

Joint Transportation Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **10th March 2015**.

Present:

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

Cllrs. Burgess, Davey, Robey, Sims.
Mr. M J Angell, Mr. P M Hill, 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 Sims attended as a Substitute Member for Councillor Feacey.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Buchanan, Feacey, Mrs Martin, Mr. S J G Koowaree.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Ovenden, Smith.

Lisa Holder (Ashford District Manager – KCC), Lorna Day (Kent Parking & Enforcement Manager – KCC), Sheila Davison (Head of Health, Parking & Community Safety – ABC), Jo Fox (Health, Parking & Community Safety Manager – ABC), Tracey Butler (Environmental Protection Team Leader – ABC), William Train (Technical Administrative Assistant – ABC), Danny Sheppard (Senior Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer – ABC).

Valerie Stephens (Highways Agency), James Butt, Fay Tressider (Mott MacDonald Grontmij JV.)

382 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 9th December 2014 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

383 Petitions

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.1 Councillor Smith presented a petition to the Chairman. The petition contained 85 signatures from residents of the Canterbury Road and Boys Hall Road areas calling for action over the ever increasing problem of HGV usage in those areas of South Willesborough. He said that a small

'Unsuitable for HGVs' road sign had been put in place at the south end of Canterbury Road, but it was regularly ignored and previous requests for further signs at the other end of Canterbury Road and at Boys Hall Road had been refused because KCC did not want a proliferation of those signs at these locations. Large lorries and those with trailers found it difficult to get through Canterbury Road and often had to undertake a multi-point turn at the junction with Cudworth Road to get out. He said that this procedure could last up to 20 minutes and resulted in traffic hold up and damage to the road surface and street furniture. With reversing buzzers going it was particularly annoying, especially when it was done in the early hours of the morning. In Boys Hall Road again many vehicles had to turn around which had resulted in fences and hedges being damaged and a building being hit when a very large vehicle went through. He understood that money may have been made available in the past from Network Rail for traffic calming in Boys Hall Road, but that had never been used. Councillor Smith said that the petition called for the issues to be quickly investigated and for appropriate signage and/or traffic calming to be put in place to prevent large lorry access to these two roads except for access to local properties. He hoped that any measures implemented would not simply move the problem to the nearby Fairview Estate where there was already an issue of lorry parking blocking the pavements.

The Chairman advised that the petition would be referred to KCC as the responsible authority.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.1 Councillor Davey submitted a petition to the Chairman on behalf of Mr. Koowaree. The petition asked for the Highways Agency to consider improving the Barrey Road junction with the A2070 to allow drivers to safely enter and exit the commercial area by means of a roundabout or traffic lights. Councillor Davey said that she understood that such plans may be part of the emerging M20 Junction 10A proposals, however given the 1000 plus signatures that had been collected, they still wished for the petition to be submitted.

The Chairman advised that the petition would be referred to the Highways Agency as the responsible authority.

384 Transportation, Highways & Engineering Advisory Committee – 16th January 2015

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Transportation, Highways & Engineering Advisory Committee held on the 16th January 2015 be received and noted.

385 Lorry Parking Update - Clamping

Mrs Fox introduced the report which brought the Board up to date on the lorry clamping project. She advised that a six month pilot clamping scheme would begin in April whereby ABC Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) would be working alongside an accredited clamping company and would be clamping persistently offending HGVs in specific agreed locations where other measures to address the problems

had failed. The potential for displacement into residential areas was recognised and this would be kept under review once the pilot was underway.

In response to questions from Members Mrs Fox advised of the following points: -

- The legislation did not permit the clamping of first time offenders, only persistent offenders.
- The warning notices and information leaflets would be printed in a number of foreign languages and the team of bailiffs working alongside the CEO team would be multi-lingual.
- There would also be multi-lingual clear warnings about clamping as well as directing drivers to alternative facilities, waste facilities and that littering was a criminal offence. In some areas the problem was not so much that the lorry drivers were there, more the state they left the area in when they left.
- There had been some positive developments regarding the problems in the Henwood Business Park in recent weeks where businesses and lorry drivers appeared to be developing a working dialogue.
- All operations were being undertaken in conjunction with Kent Police and they had the power to move vehicles on that were causing an obstruction.
- Officers would direct drivers to the lorry parking facilities at Ashford Truck Stop (junction 10) and Stop 24 (junction 11) so would be offering an alternative. They would also be keeping data on the vehicles to help identify repeat offenders and to provide a useful and more accurate picture of the necessity for further lorry parking on the M20 corridor.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

386 Tracker Report

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the Tracker of Decisions.

