

The future of bus gate enforcement

To: **Ashford Joint Transportation Board – 12th June 2018**

By: **Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader**

Classification: **For information**

Ward: **Across the district – Various**

Summary: This Report:

- (i) Summarises discussions and agreed actions following the meeting of 5th June 2018.
- (ii) Present at the meeting were:
 - Cllr Paul Bartlett – Chair of JTB
 - Cllr Bernard Heyes – Vice JTB Chair
 - Cllr Bradford – Portfolio holder, Community Safety and Wellbeing
 - Neil Edwards – KCC Highways Manager
 - Toby Butler – KCC Systems Manager
 - Lisa Willoughby – KCC Highways District Manager
 - Jo Fox – ABC Deputy Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing
 - Chris Miller – ABC Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The meeting convened in order to explore the options around the enforcement of bus gates currently in place and to discuss whether there is a need for bus gates in future developments.

1.2 There are three locations in Ashford restricted to bus, emergency vehicles and Hackney Carriage only movements. These are:

- Bluebell Road, Bridgefield, Kingsnorth. Single lane bridge with automatic traffic light (ATS) controls for permitted vehicles.
- Godinton Road, Ashford. Single lane bridge with electronic tag operated ATS controls for permitted vehicles.
- Beaver Lane, Ashford. Rising bollard controlled with electronic tags for permitted vehicles.

2.0 The discussion

2.1 The meeting centred on the necessity of enforcement, what is currently working well, how best to address the issues raised and if we can improve the current setup for road users and residents. It took into consideration:

- The outcomes of previous trials.
- The safety and free flow of traffic.
- Complaints received by ward members.
- Views of local and County Councillors.
- Knowledge of ABC and KCC officers.

2.2 The discussion also explored current technology and controls in place, traffic systems operating at these locations and scope available to improve them.

3.0 Agreed actions and outcomes

The discussion identified seven actions to be explored by officers. These are:

- ABC officers present to liaise with ABC planning officers to add an agenda item to the Planning Policy Task Group to consider a clear strategic policy on how future recommendations for bus gates are addressed at the planning stage.
- KCC officers to identify costs and options for consideration to upgrade Beaver Road bollard to a modern equivalent less prone to failure.
- KCC offices to make application to The Highways and Utilities committee to remove Beaver Lane from 'Lane Rental' scheme, permitting faster response times to bollard repairs by removing need for full road closure orders.
- ABC officers to explore the option of a temporary monitoring camera to generate useable statistical data on community safety issues associated with misuse of the Beaver Lane bus bollard.
- ABC officers to explore the option of a temporary monitoring camera to generate useable statistical data on community safety issues associated with misuse of the Godinton Road bus bridge.
- ABC officers to explore the option of a temporary monitoring camera to generate useable statistical data on community safety issues associated with misuse of the Bluebell Road accommodation bridge.
- KCC officers to investigate timing of traffic signals at Bluebell Road with consideration given to be default green on Park Farm side of bridge.

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