

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 18th September 2007 commencing at 7 p.m.

Present: Chairman: Cllr. London
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Lake
District Councillors: Mrs. Davison, Underwood and Williamson.
County Councillors: Brazier, Chard, Fittock, Gough, Lake and Parry.
Kent Association of Parish Councils: Cllr. Robson

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Coates, Mrs. Dawson and Mr. London.

Officers: Mr. Fitzgerald (KCC), Mr. Burton (KCC), Mr. Jiwaji (KCC), Mr. Munn (KCC), Mr. Wilson (SDC), Mr. Bracey (SDC) and Mrs. Hamlin-Hawes – Secretary (SDC).

Cllrs. Brookbank, Cole, Loney and Mrs. Morris and three members of the public were also present.

- **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

- **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr. Chard declared a personal interest as a resident of Sevenoaks High Street.

Cllr. Williamson declared a personal interest as a resident of Halstead on the item concerning Bus Stop Improvements in Swanley, Halstead and Knockholt.

- **CHANGE OF SCHEDULED MEETING DATE**

Members of the Board were asked to note that the forthcoming meeting would take place on Wednesday, 12th December 2007.

- **MATTERS ARISING (REPORT NO. 4 – 22.01.07)**

The Chairman went through the Action Points from the previous meeting and the following items were commented on or remained outstanding:

Action 3 (12.06.07) - Kent Highway Services (KHS) to investigate suspected faulty traffic signal vehicle detector in the access to Riverhead Infants School.

Action 4 (12.06.07) - The Roadworks Co-Ordinator from KHS to be invited to attend the Board in September to explain how co-ordination of works and associated traffic management is managed. *It was explained that this post was currently vacant and it was not expected to be filled until the New Year.*

Action 5 (12.06.07) - The results of the speed survey carried out in West End, Kemsing would be reported to the September meeting of the Board. *It was explained that the counts had been delayed due to vandalism of the equipment and had finally commenced 11th September 2007.*

Action 6 (12.06.07) – Subject to consultation with the Parish Council, KHS to execute the works identified for Chevening Cross as set out in the report. *It was explained that following*

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liaison, the Parish Council was happy that no further alterations be made, subject to the reinstatement of the hedge at Chevening Cross.

Action 10 (12.06.07) – A KHS Officer to investigate vegetation overgrowth at A25/Seal Hollow Road junction and report back to the Local Member concerned. *Mr. Burton confirmed that contractors had visited the site and that he would follow up on this matter.*

Action 12 (12.06.07) – Officers to report to next meeting of the Board on the problem of HGV's using the bridge in Eynsford to cross the ford having consulted the Parish Council and Eynsford Village Society. *Mr. Fitzgerald reported that a site meeting had taken place and it had been agreed that the depth gauge was accurate, that the current width restriction would be removed and advisory signs would be erected.*

Action 13 (12.06.07) – A KHS Officer to e-mail to Mr. Brazier a full update on the proposals to remedy flooding at Springcroft. *Mr. Burton had sent a email to Mr. Brazier outlining the situation.*

Action 15 (12.06.07) - A KHS Officer to contact Strada Café regarding the removal of their refuse bin. *This matter has not been actioned yet; Mr Burton undertook to follow up on this matter.*

- PETITION RECEIVED REQUESTING TRAFFIC CALMING – CHILDSBRIDGE LANE/DYNES ROAD, WEST END, KEMSING (REPORT NO. 4 – 18.09.07)

A petition had been received from the local community in Kemsing who were concerned about pedestrians crossing Childsbridge Lane junction with Dynes Road and West End. The Chairman invited Mrs. Boulind, who represented the petitioners to address the Committee. Mrs. Boulind described the road layout and the number of pedestrians and vehicles that used the road and junction and the potential hazards encountered each day. Mrs. Boulind went on to say that parents had indicated that if junction safety was improved, they would be more inclined to allow their children to walk to school.

This opinion was supported by the Local County Member who asked that a solution to the situation be brought to the December meeting of the Board.

