

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 March 2012**

Present:

Cllr. Burgess (Chairman);
Mr M A Wickham (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Mrs Bell, Mrs Blanford, Claughton, Davey, Feacey, Heyes, Robey.
Mr M J Angell, Mr R E King, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mrs E Tweed.
Mr R Butcher – KALC Ashford Area Committee.

Apologies:

Cllr. Yeo, Mr J N Wedgbury.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Galpin, Hicks, Mrs Martin, Michael, Sims.

Lisa Holder (District Highway Manager Ashford – Kent Highways & Transportation (KH&T)), Tara O'Shea (Traffic Engineer – KH&T), Paul Jackson (Head of Environmental Services – ABC), Ray Wilkinson (Engineering Services Manager – ABC), Kirsty Liddell (Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer – ABC).

375 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Davey	Code of Conduct – Personal but not Prejudicial – Worked at a Children's Centre outside of the Borough.	377
Mrs Tweed	Code of Conduct – Personal and Prejudicial – Lived in the vicinity of Charing High Street.	379

376 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 13th December 2011 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

377 Tracker Report

Resolved:

That the Tracker be received and noted.

378 Hothfield Pedestrian Crossing

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3 Ms Fletcher, a local resident, spoke in objection to the crossing. She advised the Board that she objected to the location of the crossing. She had a motability vehicle that she parked outside of her house, the proposed location of the crossing would prevent her from being able to do this. She had received a letter from her GP, which she read out to the Board, supporting her application for a dropped kerb and parking area in her front garden as her medical history and personal circumstances affected her mobility. The letter further requested that alternative measures be considered. Ms Fletcher stated that she had been advised that it was unsafe to move the location of the crossing and that funding was not available for the provision of a parking area and dropped kerb. However money was available for disabled adaptations within dwellings, which she felt should be extended to include the outside area of a property. She had contacted Maria Miller MP, the Minister for Disabled People, regarding her case. A gravel parking area would provide a cheaper alternative to tarmacadam.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.3 Mr Krause from Hothfield Parish Council spoke in support of the crossing. He advised the Board that the crossing had been on a wish list for the village since 2005. The residents of the village and users of the Bluebell Children's Centre had been campaigning for a crossing for a number of years. The crossing would ensure that the village was safer for all residents and visitors. The Parish Council had discussed this issue at their meeting the previous evening and they fully supported the scheme. He urged the Board to endorse the scheme to ensure that the work was completed as soon as possible.

The Ward Member for the area felt that the proposal before the Board was a reasonable compromise and said that the proposed Disabled Persons Parking Bay offered some protection to Ms Fletcher, as it was close to where she parked currently. The County Member for the area also spoke in support of the proposal.

In response to a question Ms O'Shea advised that the crossing had been relocated from a previous location further down the road, as that location had not been suitable. The proposed location was the more suitable for visibility for both pedestrians and motorists. The proposed Disabled Persons Parking Bay would be located 1.3m from Ms Fletcher's gate.

Resolved:

That the Joint Transportation Board endorses the proposal to install the zebra crossing with the addition of a Disabled Persons Parking Bay, as shown in Appendix C of the Report.

379 A Common Sense Plan for Safe and Sensible Street Lighting

The report advised that KCC was reviewing its Street Lighting management, in response to rising energy costs. The report had been considered and endorsed by the KCC Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview Committee on 22nd November 2011. At this time some Members had indicated that the County Council should consider being more radical in its approach.

The following comments were made by Members, which Mrs Holder agreed to investigate the answers to and report back to Members:

- Were there any locations in the County where a complete blackout occurred?
- Were day burners used in the Borough or County? If so, how were these time regulated?
- Would it be possible to use photovoltaic cells on lampposts?

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

380 Prioritised List of Requested Parking Controls for Investigation and Possible Implementation

Mr Jackson introduced the report. He advised Members that the number of requests and schemes put forward had risen since the last meeting of the Board. The report before them outlined all of the requests received to date and the respective priority number. Each request had been prioritised following discussions with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, the Portfolio Holder, ABC Management Team and Officers. He highlighted a number of priorities that had been approved and were progressing which meant that priorities lower on the list would be moved up accordingly. It was important to note that there were limited resources available in terms of both Officer time and funding.

