

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 December 2019**.

Present:

Cllr. B Heyes (Chairman);
Mr P W Bartlett (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Feacey, Forest, T Heyes, Smith, Ward
Mr M J Angell, Mrs C L Bell, Mr D Farrell, Mr P M Hill, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr C Simkins

Mr. K Ashby – KALC Representative.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (c) Councillors Feacey and Smith attended as Substitute Members for Councillors Burgess and Michael respectively.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Burgess, Krause, Michael.

Also Present:

Cllr. White.

Ashford District Manager – (KCC), Rail Project Manager – (KCC), Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager – (ABC), Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader – (ABC), Parking, Highways and Transportation Technical Officer - (ABC), Economic Development Manager – (ABC), Member Services Liaison Manager – (ABC).

233 Declarations of Interest

Mr Bartlett	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he lived close to Junctions 10 and 10A of the M20.	238
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234 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 10th September 2019 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

235 Strategic Transport Group Notes – 20th September 2019

The Chairman of the Strategic Transport Group explained that the meeting had received presentations from a representative from Kent County Council and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders on the Kent Vision for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Growth and Air Quality and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles. He believed that the presentations had given a real insight into the future of electric vehicles.

Resolved:

That the notes of the meeting of the Strategic Transport Group held on 20th September 2019 be received and noted.

236 Parking and Waiting Restrictions – update summary

The report provided an update and summarised parking and waiting restriction schemes that had been through the Joint Transportation Board.

In response to a question about the proposal for a traffic order on cycle lanes, the Parking, Highways and Transportation Technical Officer explained that when vehicles parked in cycle lanes they could cause problems and there was therefore a need to be able to undertake civil enforcement to deal with such contraventions.

In terms of the investigations into parking controls for Crescent Way, the Parking, Highways and Transportation Technical Officer said that the Department of Transport had given consent for a sign variant which could be used in this area which would allow for minimal lining and signs within the affected streets. This was still subject to consultation. He also explained that in respect of the Notice of Variation of Charges for the Elwick Place Car Park, this related to changes to chargeable hours and the removal of the flat overnight charge.

Resolved:

That the update on schemes be noted.

237 Proposed Revisions to the Joint Transportation Board Agreement

The report set out for approval a revised JTB Agreement which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and which had been shaped by feedback from the JTB Chair (2018), District/Borough Council Leaders, Members of KCC's Environment and Transport Committee and Kent Secretaries and the Corporate Director (Law and Governance)

The revised agreement provided for the JTB to appoint between one and three Parish/Town Council representatives from within the Council's administrative area to be nominated by the area committee of the Kent Association of Local Council's (KALC). The Board discussed this issue and agreed that the ABC Cabinet be asked to increase the representation to 3. In response to a question, the Vice Chairman advised that such representatives did not have voting rights.

Recommended:

That (i) the Cabinet be asked to agree the revised Agreement, noting that this has been formally endorsed by the KCC Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways and Waste and to increase the representation from KALC from 1 to 3.

(ii) subject to approval by Cabinet on 30th January 2020, the Terms of Reference of the JTB in the Constitution be amended to reflect the changes outlined in the report.

238 M20 J10A Construction Programme Update

The report advised on progress on the above scheme since the last meeting in September 2019.

The major tasks completed included:- demolition of Highfield Lane Bridge; opening of the new link road and roundabout on A2070 for traffic; Junction 10a gyratory, together with the coast bound on-slip and London bound off-slip opened for traffic and the opening of the Kingsford Street footbridge for non motorised users.

The Chairman advised that unfortunately Highways England had been unable to attend the meeting but said that if any Members of the Board had any questions or concerns over the report they could be forwarded to them after the meeting.

The Vice Chairman referred to page 41, Section E and in particular to the comment '*after Christmas, the Junction 10 coast bound exit slip road will be closed for a short period of time, to allow for the construction of large sign bases. The diversion route will be via Junction 9.*' As this slip road was in close vicinity to the William Harvey Hospital he said he had concerns over this closure and its implications for access for emergency vehicles and asked for this message to be conveyed to Highways England.

A Member referred to the current temporary 40mph in place between Barrey Road and Junction 10 and said he would like an assurance from Highways England that when the scheme was completed a permanent 40mph speed limit would be put in place between the Boulevard, Orbital Park and Junction 10.