ACTION 1 KHS Officers to liaise with Kemsing Parish Council and stakeholders and propose a solution to the problems encountered by pedestrians and road users at the Childsbridge Lane/Dynes Road junction of West End, Kemsing. The report to include crash data, cost implications and an indication of number of children who would walk to school if the measures were introduced. The report be submitted to the December meeting of the Board.

Resolved: (a) That the report be noted; and

(b) that Officers progress with the investigation and propose a strategy for a pedestrian crossing at the Childsbridge Lane junction with Dynes Road and West End, Kemsing.

- A25 WORSHIPS HILL, RIVERHEAD – ROUTE SAFETY STUDY (REPORT NO. 5 – 18.09.07)

Further to the meetings of the Board (13.03.07 and 12.06.07), the report outlined the principal aspects of the Route Safety Study that would be commissioned following the agreement of the Board.

Mrs. Walmsley spoke on behalf of Riverhead Parish Council who requested that, in addition to the measures discussed previously and contained within the report, that signage indicating

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the 30 mph speed limit be extended from the junction with the A21 in Bessels Green to Riverhead roundabout.

The Local County Member agreed with the sentiments of the speaker and asked that the work be expedited in priority.

ACTION 2 That a report setting out the study's preliminary findings and cost implications for reducing speed and improving pedestrian safety on the A25 between Bessels Green and Riverhead roundabout to be submitted to the December meeting of the Board.

Resolved: Members noted the principal aspects of the Route Safety Study currently being undertaken for this road.

- **STREET LIGHTING**

Mr. Burton explained that the representative from EDF energy had been unable to attend the meeting and reported that according to KHS performance monitoring data, only 15 columns across the District had not been functioning as a result of a faulty EDF supply. This figure was below the country average and Members were asked to report any malfunctions to Mr. Burton direct.

The Local County Members for Sevenoaks Town commented that there was a number of columns in Seal Hollow Road that were not operational and Mr. Burton agreed to investigate.

ACTION 3 A representative of EDF Energy to be invited to attend the December meeting of the Board.

- **SEVENOAKS DISTRICT TRANSPORT STUDY (REPORT NO. 14 – 18.09.06)**

The Acting Head of Local Policy and Environment outlined the content of the report and the objectives of the Transport Study.

A conference, to be held on the 23rd October 2007 from 9.30 a.m. at the Sevenoaks Civic Centre, to debate the findings and hone ideas for the future. The outcome of the work would feed into the County Council's preparation of transport arrangements for the County and all Members were encouraged to attend.

ACTION 4 The Transport Officer to invite a representative of South Eastern Trains to attend the conference.

The Board considered the report, and one of the County Members noted that the report listed that only the M25/A21 slip road had been identified for improvements to ease congestion and he asked that this be expanded to include the M25/M26 junction.

Resolved: (a) That the report be noted; and

(b) that, taking into account copying and administration charges, the Board approve the cost of supplying the Transport Study at £30 per paper copy.

- **BRIDLEWAYS**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. David Munn, West Kent Area Manager for the Environment and Waste, who had been invited to answer Members' questions relating to bridleways and footpaths.

Members were invited to ask questions and the following comments were noted:

- The main issues affecting bridleways and footpaths in the area were fly-tipping and clearing of vegetation.

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- In the past there had been some conflict with mountain bikes and horse-riders using the same pathways but this had decreased in recent years.
- A Member asked for a comprehensive list of areas that the unit covered and those that were the responsibility of the Highways Unit each with a clear point of contact.
- Joint working practices with the Highways and bridleway units should be encouraged.
- The bridle/cycleway in Hodsoll Street had been upgraded as part of a programme of works to connect Culverstone, Meopham, New Ash Green and the North Downs Way.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Munn for attending the meeting.

- AIR QUALITY MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

Further to the meeting (19.09.06), the Board considered the content of the report and the appended minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Joint Working Group.

Resolved: (a) That the Air Quality Member/Officer Working Group continues in order to achieve the agreed terms of reference; and

(b) that the Group review and make recommendations to the Board regarding the current and future Local Transport Plan.

- TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – EYNSFORD, FARNINGHAM AND SHOREHAM (REPORT NO. 9 – 18.09.07)

The report requested Members' approval of the changes to the on-street parking Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Eynsford, Farningham and Shoreham.