During the discussion the following comments were made:

- Hurst Road at Goat Lees needed to be improved. A number of cars had been keyed and local residents were frustrated with the ongoing situation. Mr Wilkinson confirmed that the issues in Hurst Road would be investigated as part of the Goat Lees scheme.
- Works would commence at Bybrook Road soon. This had been paid for from the Member Highway Fund.
- There were concerns that the proposed works at Cobbs Wood Industrial Estate could cause issues with parking overflow. Mr Wilkinson advised that currently there were a number of sections of single yellow lines on the estate; these lines restricted parking during the working day. The conversion of the

single yellow lines to double yellow lines would therefore only affect parking in the evening and on Sundays. The site had not be reassessed since 2000. Due to the crash record at the site the works would be funded through KCC's crash remedial budget.

- Care needed to be taken when introducing restrictions at Repton Park and Sir John Fogge Avenue. There was limited off-road parking available in these areas which meant that parking was a precious commodity. Mr Wilkinson advised that there was a risk of the bus service via Sir John Fogge Avenue being rerouted thereby bypassing the entire estate; this was due to vehicle obstructions which had also caused damage to a number of buses.
- Mr Wilkinson advised that the scheme for Willesborough Lees was in the process of being finalised. There had been a growing problem in the area and the works would be part of wider improvements. A travel plan had been developed by the Hospital; this was being monitored by KCC. The aim of the travel plan was to encourage modal shift away from cars towards buses and other alternative forms of transport. Kick-start funding was required to assist with the introduction of a bus service from Kennington to the William Harvey Hospital.
- Improvement works to address the ongoing issue at Willesborough Infants and Junior Schools was welcomed. The Ward Member for the area drew attention to the recent article in the Kentish Express which highlighted the unsafe and unsuitable parking occurring on school days. It was suggested that Willesborough Junior School may be able to contribute towards the improvements. A County Member had been present at a recent visit by the Community Safety Unit and had been appalled by the threatening behaviour and language used by some parents.

Resolved:

That the Board approves the adoption of the proposed priority list for investigation, consultation and where agreed, implementation.

381 Kent Freight Action Plan

The report updated Members on the current progress with the Kent Freight Action Plan and the next steps in the process before it was formally adopted.

A number of ongoing issues were raised under Objective 4: To take steps to address problems caused by freight traffic to communities. Members questioned whether these incidents should be reported to KCC or the Police? Mrs Holder advised the Board that she would look into this matter and report back.

Members felt that Objective 2: To take appropriate steps to tackle the problem of overnight lorry parking in Kent should be resolved over and above Objective 1: To find a long-term solution to Operation Stack. In light of this support, the Board proposed to write a letter to the report author detailing the Boards support that Objective 2 should be investigated before Objective 1.

Resolved:

That the Board agrees to write to the Report Author detailing their support for the investigation and resolution of Objective 2 of the report over and above that of Objective 1.

382 Ashford Highway Works Programme 2011/12

Members requested that a Public Rights of Way (PROW) Officer attend the meeting when items relating to PROWs were on the agenda. Mrs Holder advised that she would put this request to the relevant Officer.

A County Member voiced his frustration at the reoccurrence of 4x4 vehicles using PROWs for off-roading activities. This practice was causing damage to the local byways and it was unacceptable.

A County Member felt that the creation of a PROW at Bockhanger Lane should be supported however it was essential that lighting was included within the project for the safety of the users of the PROW.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

383 Future Footway Works – Proposed List for 2012/13

The report provided a summary of locations that had been identified for proposed footway work in the Ashford Borough. The locations were being considered for inclusion in a coutrywide footway works programme for 2012/13.

A Member requested that the works to Godinton Road be extended to include Western Avenue as the condition of this road was unacceptable and impassable for wheelchair users. Mrs Holder advised that she would look into this point.

Mrs Holder confirmed that the list before the Board was not agreed and therefore could not confirm when works would commence.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

384 Public Right of Way Crossing at Hamstreet Station

The Chairman drew attention to the letter that had been sent to Network Rail with copies to Southern Railways and KCC Public Rights of Way.

One of the Ward Members for the area spoke in support of the letter and highlighted the history of the crossing. There had been a recent near miss on the crossing and she was concerned that 'there was an accident waiting to happen'. This was the only crossing of its type left in the South of England.

The Board requested that a copy of the letter be sent to the MP with a further copy sent to the Chief Executive of Network Rail.

Resolved:

The Board supported the sending of the letter and agreed that a copy should be sent to the local MP and the Chief Executive of Network Rail, with a follow up letter being sent should a reply not be received within one month of the date of the original letter.

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