

Joint Transportation Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **14th March 2017**.

Present:

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

Cllrs. Bradford, Burgess, Chilton, Feacey, Mrs Martin, 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.

Also Present:

Cllr. Smith.

Andy Moreton (Project Manager for Major Projects – KCC), Toby Howe (Highway Manager (East) - KCC), Sophie Pridmore (Technical Support Officer - KCC), Jo Fox (Health, Parking & Community Safety Manager – ABC), James Hann (Health, Parking & Community Safety Manager – ABC), Chris Miller (Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader – ABC), Danny Sheppard (Senior Member Services Officer – ABC).

337 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.	340
Smith	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as Treasurer of the South Willesborough and Newtown Community Group	340

338 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 13th December 2016 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

339 Petitions

In accordance with Procedure Rule 9.1 Mr Koowaree presented a petition to the Board. The petition contained more than 200 signatures from local residents regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing at the Church Road junction with Bentley Road. He said that the proposed location had been agreed some three years ago and appeared to be just waiting for a land transfer, but more recently KCC had said they were re-examining the proposed crossing in terms of whether the location was safe and if it would actually be used. Mr Koowaree said he wanted to make it clear that residents did want a crossing in this location and the petition re-iterated that position.

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

340 Parking and Waiting Restrictions – Update Summary

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 public consultation on Amendment 6.

Mr Miller introduced the report and drew the Board's attention to a couple of particular matters regarding Smallhythe Road, Tenterden and Gatefield Cottages, Rolvenden. He also advised that due to an administrative error the residents of Glebelands, Mersham had not received their consultation letters and whilst this was not a legal requirement, for purposes of fairness, equality and transparency it was proposed to defer this restriction to the June meeting so residents of Glebelands were offered the same opportunity as all to respond to the proposals.

The KCC Divisional Member for Willesborough thanked Officers for implementing the double yellow lines beneath the M20 overbridge at Lees Road, Willesborough. There was however a concern about the knock on effect for neighbouring roads. The Board was advised that the whole area was the subject of further discussion in terms of the wider Willesborough Parking Review and the continuing dialogue with the hospital. A meeting had been arranged for the 26th April by the Willesborough Community Forum which would also involve local elected Members, Council Officers and representatives from the Hospital. A report would then come back to this Board in June. A KCC Member questioned the appropriateness of Member attendance at the 26th April meeting as it fell during the purdah period for the KCC Elections.

The KCC Divisional Member for Ashford South said he wanted to make a general statement on parking in Ashford, particularly as it related to the International Station. As this would be his last meeting as a Member of this Board he thought it was timely to air his concerns. Whilst the development and new building in Ashford was to be welcomed, it was starting to have an effect on the availability of car parking close to the Station. He referred to development behind International House and opposite the new College building in particular. With Ebbsfleet's extensive car parking, future development of the Garden City and the fact that it already appeared to be

Eurostar's favoured location for Kent, he was concerned that a lack of available parking in the future could threaten the future of International services at Ashford.

Other Members concurred with the comments made and said that it would be important to continue to fight for the future of Ashford's International Station. There were so many upcoming developments in Ashford such as the Designer Outlet and arrival of Deutsche Barn railway services, which would create the need for extra parking as well as the additional commuters that would be brought in with the new housing and the proposed Paramount Park near Ebbsfleet which was expected to attract people to park in Ashford and use the High Speed Rail Services.

Mrs Fox said that whilst it was true that some of the new development was using car parking space, the College, Elwick Place, Victoria Way and the Outlet developments would all also bring significant extra parking. It was also noted that the multi-storey car park at the International Station was currently at only 18% capacity. The ABC Cabinet Member said he was grateful for the comments made. He said he would examine this issue with Officers in the coming weeks and report back to the next meeting of this Board in June on the wider future parking implications for Ashford.

The Chairman said that as this would be his last meeting he would like to thank Mr Smyth for his contributions to the Board in his time as a County Councillor.

Resolved:

- That (i) the update on schemes that have been brought through the Joint Transportation Board be noted.**
- (ii) the part implementation of the recently advertised Amendment 6 order be supported, with the exception of the restriction at Glebelands, Mersham, which will be deferred to the June meeting of the Board.**
- (iii) the Board receive a report at its next meeting on the issue of wider future parking implications for Ashford.**

341 A2070/Barrey Road Junction - Update

Further to discussion at the last meeting of the Board, the report updated on progress relating to potential improvements at the A2070/Barrey Road junction. Mr Moreton reported that the meeting with residents and businesses on the 16th January had identified three key actions for further consideration and he updated on each of those in turn.

Firstly with regard to the possible implementation of temporary speed restrictions and a speed camera on this stretch of the A2070, Highways England (HE) had advised that traffic regulations dictated it was not possible to install such an operation simply for a speed related matter, there had to be an identified safety issue and Barrey Road had not been identified as an accident blackspot. He had therefore asked HE to investigate the installation of a permanent 40mph limit, in light of the fact that the Junction 10A scheme would introduce a 40 mph limit anyway. In

addition, it would be possible to install ANPR cameras to monitor vehicle speeds whilst the Permanent Order was prepared. Once the Order was in place, the cameras could be switched over to enforcement. He advised that the approximate timeframe for seeing this solution on the ground and settled in was approximately 20 weeks so they were looking at late summer 2017. This matter was currently with HE.

