

Joint Transportation Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **12th June 2018**.

Present:

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

Cllrs. Bradford, Feacey, Howard-Smith, Mrs Martin, Michael, Mrs Webb,
Mr C Simkins.

Mr. K Ashby – KALC Representative.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Councillor Mrs Webb attended as a Substitute Member for Councillor Buchanan.

Apologies:

Cllr. Buchanan, Mr M J Angell, Mrs C L Bell, Mr D Farrell, Mr P M Hill and Mr S J G Koowaree

Also Present:

Cllrs. Burgess, Smith, Wedgbury

Project Manager – J10A (Highways England), Assistant Project Manager – J10A (Highways England), Stakeholder Liaison – J10A (VINCI Construction UK), Ashford District Manager – (KCC), Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing (ABC), Deputy Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing (ABC), Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader – (ABC), Civil Enforcement Officer Supervisor (ABC), Member Services Liaison Manager – (ABC).

25 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Bartlett	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he lived close to Junction 10 of the M20	30
Heyes	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he lived in Kings Avenue	29
Wedgbury	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as the Ward Member for Park Farm South and a member of Kingsnorth Parish Council	28
Wedgbury	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as an employee of Tesco Crooksfoot, as a Tesco shareholder and a member of USDAW	30

26 Minutes

The Chairman referred to Minute No. 378/3/18 regarding Kent County Council's forthcoming "Big Conversation" with residents regarding the future of bus services and drew particular attention to events which would be held at the Homewood School at 7.00 pm on 11th July 2018 and at the International Hotel at 2.00 pm on the 12th July 2018. He encouraged all Members to attend one of those events if they were able. **Post Meeting Note: Revised date for meeting at Homewood School – 7.00pm, Tuesday 17th July 2018.**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 13th March 2018 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

27 Strategic Transport Group Notes – 6th April 2018

A Member referred to the ongoing problems with Eurostar services still being unable to stop at Ashford with passengers being taken to Ebbsfleet and having to get a return train to Ashford. The Chairman said that Officers were well aware of the issue with the Ashford Spurs and he said that he hoped there would be a speedy resolution to the current problems. Furthermore he advised that Officers were shortly meeting with Eurostar with a view to aiming to achieve an additional one journey per day to and from Ashford to Brussels.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Transport Group held on 6th April 2018 be received and noted.

28 Pedestrian Crossing A2070 Traffic Cameras

The report by the Ward Member for Park Farm South raised again his wish for the need for a speed camera to be installed on the toucan crossing on the A2070. Since the matter had last been considered in September 2017 there had been two further crashes on this stretch of road. The Ward Member said that he had brought this report back to the Board based on his own personal experience and also from contacts made with him by residents. He explained that the crossing had clear sight lines, however, drivers were ignoring the signals and were also overtaking on the crossing itself. He also drew attention to the incidences of motorcycles which appeared to use this stretch of road for time trials. He believed that by placing a camera there, it would prevent overtaking and speeding and reduce the risk of lives being put at risk by irresponsible drivers. The Chairman advised that he would be happy to write to Highways England about this matter, but he asked for the Member concerned to supply him details of incidents which had been logged which he believed would enable a more powerful argument to be made.

Resolved:

That the Chairman of the Board write to Highways England enclosing a record of incidents of transgressions at the crossing with a view to requesting the installation of a speed camera on the toucan crossing on the A2070.

29 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 Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader (ABC) introduced the report and advised that work was continuing on the production of a Consolidation Order to incorporate amendments 1 to 4 made during 2017 and furthermore a review of school 'Keep Clear' markings. He hoped by undertaking this exercise it would enable approximately half of the measures outside schools to be enforceable.

The Vice-Chairman referred to the comment in Appendix 1 regarding Kings Avenue, Ashford and said he supported the view that it was not considered that parking behaviour in this area showed evidence that residents were being crowded by commuters/workers. He also asked that the situation at the new Croudace development be monitored. The Deputy Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing (ABC) confirmed that she had been invited to meet with the Residents' Association of the houses on the new Croudace development to discuss parking issues.

