

Joint Transportation Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **9th June 2015**.

Present:

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

Cllrs. Apps, Feacey, Heyes, Hooker, Mrs Martin, 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 Apps attended as a Substitute Member for Councillor Burgess.

Apology:

Cllr. Burgess.

Also Present:

Cllrs. Krause, Miss Martin, 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).

26 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 10th March 2015 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

27 Lorry Parking Update - Clamping

Mrs Fox introduced the report which brought the Board up to date on the lorry clamping project which went live on Sunday 12th April. She advised that the initial results were positive in terms of a reduction in the number of illegally parked vehicles, the outcomes of the education day, a reduction in litter and the positive response from local businesses. She said that she was aware of some displacement of vehicles to other areas and this would continue to be monitored throughout the six

month period of the pilot. Going forward she advised that Officers would be checking the hotspots between 00.00 and 03.00 every night during the pilot, in order to build an accurate evidence base. There would be a cost implication here, but it was important to take the issue seriously and get it right.

The report was then opened up to the Board and the following responses were given to questions/comments: -

- In terms of where the previously illegally parked vehicles had gone, there had been an increase in numbers at both the Truck Stop at M20 Junction 10 and the Lorry Park at Junction 11. Increased problems had also been reported in neighbouring Districts who were not clamping.
- A Member advised that displaced HGV parking was already occurring in Park Farm at Sheepfold Lane and around Tesco.
- Displaced parking appeared in the main to be taking place in laybys and industrial estates and there did not seem to be a problem in residential areas at this stage.
- A Member referred to the petition he had submitted at the previous meeting calling for action over the problem of HGV usage in Canterbury Road and Boys Hall Road, South Willesborough, to which he was yet to receive a reply. He said that whilst lorries were not stopping or parking in these areas, they were attempting to access the local roads looking for parking and were getting stuck in inappropriate locations such as at the end of Cudworth Road. In their attempts to turn around and exit, they were causing concern, noise and damage to local paths, walls and verges. The Health, Parking & Community Safety Manager asked Members to give them details of such occurrences as soon as they became aware of them at engineering@ashford.gov.uk and Officers would attempt to contact the relevant companies and deal with the problems at source.

The Board welcomed the report and said it had been encouraged by the early results. The Chairman said he would look forward to the next update report in September followed by a full report to the December meeting once the pilot had finished.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

28 Review of Prioritised Parking List and New Process

Mrs Fox advised that further to the report to the last Board meeting in March, this report further detailed the new process for dealing with requests for new traffic management proposals. She explained that the new approach had been trialled over the last three months with the focus on working on the parking schemes in Wye and Tenterden and some minor issues in Ashford and Charing. It was considered that the

new process had been a success and would provide Members with a more informed and realistic picture about what schemes could be delivered.

The Chairman said he very much supported the new arrangements and he would urge all Members and Parish Councils and indeed the public to make their requests for new traffic management proposals through the engineering@ashford.gov.uk email address.

In response to a question from a Member about 'The Right to Challenge' and whether that could be used by members of the public to challenge a lack of enforcement of on street parking provisions within permitted areas. Mrs Fox advised that it could not as this was outside the scope of 'The Right to Challenge' but highlighted the increased demand for parking enforcement in the context of additional traffic management schemes.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

29 Progress on Recent Traffic Management Proposals

The Chairman directed the Board's attention to the tabled report which provided a Parking and Waiting Restrictions update and summarised schemes that had previously been through the Joint Transportation Board - parking schemes in Wye and Tenterden and some minor issues in Ashford and Charing. Mrs Fox advised that an update report in this form would now come to each Board Meeting. The tabled report also identified new requests for investigation.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

30 Highway Works Programme 2015/16

The report updated Members on the identified schemes approved for construction in 2015/16.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

31 Annual Kent Rail Summit

Mrs Butler advised that she had attended the seventh Annual Kent Rail Summit at County Hall on 18th May 2015. There had been two items of particular relevance to Ashford – namely the Kent Route Study and rail accessibility for East Kent. She advised that Clare Waller and Lisa Goodman, Lead Strategic Planners for Network Rail, had offered to come to a future Joint Transportation Board meeting to talk about the Kent Route Study, and the Board said it would like to invite them to the next

meeting in September.

With regard to the Kent Route Study, a Member said that one of the most interesting aspects was the electrification of the Marsh Link line and it would be good to discuss that with the Network Rail representatives and ask about potential timescales. Another Member said an alternative option might be to restore the dual track all the way to Hastings which would avoid the need to make other changes to bridges, banks etc.

On the wider subject of rail accessibility in East Kent, a Member said that he was interested in the potential line speed and operational improvements on the line between Ashford and Canterbury West. This was already a very well used line and with the potential new Thanet Parkway station being added to the Ashford-Ramsgate line, there would be a need to upgrade the infrastructure on this stretch of line.

A Member asked if the question of an automated barrier for the Wye Crossing had been considered by the Summit. Mrs Butler advised that it had not, but she would make enquiries and report back to the Member.

The Chairman raised the issue of a potential Rail Halt at Bridgefield, Park Farm. He understood that money had come forward from the developers for, at the very least, a feasibility study and he would be interested in an update on this issue to come forward to the next meeting. Another Member said that as he understood it Network Rail had all but dismissed the possibility of a Rail Halt in this location, and there was no likelihood of it ever being built. Perhaps the more pertinent question would be to ask what was going to happen with the developer money if a study in to a Rail Halt would be fruitless.

Resolved:

- That (i) the report be received and noted.**
- (ii) representatives from Network Rail be invited to the next meeting on the 8th September 2015 to discuss the Kent Route Study.**
- (iii) an update on the Park Farm Rail Halt would also be brought to the next Board Meeting**

DS

Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Danny Sheppard:
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