- prevent crime or reduce anti-social behaviour. For example, improving home or personal safety
- tackling crime in rural areas
- physically improve anti-social behaviour hotspots
- help improve safety in the night-time economy
- prevent people becoming involved with criminal behaviour or anti-social behaviour
- support local communities and encourage volunteering
- support community events for over 250 people

ECC Planning (Development and Regulation)

I have received an objection to ESS/02/24/CHL - continued operation of the waste transfer and recycling facility at Regiment Business Park, Eagle Way, CM3 3FY - without compliance with conditions 1 (approved details), 5 (external storage areas and heights) and 21 (hours of operation) attached to planning application ref: ESS/17/17/CHL to allow changes to the approved site layout including provision for a new workshop/maintenance building, a new workshop/storage building and a number

	of new units/portacabins for staff welfare; additional storage bays and amended areas for the storage of materials/waste, plant/machinery and vehicles including car parking; and extended hours of operation (retrospective). The objection relates to concerns about reports of operation outside of permitted hours resulting in the production of noise and air pollution adversely affecting nearby residents. Therefore, I have called this application in, and should a recommendation to grant planning permission be made by officers then this application will accordingly be presented to D&R Committee for determination. Chelmsford City Council: City Council are reviewing the adopted Local Plan. The current plan was adopted in May 2020., and needs it to be reviewed at least every five years, to see if we need to update it. We need to consider new national policy and changing local circumstances, an. Issues and Options was the first stage of consultation, which took place in 2022. Many people and organisations commented and the responses have been considered alongside updated evidence, national planning policy, new local priorities, and monitoring data. The current stage is Preferred Options which will go to consultation in 2024. This will be a full draft of the reviewed Local Plan. It includes updated and new policies and sets out proposed sites where new homes, jobs and other facilities could be located, and contains policies that we would use to decide planning applications. As part of this, the Council's Chelmsford Policy Board considered a report on 14 March 2024. The Policy Board agreed to prepare the document for consultation to take place in June 2024 I attended the Policy Board. In terms of Broomfield and the Walthams, the only real change appears to be the proposal of the addition of 2 new sites in Ford End, of 20 dwellings each.
23/252	To receive a report from City Council for items not on the agenda. See agenda item 23/251
23/253	Correspondence An email has been received from Essex Police with plans for a proposed Operation Sidewalk, which is intended to tackle anti-social behaviour, including speeding. Community Speedwatch Groups are asked to notify their wish to become involved. The meeting agreed that the Community Speedwatch Group will notify their support for this initiative. Local resident – request for an enclosed dogs exercise area. The area highlighted by the resident belongs to Chelmsford City Council. Councillor Steel will make enquiries with the City Council regarding this matter.
23/254	Consultations None received.
23/255	Reports from Councillors on outside bodies Local Highways Panel – see agenda item 23/251 Woollards Charity – no report. Broomfield Hospital liaison – Cllr. Blake will make further attempts to establish a dialogue. Parking issues in particular remain a real concern for visitors and patients attending the hospital site. Football Sports Clubs – no report Elderly Care Homes – no further report.