A Member referred to the post-war housing in the roads in the Little Burton Farm Ward and asked whether it would be possible to find a way for residents to be able to park on the grass verges adjoining their properties. The Chairman said he was sure that Officers would take this comment on board and discuss this matter with the Housing Department.

Another Member referred to the difficulties he had personally experienced when trying to establish drop off spaces outside schools for parents, and asked whether there would be drop off provision provided for new schools. The Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader (ABC) confirmed that in terms of the future school at Chilmington, he was in discussion with his Kent County Council colleagues with a view to providing drop off spaces at future school developments.

Resolved:

That the update on schemes be noted.

30 M20 J10A Construction Programme Update

The report advised on progress on the above scheme to the end of May 2018. The Project Manager – J10 (Highways England) introduced his colleagues who were involved with the construction project and he confirmed that VINCI Construction had now gained access to the works site. In terms of paragraph 3.2 of his report, regarding Barrey Road, he confirmed that following the road safety audit there had been no safety issues raised which were directly attributable to the signalisation of this junction and therefore said that there were no reasons for this not to proceed as planned.

The Project Manager then outlined the work undertaken to date which included vegetation clearance, clearance of the former Wyevale Garden Centre and Sweatman Mowers sites and advised that that the cleared area would be used as the formal site compound. In terms of work for the next three months, he explained

that the CCTV cameras on the M20 would become operational and there would be piling work undertaken on a culvert and the removal of tree stumps. This weekend would see the demolition works of the footbridge which crossed the A2070.

A Member expressed concern at the proposals to close the A2070 over the forthcoming weekend which he believed would cause gridlock in the town and also problems for holidaymakers travelling to the coast. Other Members asked questions about the future maintenance of the culvert and also whether the speed restrictions on the M20 were necessary 24 hours a day.

In response, the Project Manager advised that in terms of the culvert, the A20 would not be closed during the works and the culvert would be maintained in the future. In terms of the M20 50 mph speed limit, he advised that this had been put in place for the safety of the workers who would be working in lane 1, but he agreed to forward on the Member's concern about whether the restriction was needed 24 hours a day to the Traffic Manager. In response to a further question the Project Manager advised that the signalisation of Barrey Road was currently programmed to take place in Summer 2019 but he agreed to provide more detailed information in due course.

The Chairman explained that the Borough Council had long been arguing for the implementation of the project and he acknowledged that the work would cause disruption, but in the long run said it would provide a much improved situation for traffic in that area of the town. He said that there was a good relationship between ABC Officers and Highways England and he thanked the Officers from Highways England for listening to Members' concerns and said he hoped that future road closures could be kept to a minimum.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

31 Experimental Overnight HGV Enforcement and Clamping Trial 2017

The report provided an update on the operation of the pilot clamping scheme on the A20 between Charing and the Drivers roundabout from 30 October 2017.

The Deputy Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing explained that the initiative continued to reduce the need for lorry clamping, although Tuesdays and Wednesdays still saw the highest incidents of clamping taking place.

A Member referred to the links within the report to the consultation on the Government's new Operation Stack plans and said that he could not identify any comments within that document regarding temporary facilities for drivers. The Deputy Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing said that individual Truck Stops would no doubt be commenting directly on the consultation themselves as this proposal could have an impact on their own businesses. She encouraged all Members to comment directly on the consultation and also explained that the Borough Council would also produce a response to the consultation in due course. She also advised that this was a country-wide problem which Highways England were taking the lead upon and it did not just relate directly to the issues in Kent.

A Member referred to the proposals that he understood Eurotunnel had to almost double their business in a period of five years and asked whether the measures took account of this. The Deputy Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing explained that both Eurotunnel and the Dover Harbour Board were represented on the Strategic Freight Group which was looking at issues which needed to be addressed over the next 20 years.

Resolved:

That the Board received and noted the report.

32 Highway Works Programme 2018/19

The report updated Members on the identified schemes approved for construction in 2018/19.