The report explained that during the two rounds of consultation fifteen responses had been received from Eynsford, seven from Farningham and two from Shoreham. The report set out where objections had been received and the Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment's response to those objections.

Officers were asked to investigate the accuracy of the current TRO and its description of Sparepenny Lane, Farningham and the junction with the A20.

ACTION 5 District Council Officers to investigate the accuracy of the current TRO.

There were discrepancies between the proposed amendments for Shoreham and the content of the report. The Board discussed alternative ways to allow the changes to be passed without delaying the process further.

Resolved: (a) That the objection be noted;

(b) that the amended parking restrictions for Farningham and Eynsford, as set out in the report, be introduced; and

(c) that the introduction of the proposed amendments to parking restrictions for Shoreham be delegated to the Chairman of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment.

- SWANLEY PARKING REVIEW (REPORT NO. 10 – 18.09.07)

The report sought Members' approval of the changes to on-street parking Traffic Regulation Order for Swanley.

The report set out the concerns of residents that had been raised at the meeting of the Swanley & Hextable Forum and those received during the statutory consultation period.

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A document had been tabled at the start of the meeting that set out the objections that had been received and the Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment's response to those objections.

Members considered the report.

Resolved: That amendments to the parking arrangements for Oliver Road, Oakleigh Close, Swanley Lane, Station Road and Birchwood Park Avenue Swanley, as proposed be approved; and

(b) that following further negotiation with residents, the Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment be approved to agree amendments to the parking arrangements for the Azalea Drive area, the High Firs area, the St. George's Road area and the Kingswood Avenue area of Swanley.

- BUS IMPROVEMENTS: SWANLEY, HALSTEAD AND KNOCKHOLT (REPORT NO. 11 – 18.09.07)

The Transport for London (TfL) regulated all bus routes in Greater London and had a programme of improving bus stops on all routes. Routes 233 (Sidcup - Swanley) and R5 (Orpington – Halstead – Knockholt) which were located in Kent had been identified for improvement and the Officers sought the comments of the Board on the proposals.

Members considered the proposed improvements for each route and the following comments were noted:

- Due to the rural setting, it was requested that street furniture allied to the stops should be in keeping with the location.
- Measures to improve access were welcomed.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

- HIGHWAYS DRAINAGE SERVICE (REPORT NO. 12 – 18.09.07)

The report advised Members of planned changes to the highway drainage service. The proposals would be considered at a future meeting of the Highways Advisory Board before implementation.

Mr. Parry requested, on behalf of parish councils, that gullies be attended to before the winter set in.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

- HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT (PROGRAMMED WORKS) (REPORT NO. 13 – 18.09.07)

Mr. Burton explained that the work on Seal Hollow Road would be deferred to a future year's programme and that work had been postponed on the Leigh footway.

With reference to requests for changes in speed limit, recent government guidance had been received by KHS which altered the way that speed was calculated (from the '85th percentile' measurement to a 'mean' measurement). A trial of this method of measurement was underway.

ACTION 6 KHS to bring to a future meeting of the Board, an interim report on the outcome of the speed measurement trial.

ACTION 7 Mr. Keith Ferrin to be asked to inform all parish and town councils in the County of the trial and, in due course, the outcome of the trial.

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Post meeting note: Mr Ferrin wrote to all parish councils on 26 August 2006.

Mr. Fittock asked when the work identified for Swanley, which had been deferred from the 2006/07 programme of works, would be completed. It was explained that the PIPKIN system would be utilised to prioritise work to be carried out in future years and a report would be submitted to the December meeting of the Board for Members' consideration.

Mr. Gough commented that it was unfortunate that funding had not been secured to enable the drainage improvement work identified for Eynsford Road in Crockenhill to be carried out.

Mr. Burton explained that work on high-speed roads was a priority, and there were no reports of serious flooding on such roads in District. If Members had particular concerns about an area in their ward they should put the case to KHS.

Mr. Parry commented on the poor quality of verge cutting in the District and it was agreed that a report should be submitted for consideration to the December meeting of the Board.

ACTION 8 A report on highway verge cutting to be submitted to the December meeting of the Board.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 8.45 P.M.

Chairman