A Member mentioned the highway safety scheme that had been implemented for Downs View Infant and Kennington Junior Schools back in February 2013 and asked if the post-implementation review could be brought forward to take into account the new convenience store that had opened near the box junction in the area and brought quite a bit of traffic to the location. Officers said they would examine this issue and feed back to the Member.

Another Member said he would like to see some re-surfacing at Bybrook Road, Bockhanger, where the tarmac had come away from the road surface. Officers advised him to report this via the KCC Highway Faults Portal.

Resolved:

That the Tracker be received and noted.

387 M20 Junction 10A Scheme Update

Valerie Stephens from the Highways Agency and James Butt and Fay Tressider of Mott MacDonald Grontmij JV attended and gave a presentation explaining the scheme, the programme and the consultation process as well as fielding questions.

Valerie Stephens advised that from 1st April 2015 the Highways Agency would become a Government owned company known as 'Highways England'. They were committed to delivering a number of major schemes, one of which was the M20 Junction 10A scheme. They had engaged Mott MacDonald Grontmij JV as their civil engineers for the scheme and they would take Members through the rest of the presentation.

James Butt gave a presentation which included: - a background to the consultation process; the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC); the programme of delivery; and what was to happen next. The SoCC was a statutory statement setting out how the Highways Agency was proposing to consult the local community. Its content was important as it helped the community understand how they would be consulted and on what they were consulting. They had originally planned to publish the SoCC in April 2015, but due to the purdah period around the elections this would be delayed until June. Engagement would continue through that period though, engaging with stakeholders to build relationships and gather information, and there would then be a ten week consultation period after the SoCC had been published, running until 28th August 2015. The presentation gave examples of a few of the large number of stakeholders who would be consulted. He gave his contact details to Members and said he would be happy to answer any questions or provide further information throughout the scheme.

Fay Tressider ran through the details of the scheme with reference to plans that were on display. To answer a point raised earlier in the meeting, the scheme did involve plans for 'all directions signalling' at the Barrey Road junction. She further advised that there was a desire to retain the existing Willesborough pedestrian/cycle bridge as well as the one at Highfield Lane if possible. There would also be a new bridge/crossing provided at Kingsford Street, Mersham. She also indicated the extent of the proposed street lighting and advised that this would be kept to the safest possible minimum.

The item was opened up to the Board for discussion and Members said they had some concerns over proposals to close the two slip rounds to the east of the existing Junction 10. This would force all traffic wishing to enter the M20 coastbound, or wishing to leave the M20 on the London bound carriageway, to use the new Junction 10A and there was concern that this would place a lot of stress on that part of the A20 and other roads. Fay Tressider said she understood the concerns and there would be rigorous traffic modelling to see if the plans would work. If they would not, they would have to look at this again. The background to this was that for highway safety reasons there needed to be a certain distance between motorway junctions,

and slip roads to the east of Junction 10 as well as to the west of Junction 10A would almost certainly be too close together.

The following responses were given to other questions/comments: -

- At present partial signalisation was proposed for the new junction itself. There was also the potential to alter the signals at certain times of the day. This would be also be dependent on the traffic modelling work.
- The application would be determined under the Development Consent Order process with the Planning Inspectorate. This would include a pre-examination stage, examination stage, with a decision taken thereafter and forwarded to the Secretary of State for approval. Local Members would also be invited to a preview before the full public exhibition.
- The team was aware of ABC's "Dark Skies" Supplementary Plan Document and would be looking at options for LED lighting, dimming technology and downward facing lights.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation and said he was sure Members had found it extremely useful.

388 Review of Prioritised Parking List and New Process

Mrs Fox introduced the report which addressed the process for dealing with new requests for on-street parking controls. She said she had recently taken over responsibility for Engineering Services and wanted to review and streamline the ever increasing list of schemes for implementation. In its current form the list was unachievable so the team wanted to properly manage expectations. They had begun to benchmark how such requests were dealt with across Kent to take on board best practice and implement a smarter and more streamlined process going forward. There was also a desire to build in to the process a mechanism to keep Members updated more regularly on where each request was in the overall programme than the current annual report.

Mrs Fox further advised that between now and the next meeting in June the focus would be on working on the parking schemes in Wye and Tenterden. These were two schemes that had been high on the priority list for some time but not been able to be delivered and could act as two pilot schemes for the new process. The outcomes of the wider review would be reported to the next meeting in June.