The Ashford District Manager (KCC) gave an update on the report and advised that; on page 45 of the Agenda, the parish concerned for the work at Green Lane was Challock; on page 49 the casualty reduction measures at Drovers Roundabout, Ashford were originally going to be delivered during the May half term period and this needed to be reprogrammed due to drainage works; on page 50, High Street Biddenden – Junction Reconfiguration – the consultation period had been amended to run from 11th June to 9th July and two exhibitions would also take place. In terms of the Combined Member Grant Schemes on page 55, the Swan Little Chart scheme had now been completed and in respect of Appendix J – Pothole Blitz, just under £800,000 had been committed and over 2,000 pothole repairs had been completed. All remaining repairs were hoped to be completed by the end of August.

In response to a question from a Member, the Ashford District Manager (KCC) advised that the recent closure in Sandyhurst Lane was for emergency works and she also confirmed that the issue which had delayed the Drovers roundabout work was associated with drainage and it had not been possible to start the collaborative works. In terms of the scheme at Biddenden, she understood that if the scheme went ahead it would increase an area of the village green.

Mr Ashby asked whether it was possible for parishes to have access to plans showing the location of repaired potholes to allow them to more readily identify those which had failed. He also asked whether information about the location of gullies could be recorded and made available? The Ashford District Manager (KCC) said that the records held in terms of pothole repairs were not in a format which could be shared with parishes and furthermore she understood that Mr Ashby had been in correspondence with the Highway Drainage Team regarding the question raised about gullies.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

33 Protocol & Procedures on Road Closures and Request for Road Space

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The report explained the protocol for booking road space and road closures including the permitting and co-ordination of works on the publicly maintainable highway under the powers of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

The Vice-Chairman confirmed that he had asked for a report to be produced on this matter as he had exchanged two emails with the Kent County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways in respect of the current closure of Newtown Road. He said he had concerns on the consultation process which led to road closures being granted and believed that the Joint Transportation Board should be consulted on such major closures. Another Member referred to road closures which appeared to be commencing earlier in the day rather than purely overnight and asked that a suitable time for closures be established.

The Deputy Head of Community Safety and Wellbeing (ABC) advised that ABC Officers worked well with KCC Officers and regularly discussed forthcoming road closures. She also advised that ABC let Ward Members know of forthcoming road closures and explained that in terms of the Newtown Road scheme, this could have happened sooner. She apologised to the Board.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

34 Future of Bus Gates – output of meeting held on 5th June 2018

The report, which had been tabled at the meeting, summarised the discussions and agreed actions following the meeting held on 5th June 2018.

The Vice-Chairman said he believed that the meeting had been constructive and advised that in terms of Bridgefield, the traffic signals were causing residents problems as he understood that the lights should go straight to green when a bus approached, however, it appeared that this was not happening. He also drew attention to the change from the smaller to the larger buses which was also causing problems. He also welcomed the suggested investigative works in terms of the Godinton Road and the Beaver Road bus gates.

In terms of Bridgefield, the Chairman also believed there was a need to engage with Stagecoach in terms of their replacement of the 'Little and Often' buses with the larger buses, but he accepted that their actions were commercial in nature.

In terms of the Beaver Road bus gate, a Member advised that in the past she had been advised that there were no problems with the operation of the gate. However, she drew attention to several problems she was aware of and sought an assurance that the problems being experienced would be investigated and a solution identified.

A Member, who was also the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing confirmed that Officers would explore the option of a temporary monitoring camera for Beaver Road and he was confident that a solution would be identified.

In terms of the Godinton Road bus gate, a Member advised of an incident he had witnessed of a Stagecoach Bus going through a red light and asked that the Company be reminded that drivers should observe the traffic signals.

With reference to the Bluebell Road accommodation bridge, the Chairman asked Officers to examine the conditions within the original Funding Agreement to identify whether it prescribed the type and size of buses to be used on the bridge and also to liaise with Stagecoach regarding the drivers' adherence to traffic regulations. The Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader (ABC) said that the issue of the size of buses had been discussed at the last Quality Bus Partnership and Stagecoach had asked to report to the next meeting in July and he hoped that further information might be available at that point.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) the report be received and noted.**
 - (ii) the seven actions as outlined in paragraph 3.0 of the tabled report be explored by Officers and be reported back to the Committee in due course.**
 - (iii) Officers liaise with Stagecoach, the Chairman of the Joint Transportation Board and the Quality Bus Partnership to promote the return of the smaller buses to be operated on the Bluebell Road accommodation bridge.**

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