The Chairman asked the Member Services Liaison Manager to convey the above issues to the Junction 10a team from Highways England.

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Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

239 Ashford International Station and Eurostar Services

The report updated Members on the project to enable new Eurostar trains to access Ashford International Station. The Economic Development Manager advised that the installation of the new equipment had been commissioned and completed on 5th December which was 3 weeks earlier than planned and the 374 trains were now able to access the station. Following this Eurostar intended to re-introduce the third daily Paris service to and from Ashford from the start of the summer timetable on 17 May 2020.

The Rail Project Manager – (KCC) explained that from January 2020, Eurostar would sell tickets for the additional Paris service which would commence in May. Officers would also be meeting and pressing the case with Eurostar for the establishment of an additional daily service to Lille and Brussels, and in the future he hoped that other destinations might be served from Ashford. The current leisure services to Avignon would also continue.

The Vice Chairman said that he wished to thank all members of the Project Team for their work in bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

In response to a question, the Economic Development Manager advised that a press release would be issued after the elections and he would work with Eurostar with a view to further publicity in May prior to the recommencement of the additional Paris service.

A Member asked whether any progress had been made in terms of proposals to re-design Ashford Station. The Economic Development Manager said that this issue was discussed at the last meeting when a representative from Southeastern Railway had given a presentation and he therefore agreed to refer this question back to them.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

240 Highway Forward Works Programme 2019/20 onwards

The report updated Members on the identified schemes approved for construction in 2019/20. The Ashford District Manager referred to page 55, Appendix D and advised that the date in the report should be 20th November 2019.

In response to questions from the Vice Chairman, the Ashford District Manager confirmed that the issue of damage to the drainage system in Victoria Crescent would be taken up with the relevant developer. In terms of the works to the Flanders

Roundabout, the Ashford District Manager agreed to check the position in terms of the proposed commemoration of the fallen soldiers.

A Member referred to page 51, and the current position in terms of Tally Ho Road drainage investigation, and the Ashford District Manager undertook to pass on this question to the relevant team at KCC and ask that they respond directly to the member concerned.

In response to a comment from Mr Ashby regarding the need for a pedestrian crossing on the A28 in Bethersden, Mr Simkins explained that this issue had been discussed with a KCC Officer and arising from this the Parish Council would be bringing back an alternative proposal in due course.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

241 Local Winter Service Plan

The report outlined the arrangements that had been made between Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council to provide a local winter service in the event of an operational snow alert in the Borough.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

242 Footway Parking Parliamentary Inquiry

The report advised that the House of Commons Transport Committee had conducted an investigation into the issues presented by footway parking outside of London. The report set out a summary of the recommendations, which, if implemented, would affect the use of roads in residential areas.

The Parking, Highways and Transportation Technical Officer said that the final outcome of the recommendations from the Inquiry were not as yet known, but if it lead to a blanket ban on parking on pavements it would have significant implications for Ashford.

The Chairman asked that a report back to the Board be made when the final outcome of the Inquiry was known.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

243 Process for Promoting Traffic Regulation Orders

The report gave details of Kent County Council's process for promoting Traffic Regulation Orders on the network which was based on national legislation.

The Chairman explained that he had asked for this report to be produced for the Board as he had noticed the introduction of a speed limit on the A20 in Hothfield which he had not been aware of. He considered that the Board should be a consultee on such matters.

The Ashford District Manager said that the current TRO process was in line with national legislation and information about forthcoming speed restrictions were included in the regular Highway Forward Works Programme reports submitted to the Board, although the JTB itself was not a formal consultee.

Following discussion it was agreed that statutory consultations on forthcoming speed limit changes would be copied to the Chairman and Vice Chairman and other Members of the JTB.

In terms of the newly established Community Forums in Ashford, the Ashford District Manager undertook to check that they were on the KCC database for communications and liaison on highway matters.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted and future statutory consultations on speed limit changes be copied to the Chairman and Vice - Chairman and other Members of the Joint Transportation Board.

244 Dates of Future Meetings

3rd March 2020
2nd June 2020
15th September 2020
8th December 2020
2nd March 2020

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