

Joint Transportation Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **13th September 2016**.

Present:

Mr. C Simkins (Chairman);
Cllr. Bartlett (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Bradford, Burgess, Chilton, Feacey, Heyes, Mrs Webb
Mr. M J Angell, Mr P M Hill, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr. D Smyth, Mr. J N Wedgbury, Mr M A Wickham.

Mr. K Ashby – KALC Representative.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Councillor Heyes attended as Substitute Member for Councillor Mrs Martin.

Apology:

Cllr. Mrs Martin.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Sims, Smith.

Lisa Willoughby (Ashford District Manager – KCC), Jo Fox (Health, Parking & Community Safety Manager – ABC), Chris Miller (Team Leader – Parking – ABC), Danny Sheppard (Senior Member Services Officer – ABC).

134 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Bartlett	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as a Governor on the East Kent University Hospitals Trust and had discussed the matter of parking at the William Harvey Hospital with the Chief Executive.	136
Heyes	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he lived in Kings Avenue.	136

135 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 14th June 2016 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

136 Parking and Waiting Restrictions

The report provided an update and summarised parking and waiting restriction schemes that had been brought through the Joint Transportation Board. It also asked the Board to agree recommendations regarding the recent consultation on the 'Amendment 2' order.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3 Mr Goundry, a local resident and one of the owners of The Kennington Carvery spoke on this item. He said he firstly wanted to thank Members and Officers for their response to the proposed parking restrictions in Ulley Road, Kennington and the recommendation not to proceed with the double yellow lines. He said that despite this, there was still an issue in Ulley Road and the immediate vicinity which needed resolving and he would be happy to work further with KCC to seek a solution.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3 Mr Bailey, a local resident spoke on this item. He said that three years ago this Board had passed the Willesborough Lees Highway Safety Scheme in an attempt to improve safety and eradicate irresponsible parking. This was to be supported by a new H-Line bus service to the hospital and an enlarged hospital car park. Residents had insisted at the time that the scheme would not work and double yellow lines would not solve the problem as they would just move cars to other roads. He considered that over the past three years they had been proved right. The scheme had been immediately undermined by the sharp increase in parking charges at the hospital and three years later, the double yellow lines had not solved the problem of larger vehicles such as refuse lorries not being able to access all of the roads. Parking problems had also now spread to Wilson Close, Hythe Road and Blackwall Road South. They had been promised a review after one year, but this had been put off to allow the bus services (which he considered ran empty on most days) to bed in. Mr Bailey said that the latest proposals for Lees Road again called for double yellow lines and he again considered that these would not work and hoped that Council Officers would listen to local residents this time. He considered there should be a Controlled Parking Zone stretching about 1km around the William Harvey Hospital. This would help to stop hospital users parking inappropriately and give residents their streets back. This was something that had worked in other towns in similar situations and could work in Willesborough. Problems had now existed for over 10 years and the Local Authorities needed to put in a proper scheme that took account of the views of residents who deserved better.

Mrs Fox introduced the report and responded to the points made by the public speakers. She ran through the elements of the Amendment 2 order, including the consultation responses and outlined which parts were and were not still proposed to

go ahead. She explained that all proposals were made with the main principles of free flow of traffic and safety in mind. With regard to the comments made by Mr Bailey, Amendment 4 was due to go out for formal consultation, with a proposal for an extension of double yellow lines at Lees Road, Willesborough. This proposal had come about following informal consultation on a number of options however formal consultation had to include a 'yes or no' option. It could not include various options. She said that Officers were aware of the current and historical issues in the area and would continue to seek the best possible solution. In terms of Ulley Road, Kennington, following the overwhelming response to the consultation and a site visit, a decision had been taken to not add any restrictions in this road. She was unaware of other problems in the area and said that she could not at this stage commit to any further resources here as there were other more pressing concerns elsewhere. In response to questions from Members she clarified that the other aspects of Amendment 2, other than the restrictions in Ulley Road, were still proposed to be implemented as a part order.

The KCC Division Member for Willesborough said that he had some sympathy with Mr Bailey's comments and the views of other local residents. It was true to say that the extension of double yellow lines at Lees Road was purely about safety and the potential for there to be an accident on the bend there, but the whole problem of overspill parking from the hospital was a much bigger one. The hospital and the associated activities around it were continuing to grow and the situation regarding car parking was only going to get worse. He considered there needed to be a wider review to seek a long term solution and suggested that there needed to be a meeting between senior figures at the hospital, Members and Officers at both KCC and ABC, representatives from other agencies and residents as soon as was possible. This would be with a view to reporting back to this Board with some proposals. The Vice Chairman said he had met with the Chief Executive of the Hospitals Trust to discuss parking problems and agreed that a wider meeting attempting to seek a positive solution would be useful. There was going to be further development at the hospital and when this came forward there may be opportunities to do something more positive about the parking situation. He considered a report back to this Board in six months was a realistic goal. Other Members suggested that both Councils had been talking about this area for many years and with finite resources perhaps there was a need to start looking at other areas of the Borough with regard to parking, which had been a bit neglected in recent years. Mrs Fox advised that both Councils would be happy to work with other agencies, but there would be a need to find innovative solutions. They were duty bound to work together to examine issues of safety, but they could not simply provide parking where there was none. This was an ever growing problem in all areas across the Borough as more and more development took place.