The second action had been the relocation of the bollards in Church Road. This had been discussed with colleagues and the preferred option was to move them towards Barrey Road which would allow residents of Nightingale Close to exit via Church Road and ease the pressure on Barrey Road itself. They were looking to undertake an informal consultation with residents on this point in due course.

Finally Mr Moreton advised that discussions continued with HE on potential junction improvements. This would have to be considered in conjunction with any reduced speed limit. KCC was actively working with consultants on an estimated cost for either a roundabout or signals at the junction. This would put both organisations in a better place to potentially take forward a business case for funding to an appropriate body. He would be meeting the consultants on-site later that week and would expect a report back from them within four to six weeks, so he would be able to report back on funding, costings and future options to the next meeting of this Board in June.

The Board thanked Mr Moreton for the hard work he had put in on this matter and were grateful to him for moving it forward.

A Member asked if residents of Sevington Lane could be included in any consultation on the relocation of the bollards as this would have an effect on them. He hoped that all residents in the area would be included as there would inevitably be a range of views and it would be important to take them all in to account. He also advised that proposals to improve the Barrey Road junction had been in the original Junction 10A scheme but had been taken out to save money. It would now be important to push for a good scheme, rather than pressing ahead with something that would increase the frustration of residents and businesses in Sevington. He therefore asked that any work coming out of HE and KCC be shared with the Planning Inspector. Mr Moreton confirmed that they would consult with the whole area and agreed to share the consultants' report with the Planning Inspector.

Resolved:

That the update report and the relevant progress to date be received and noted and the Board look forward to receiving a further update to its next meeting in June.

342 Draft Freight Action Plan for Kent – Response from Ashford Borough Council

The report presented ABC's consultation response to KCC's Draft Freight Action Plan for Kent for information. The Plan set out five ongoing actions for managing freight through Kent: – Tackling the problem of overnight lorry parking in Kent; Finding a long term solution to Operation Stack; Effectively managing the routing of

HGV traffic; Addressing the problems caused by freight traffic to communities; and ensuring that KCC continued to make effective use of planning and development control powers to reduce the impact of freight traffic. It also outlined how those actions could be met through partnership working. ABC's responses to the actions were set out in the report including their strong support for a network of strategically placed lorry parks across Kent and its commitment to continue to work in partnership with KCC on this issue.

During discussion on this issue the following additional points were raised: -

- Was there anything that could be done to lobby for en-suite toilet facilities on HGVs? Such facilities were quite common on caravans etc. and would help massively to combat the huge increase in waste being dumped at the road sides.
- There was concern that although a network of smaller lorry parks across the County had been proposed, to date no new sites appeared to have been identified. It therefore appeared that actual delivery was some time away.
- An extension of the existing facility at Waterbrook was mentioned within the report but there was a question of air quality to consider in this vicinity with not only the lorry park but the railway line being close to existing and emerging residential areas. This would need careful consideration.
- It was inevitable that additional lorry parking spaces would quickly be filled and perhaps there should be more emphasis on lobbying Government to increase the percentage of freight transported by rail.
- The point made in the response stressing the importance of freight transport and traffic implications of planning proposals being taken into account when making planning decisions was vital. This really needed to be followed up by KCC and passed down to ABC to implement at a local level.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

343 Bridgefield Bus Route

The report outlined the outcomes of a technical audit carried out on the bridge over the A2070 to determine the suitability for use by buses to serve Bridgefield. Mr Howe advised that unfortunately, as yet, an estimated completion date had still not been received from the developer.

A Member advised that despite the report noting that the existing bridge parapet was deemed adequate to contain an errant vehicle it was interesting that more solid barriers on bridges along the M20 were being replaced as they had been judged as inadequate. He asked if any tests had been undertaken to determine if this bridge

could contain a 2.5 tonne bus. Mr Howe advised he would get an update on that point and feed back to the Member.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

344 Highway Works Programme 2016/17

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

The following responses were given to questions/comments: -

- Following no objections being received during the consultation Mr Moreton said that as part of his role as lead for Junction 10A he would investigate the availability of funding for the installation of a turning head and closure at Highfield Lane, Mersham.

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

- Clarification over the number of bollards to be installed on the pavement at The Street, Great Chart as part of the pedestrian safety scheme there and the status of the street light that had been replaced at the same location as this still appeared not to be working.
- Highways England and the Safety Camera Partnership's response to concern about motorists jumping red lights at the new Willesborough Dykes, Sheepfold Lane cycle/pedestrian crossing.

Mrs Fox agreed to give the KCC Divisional Member an update on the street lighting situation in Hamstreet concerning the light stalks that had been cut off and the Parish Council's lamps which were in storage.

Jo Fox also advised the Board that ABC's other Health, Parking and Community Safety Manager James Hann and her would be swapping roles as of the 1st April 2017 and James would be taking over responsibility for the Joint Transportation Board. The Chairman said that on behalf of the Board he would like to thank Jo for all she had done for them and that they looked forward to working with James in the future.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Danny Sheppard:
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