Members were positive about the proposed way forward and considered this would be a vast improvement and provide clarity to residents about what was actually going to happen. It was considered important to rationalise and simplify the process and to start delivering the schemes on the ground.

The Chairman advised that he had been asked to raise the issue of parking at St Teresa's Close by the ABC Ward Member. Mrs Fox said that she was aware of the problem in that particular area.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted and the proposed new process for dealing with requests for on street parking controls be supported.

389 Bank Street/Elwick Road Shared Space Scheme - Update

The report brought Members up to date with progress on the Bank Street footway remedial action. At its December meeting, the Board resolved to delegate power to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to agree a solution with Officers. A Working Group had been set up which had met twice since January and agreed the construction details as well as a public relations plan in advance of the works. The target construction start date was 26th May 2015 and was expected to last approximately 20 weeks to the middle of October. ABC had emphasised the importance of completion before the busy Christmas shopping period commenced in November.

In response to a question Mrs Holder advised that the removal of the flume referred to the installation in Bank Street and at the very end of Elwick Road where the two roads joined. The 'way marking' to the Station along Elwick Road would remain.

A Member suggested the new KCC Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport, Matthew Balfour be invited to a Board meeting in the new Municipal Year to reflect on this and other schemes that had been of concern to Board Members.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

390 Highway Works Programme 2014/15

The report updated Members on the identified schemes approved for construction in 2014/15.

The Chairman directed Members attention to the Update Report which contained some comments from Councillor Smith about the resurfacing works in Earlsworth Road. This had been marked as complete, however there were two long strips where the top coat had not been applied and driving over that part of the surface was noisy and corrugated. He hoped that the report could be amended and KCC would finish the work in the near future. In response Mrs Holder advised that Earlsworth Road had been visited four times since October 2014 by KCC's Surfacing Team to address areas that were not accessible originally due to parked cars on site despite the usual notices being issued in advance of works being carried out. The differences in texture of the areas that the Member had referred to were due to those sections having to be completed by hand laying rather than machine laying because of the aforementioned parked car issues. The Surfacing Team has confirmed earlier that day that arrangements had been made for the site to be inspected again and if necessary further remedial works would be carried out.

In response to a question about the proposed pedestrian crossing at Hythe Road, Willesborough, Mrs Holder advised that this would not appear in the programme at this time as some land ownership issues still had to be clarified.

The KALC Member asked about Appendix B to the report – Drainage Repairs and Improvements and said that he now understood that only schemes with a value of £5k or more would appear in the list and he asked if this could be lowered and the cost of the schemes be included within the report to make it more informative. Mrs Holder advised that if all schemes of a lesser value were included the report could run to a large number of pages. It was agreed that a note could be added to future reports clarifying that it only included schemes with a value in excess of £5k.

The Chairman advised that the scheme to install a zebra crossing at the A28 Ashford Road, High Halden had been delayed due to having to wait for UK Power Network power connections. He had been told that the works would now be starting on 13th March 2015.

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

- Signing and lining improvements at A292 Hythe Road/Church Road.
- The lack of grip cutting in High Halden which had caused some damage to the sub-surface of the carriageway there.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

391 Highway Drainage

The report updated Members on KCC's approach to maintaining and improving the highway drainage system whilst ensuring that customers were provided with a quality service against a background of increasing severe weather events.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

392 Future Roles and Responsibilities

Mrs Fox introduced the joint report of ABC and KCC outlining arrangements for reporting highway faults and the links to the Joint Transportation Board. She advised that this linked in with the earlier item on this agenda about the process for parking schemes, and was about focussing Officer time in the most efficient way. The report advised how quickly some routine highway faults could be dealt with if they were reported via the KCC portal. This would allow the Board to focus its time on the more strategic projects. She also advised of the proposal to add an item to future agendas called 'Board Members' Enquiries' which would enable Board Members to raise

questions on the work programmes, suggest future traffic regulation orders or street management proposals, ask questions on all relevant policies, plans and strategies and suggest future agenda items.

Board Members were supportive of the processes. Some Members in particular commented on the effectiveness of the reporting portal and the help given by Officers. The Vice-Chairman suggested one minor amendment to paragraph 11 regarding the 'Board Members' Enquiries' agenda item so that it read "Under this item Board Members (and other Members with the Chairman's discretion) will be able to raise for example the following:"...

On a more general point, the Chairman said there was a lot of joint work going on between KCC and ABC at the moment and it was pleasing to see things moving in that direction. He said he was grateful to all involved.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted and the suggested processes be adopted.

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