In response to a question about The Street, Great Chart, the Chairman said that as KCC Division Member for the area he could confirm that consultation on double yellow lines had ended on the 9th September and those results would now be analysed.

Mrs Fox advised that there was as yet no date to go out for consultation on a proposed Controlled Parking Zone for Kings Avenue, but confirmed that relevant Ward Members would be advised in advance.

The KALC Representative said that he had been asked to raise the current lack of available parking at Dover Place for the offices in the location. He said that the spaces were often filled by commuters and he also considered that the daily charges were high, especially for lower paid workers. He wondered if there were still plans for a Park and Ride system for workers in the town. Mrs Fox advised that they were continuing to look at short, medium and long term strategies for town centre parking. From a planning perspective, there was currently more than sufficient parking in Ashford Town Centre and that would be further enhanced by an additional 280 spaces at Elwick Place in the near future. The questions were around cost and location. Another Member was concerned that a perceived lack of available parking could damage Ashford International Station's position as an international hub for Kent when compared to Ebbsfleet.

Resolved:

- That (i) the update on schemes that have been brought through the Joint Transportation Board be noted.**
- (ii) the implementation of the recently advertised Amendment 2 order be supported, with the removal of the proposals for Ulley Road, Kennington.**
- (iii) the Board receive a report in six months' time on the issue of overspill parking in the roads surrounding the William Harvey Hospital, following further meetings with senior figures at the hospital.**

In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.5 Councillors Heyes and Wedgbury asked for it to be recorded that they had voted against resolution (iii).

137 Lorry Parking Update

Mrs Fox introduced the report which gave the Board an update on the continued overnight HGV parking enforcement and clamping of persistent offending HGVs in Ashford.

She advised that they were now in a position where they had largely achieved what they had set out to do. Enforcement had worked and they were now at almost full compliance with lorry parking spaces in the area full to capacity each night of the week. ABC continued to work closely with KCC and the Police and support Operation Kindle to tackle both inappropriate HGV parking as well as the associated anti-social behaviour problems. KCC were also continuing with their lorry counting exercises to understand exactly where these vehicles were parking. As always it would be important not to push such vehicles into residential or more inappropriate areas. Therefore, as an enforcement team, they were more or less where they wanted to be. It was still clear though that additional HGV spaces were needed and they were patiently waiting for announcements on more provision in the area. If anyone had any innovative ideas in the meantime, they would be gratefully received.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Fox for her update and the work that continued to be undertaken.

In response to a question, Mrs Fox advised that the figure of 36% of PCNs paid before going to collection agents was a pleasing one. It was the best figure in Kent and represented a 16% increase to the figure prior to the clamping trial in 2015. It was notoriously difficult to collect fines on the continent as there was no DVLA equivalent. It was also important to note that this was the number of drivers who paid 'straight away' before the need to pass to collection agents.

A Member asked if there was any update on the petition that had been submitted to this Board in March 2015 concerning inappropriate HGV usage in Canterbury Road and Boys Hall Road, South Willesborough. The petition had been referred to KCC but he had never received a response. This was still a major problem in the area and had actually spread further to Church Road and other neighbouring housing areas. Mrs Willoughby said she would get an update and respond to the Member.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted and the ongoing work supported.

138 Highway Works Programme 2016/17

The report updated Members on the identified schemes approved for construction in 2016/17.

The following responses were given by Mrs Willoughby to questions/comments: -

- 85% of lights in Ashford had now been converted as part of the LED conversion. The remaining 15% would be undertaken in one batch once issues around vegetation, materials or access issues were resolved.
- The installation of new drainage systems on the A28 Canterbury Road, Kennington would take place outside the Old Mill and near to Wilmington Farm and Bramleys. This work was being undertaken in the next two weeks.
- The road widening scheme at the A2070 Conningbrook Bends, Willesborough had experienced some complex land negotiations. The Board had been kept fully updated through the Highways Work Programme reports. There had also been unforeseen delays as UK Power cabling had been discovered that had not appeared on any previous plans. That had now all been overcome and work was due to start in January 2017.
- Amendments to the junction and works to the footway at Dover Place had received technical approval, but were awaiting the confirmation of ABC funding.

- The work that needed to be undertaken regarding the stopping up of Highfield Lane, Mersham was in hand at KCC. This would be important in the context of Highways England's proposals for M20 Junction 10A.

Mrs Willoughby agreed to feed back more information to Members on the following matters surrounding the Highway Works Programme: -

- The potential for resurfacing at Twelve Acres, South Willlesborough as previously requested by the KCC Division Member.
- The current position on the land transfer from ABC to facilitate the junction realignment, zebra crossing and ramped pedestrian footway at the Church Road/Bentley Road junction.
- The reason for the delays on the proposed new footway at Appledore Road, Kenardington.
- The latest position on the request for an 'axle weight restriction' or an 'unsuitable for HGVs' sign at the Canterbury Road junction with Lower Queen's Road.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.