

Ashford Borough Council: Joint Transportation Board

Minutes of a Virtual Informal Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on Microsoft Teams on the **1st June 2021**

Present:

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

Cllrs. Burgess, Cornish, Feacey, T. Heyes, Krause, Spain.

Mrs C Bell, Mr S Campkin, Mr P M Hill, Mr D Robey, Mr D Ross, Mr C Simkins.

Mrs C Drury, Mrs A Hicks, Mr A Rogers.

Apologies:

Cllr Michael

Senior Highway Manager – KCC
Traffic Manager – KCC

Also present:

Cllrs Forest, Harman.

In Attendance:

Parking, Highways & Transportation Team Leader - ABC
Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager – ABC

District Manager – Ashford – KCC

Mr P Phillips – Highways England

34 Declarations of Interest

Mr Bartlett	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he lived close to the Sevington Inland Border Facility.	38
Cllr Burgess	Declared that, in relation to Appendix 1, para 2.7b, his son lived near the junction mentioned. He would make no comment on the item.	36

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Mrs Drury	Declared that she lived near the A2070 and she wished to discuss this area during the meeting.	40
Mrs Hicks	Declared that her son worked for the Sevington Inland Border Facility.	38

35 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 2nd March 2021 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

36 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.

The Chairman opened up the item for discussion and no questions were raised.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

37 Highway Works Programme Update

The report provided an update and summarised the Highways Works Programme.

The Chairman opened up the item for discussion and the following questions were raised:

- A Member asked about the plans to close off Bank Street for the tile programme. The KCC District Manager said that dates for closure had not yet been finalised but she would advise Members in due course when the dates were known.
- There were a number of questions from Mrs Drury. In response to a question on vegetation on footpaths, the KCC District Manager advised that the KCC website explained the location of KCC asset vegetation and the frequency of removal. She added that there were some private footways, and overhanging vegetation was identified through statutory inspections. The frequency of inspections varied according to the location of the footway and ad hoc reports from members of the public. Residents could log details on the KCC website and this would trigger an inspection to identify if it was a private footway or KCC owned. Where footways were private, KCC had an enforcement procedure. Regarding questions on street lighting removal and any increase in electricity usage resulting from electric vehicle charging points, the KCC

District Manager said she would speak to officers and reply outside the meeting.

- A Member asked about AU7 – Bockhanger Lane – and noted that the work was still out to tender. He questioned whether all the work in the KCC plan was now complete. He also advised Members that the proposed work at the Pasture in Kennington would involve road closure from Meadowbrook Road through to number 14.
- Another Member advised that he had invited the KCC Portfolio Holder for Highways to attend an inspection of the shared space in the town centre in July.
- A Member highlighted the Little Chart works mentioned in Appendix D. She noted that the works were supposed to have been finished on 21st May, but were still ongoing. She also advised that the licensees of the local pub had reported that contractors had blocked their car park for an entire day, which had not been included in the plans for the work. The KCC District Manager said she would make enquiries into the Little Chart works and respond in due course. Mr Simkins said he would also look into the complaint raised by the pub licensees.
- A Member also mentioned AU7 and asked whether there were any drainage works planned to alleviate potential flooding of the area. The KCC District Manager said she would make a note of this question and provide a response in due course.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

38 Update on the Sevington Inland Border Facility

- A Member asked for clarification on the consultation on Operation Brock and removing the parking restrictions. He believed it was important to continue to have the ability to fine lorry drivers for using inappropriate routes. The Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager said that this matter was currently being discussed at the strategic and tactical planning groups. She would raise this at the next meeting of the tactical planning group and provide answers on progress. KCC Senior Highway Manager to provide update on this at the next Board meeting.
- Mrs Drury asked whether an audit was planned on lorry parking capacity. She emphasised that HMRC had not released the enlarged lorry park at Waterbrook yet and that this looked unlikely to happen this year. She considered it was important to put pressure on HMRC to release the facility. KCC Senior Highway Manager to provide update on this at the next Board meeting.

- Mrs Bell raised the issue of lorries still ending up in Mersham and ignoring No Lorry signs. This led to damage to property, vehicles and trees, as well as unacceptable noise early in the morning. She did not consider that this was a signage problem, but that some lorry drivers may be using documentation with incorrect postcodes. She asked if this could be investigated by Highways England/KCC as it should not be happening anymore. KCC Senior Highway Manager to provide update on this at the next Board meeting.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

39 KCC HGV Parking Update - EU Exit HGV Parking Enforcement

The Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager introduced this item and highlighted the key points within the report. She said the report provided information on the HGV clamping programme which was linked to the EU exit transition. This was an experimental traffic regulation order, which was ongoing for a trial period, and a number of clamps had been issued since it commenced. The report provided details of the break down of vehicles involved and the number of appeals progressed. A decision would be taken in due course as to whether KCC would continue to operate this process or whether it would be return to Ashford Borough Council to operate under the previous traffic regulation order for HGV enforcement.

The Chairman opened up the item for discussion and the following questions were raised:

- A Member noted that the experimental period was due to expire at the end of June and asked how a decision would be arrived at. He also asked about the capacity for lorry parking for those who wished to use legitimate parking spaces. The Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager said that a steer was expected from KCC regarding the potential end of the experimental process and she would advise further on this in due course. Regarding lorry capacity, she said the current alternative parks were well used and that there were no major capacity issues. She said she could share data on this with members of the Board. KCC Traffic Manager to provide update to next meeting on capacity at lorry parks – Ashford and Stop 24.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

40 General signage at Junction 10a

The Chairman introduced this item and explained the issues with signage at J10a. He said that there was a lack of clear signs to west Ashford, and it was not made clear that the easiest way to get there from J10a would be to return to the M20 and proceed to J9. Mr Phillips explained that the signage strategy had been drawn up

when the J10a works were completed. Discussions had taken place with KCC regarding the destination signage allowed, but this matter could be revisited. The Chairman said he would share his video of the signage in question with Mr Phillips. Other Members agreed that the signage was very confusing. Mr Phillips reiterated that signage of destinations was strictly governed but he would undertake to review the situation. A Member suggested that it was helpful to drive around the area in a car to review the signage, which might work in theory, but did not work in practice.

A Member said that the lack of clear signage at J10am was regularly leading to holiday makers entering the Internal Border Facility and having to be escorted from the area.

A Member raised the problem of noise and pollution on the A2070. She said this was an ongoing problem, with motorbikes and cars regularly speeding along the road. The noise from the motorbikes was particularly troublesome. She considered that the speeding was an accident waiting to happen. She asked about the progress from the multi-agency meeting which had taken place last year to discuss this issue. She also asked about options for resolving the problem, such as police cameras. The Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager explained that the new CSU Inspector did not appear to have picked up this matter yet, and that she would seek an update on the situation. Officers were keen to revisit this issue to progress a resolution. It was agreed that this topic would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted, and that speed/safety on the A2070 be added as an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

41 Date of Next Meeting

7th September 2021

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