	Transport – Councillor Thomson reported that possible bus changes would be introduced on Sunday but was unable to confirm if there were any changes that would impact the local area. Schools – Councillor Bowman. The new Head at Chelmer Valley High starts this term – she will send an email introducing herself and once he has settled in, will give him an invitation to attend a Council meeting. Police – Councillor Scott. A Community Fund has opened with the intention of providing funding to improve the safety of local residents. North West Parishes Group – Councillor Blake reported that the Group would meet when important matters are to be discussed. Joint statements are issued by all Parishes in agreement, once approval has been given by the individual Parish Councils.
23/256	To note financial reports for March 2024 To approve the bank statement and reconciliation for March 2024 To note cashbook, income and expenditure for March 2024. To note salary payments for March 2024. Resolved. The Council approves the financial records for March 2024 noting the current account reconciliation figure of £23,026.03. Proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Bowman. All in agreement.
23/257	The Council was asked at the meeting on 20th March to consider signing up to the Civility and Respect Project. The Council is now asked to agree to this proposal. Resolved: The Council agrees to sign up to the Civility and Respect Project. Proposed by Cllr. Perera-Morris and seconded by Cllr. Scott. One abstention, all others in agreement.
23/258	Approval was granted at the Council meeting of 20th March to approach a solicitor with a view to registering the lane leading onto the Village Hall site and the pond at Parsonage Green. The cost for this work will be £450 plus disbursements for each location. The Council is asked to approve of this expenditure. Resolved. The Parish Council approves of the expenditure of £900 plus disbursements to instruct solicitors to commence the registration process for the two pieces of land as described. Proposed by Cllr. Travis and seconded by Cllr. Blake. All in agreement.
23/259	A review of the policies and procedures of the Parish Council is being undertaken. The Chairman will report on progress to date. A further meeting to discuss the review will take place tomorrow. It is expected that the review will be completed by June.
23/260	GP Surgery Provision. The Council will receive a report on the meeting of the Little Waltham and Great Notley Patient Participation Group and consider next steps, including setting up a working group to draw up a proposal for Broomfield. Motion: The Council asks the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to work with councillors and representatives of the Little Waltham and Great Notley Patient Participation Group to prepare proposals for GP services in Broomfield and to discuss these with the local Integrated Care Board (NHS). Proposed by Cllr. Barnes and seconded by Cllr. Perera-Morris. All in agreement.
23/261	The Council will receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan from the Chairman of the Planning Committee. Councillor Blake explained that the minor disagreement over Housing Mix Policy with the City Council would not be amended and the submitted draft Neighbourhood Plan would remain unchanged. The Reg.16 consultation will take place after the May elections. An examination of the plan might take place in July or August with a referendum in early autumn.
23/262	The Council will receive an update on the Pylons project. A discussion took place around the documentation now being distributed to all local residents

	by National Grid. The Council agreed that it was vital that local residents are aware of the consultation process and are fully informed of the proposals so that they can come to a conclusion themselves. Leaflets for delivery could be considered, plus posters on the village greens. Consultation with Cheerful Chai will take place re publicity. Dates will be checked for the availability of the Village Hall for a future meeting to highlight the consultation. A meeting will take place soon with the organiser of the East Anglia Pylons Protest Group.
23/263	To assist the Parish Council to propose projects that will contribute towards the mitigation of traffic issues as a result of the Bloor development, and access the £1.3million that was previously agreed for the hospital access road, the Parish Council is asked to consider approving up to £1000 to engage a Highways Engineer to provide expert advice. CIL money will be used if any proposed projects materialise, otherwise the spend will be taken from general reserves. Motion: The Parish Council approves of allocating £1000 to engage a Highways Engineer, CIL money to be used if proposed projects materialise, otherwise the expenditure will be taken from general reserves. Proposed by Cllr.Blake and seconded by Cllr.Barnes. All in agreement.
23/264	Clerk's Update. The Clerk reported that the sites identified at the last meeting as having potentially unregistered land i.e. Clobbs Yard and Str Mary Mead could be dismissed as all land at those locations was registered with Land Registry. Church Green needs to be submitted for registration, along with possible other sites including Angel Green. Progress on the installation of a speed indicator sign has already been covered in the report by Councillor Steel. Councillors can now apply for the 2024-5 allowance if they choose to do so.
23/265	To note minutes from the following Committees:
23/265.1	Finance and Personnel Committee – draft notes from 27 th March. These were noted.
23/265.2	Environment Committee – draft minutes from 13 th March. These were noted.
23/265.3	Property & Planning Committee – draft minutes from 3 rd April. These were noted.
23/265.4	Communications Committee – no recent meeting
23/265.5	School Lane Working Group – The School Lane Group are holding a meeting on Friday afternoon when various projects will be discussed.
23/221.6	Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – no recent meeting.
23/222	Matters for the next meeting Invitation to Planning Committee The meeting concluded at 9.35 p.m.