

## Saffron Walden Town Council

### LHP Schemes

CLr Gadd Update following LHP meeting 27 June 2022

#### **Background**

1. LHP schemes were submitted largely by December 2021, with some submitted late. All schemes are submitted by me and having first been approved by SWTC Planning and Transport Committee. All of the submitted schemes should then go through an Essex Highways validation process and, if feasible, be considered for funding at the LHP meeting in March each year.
2. This year very few schemes were validated by March 2022 and so it was agreed that the main funding meeting would be June 2022, which is the latest practicable time that schemes can be approved for funding for the current LHP year.
3. In the event, very few schemes were validated even by June 2022 because of lack of manpower at Essex Highways. Those not validated cannot be considered for funding this year. In early June, I therefore asked the LHP Officer to concentrate on those schemes where there was a reasonable prospect of the schemes being validated prior to the June LHP meeting to ensure that we had at least some that had been through the validation process – in practice this therefore concentrated on the easier ones.

#### **Saffron Walden schemes submitted to the LHP**

4. For Saffron Walden, the following schemes were submitted to the LHP this year:
  - a. Zebra crossings:
    - i. Ashdon Rd between Chaters Hill and Highfields;
    - ii. Thaxted Rd near Victoria Avenue;
    - iii. Landscape View just south of Cromwell Rd;
    - iv. Ross Close opposite Katherine Semar;
  - b. Pedestrian Islands / junction improvements:
    - i. Borough Lane at the junction with London Road;
    - ii. High St / Debden Rd / London Rd mini-roundabout;
  - c. Watertower Place pedestrian access onto Debden Rd;
  - d. Dropped kerbs at numerous crossings to enable disabled access from the south of Saffron Walden into the centre of town, either via Newport Rd, Debden Rd or Winstanley Rd;
  - e. Cycle schemes – detailed consideration of the schemes previously proposed by SWTC;
  - f. Part pedestrianisation of central Saffron Walden;
  - g. Making covid schemes permanent:
    - i. 20mph in central SW, to be expanded;
    - ii. Pedestrian build-outs on George St.
5. In addition, the following schemes have been previously submitted to the LHP and not previously funded and/or completed:
  - a. SW to Gt Chesterford cycle path;
  - b. Church St – bollards to protect The Old Sun Inn;
  - c. Market Square amendments;
  - d. Removal of street clutter (redundant signs etc, collated by Saffron Walden Initiative);
  - e. Thaxted Rd – new footway on the west side to join the Bellway development (missed from the s.106).

#### **Outcome of LHP process for 2022/23**

6. The following schemes have been through validation and have been approved for funding this year at the March or June meetings:
  - a. All of those referred to in paragraph 5 above;
  - b. A feasibility study for Borough Lane;
  - c. A feasibility study for Water Tower Place;
  - d. Implementation of the dropped kerbs request;
  - e. A detailed review of the SW cycle scheme proposals;
  - f. Part pedestrianisation of the centre of SW;
  - g. Making the 20mph scheme permanent;
  - h. A feasibility study for the George St covid bollards to be replaced with permanent pavement.
7. Of the other schemes:
  - a. Each of the zebra crossings have failed the PV2 test, which was expected, although only narrowly in the case of Ashdon Rd and Thaxted Rd, so I am pushing for Essex Highways to go through the necessary approval process during the course of this year so we can re-present them for funding next year;
  - b. I'll have to push the Debden Road / High St roundabout to next year.
8. On the 20mph scheme, there were some objections during the consultation, which means sign off from the cabinet member for highways is needed. I had a call with him on 27/6 and confirmed that both I and SWTC were very strongly supportive of it, so hopefully it should be approved shortly.
9. On the cycling schemes, there is a danger of overlap with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which UDC are commissioning so I am talking to both the UDC officer and Essex Highways to avoid duplication.

28 June 2022