

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on
26th June 2008 commencing at 7 p.m.

Present: District Councillors: Dibsdall, (Cllr.) London and Williamson.

County Councillors: Brazier, Chard, Gough, Lake, (Mr.) London and Parry.

Kent Association of Parish Councils: Cllr. Robson

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Coates, Mrs. Davison, Mrs. Dawson and Underwood.

Officers: Mr. Burton (KCC), Mr. Ash (KCC), Mr. Jiwaji (KCC), Mr. Gary Connor (SDC) and Mr. Clarke – Secretary (SDC).

Cllrs. Brookbank, Ryan and Walshe and ten members of the public were also present.

125. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Mr. Brazier be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing municipal year.

Resolved: That Cllr. London be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing municipal year.

126. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in respect of any matter discussed or voted on during the meeting.

128. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

For the benefit of any new members of the Board and members of the public, the Chairman outlined the Board's terms of reference and the way in which it inter-related with Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council.

129. MATTERS ARISING (REPORT 4 – 22.01.07)

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

SEV 29 – Riverside, Eynsford –The Officers informed the Board that they had not yet been able to deal with rescinding the existing width restriction and apply a weight

Joint Transportation Board – 26th June 2008

restriction order to the Eynsford bridge to prevent HGVs crossing rather than using the ford.

ACTION 1 Kent Highways Services (KHS) to report any action taken to the September 2008 meeting of the Board.

Cllr. London reminded the Board that Action 3 at the last meeting requested KHS to investigate a suspected faulty traffic signal vehicle detector in the Riverhead Infants School access. KHS had not been able to forward the work to KCC Traffic Signals in order to introduce an extra signal phase that would give priority to the traffic exiting the school.

ACTION 2 Kent Highways Services (KHS) investigate and to report any action taken to the Chairman within the next month.

130. REQUEST FOR SPEED REDUCTION AT CHART LANE, BRASTED (REPORT NO. 5 – 26.06.08)

The Officer outlined the content of the report and the Board also received a petition and presentation from Claire Brown, a representative of BRAKES (Brasted Residents Acting to Keep Everyone Safe). The petition suggested that the speed limit for Chart Lane should be reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph and included a questionnaire distributed by BRAKES to local residents following a speed survey conducted by KHS which concluded that no intervention in speed reduction/road safety terms was required.

Mr Parry believed that the road was potentially very dangerous and there was a need for the officers to give further consideration to a 30mph limit plus traffic calming measures to address the situation. Responding to a question by the Chairman, Mr Jiwaji outlined the procedures on consultation and possible legal costs of revising the speed limit.

Reference was also made to the level of use of Chart Lane by large goods vehicles, which made passing manoeuvres by other vehicles a hazardous operation.

ACTION 3 KHS to investigate the matter further, including the possibility of restricting lorries to access only and report on progress to the September meeting of the Board.

131. A25 ROUTE SAFETY SURVEY BETWEEN RIVERHEAD AND BESSELS GREEN (REPORT NO. 6)

The report set out the findings of the route study carried out by Jacobs, the consultant of KHS, for the section of the A25 between Riverhead and Bessels Green following road safety concerns from local residents and the School Governor of the Riverhead Infant School.

Joint Transportation Board – 26th June 2008

It was recognised that the large number of light and heavy goods vehicles using the route combined with some poor provision for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists for crossings, cycle lanes and buses did not encourage more sustainable modes of movement. Whilst speeds along the route were generally within the speed limit, some junctions required improvements and the traffic signals at Witches Lane needed improvements both in layout and operation. The general maintenance of junction lining, gullies and manhole covers was poor.

The Officers had concluded that more work needed to be undertaken following the study to develop the strategy to take the matter forward.

Cllr. London referred to the request by local residents for a speed indicator device to be erected between Riverhead School, The Square and Witches Lane and intimated that a contribution towards the costs of provision might be possible from Riverhead Parish Council through community development fund monies .

ACTION 4 Subject to any legal/technical difficulties being resolved, the action or works outlined in the report arising from the proposed investigations plus the suggested speed indicator device be evaluated and prioritised in the context of other schemes and funded from the Local Transport Plan. Issues regarding general maintenance to be passed to the appropriate KHS team to be progressed.

132. REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CALMING AT FIVE FIELDS LANE, FOUR ELMS (REPORT NO. 7)

Mr Jiwaji introduced the report and apologised that the letters (from KHS to Hever Parish Council on further road safety study in 2007 and reply requesting traffic calming measures) referred to in paragraph 3 of the report had not been attached.

He informed the Board that the study had shown that vehicle speeds were well within tolerances for a rural road but could be looked at as part of the general speed review.

Mr Lake reported that the Parish Council was keen to direct traffic from the “C” class road towards the “B” class road and had requested that a “Not suitable for heavy vehicles” sign to be erected on the basis of joint funding between KHS and Hever Parish Council (HPC).

Additionally, Mr Jiwaji offered to have appropriate road markings put down at the Four Elms Crossroads to reinforce the “Stop” signs, which were not always seen in time by approaching vehicles, again utilising a contribution from the Parish Council.

ACTION 5 That a “Not suitable for heavy vehicles” sign be erected at Five Fields Lane and that appropriate road markings be provided at Four Elms Crossroads to reinforce the “Stop” signs, both proposals to be jointly funded by KHS and HPC and that the matter be reviewed in due course by the Board if necessary.

Joint Transportation Board – 26th June 2008

133. REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN CHILDSBRIDGE LANE, KEMSING – OUTLINE SCHEME (ITEM 8)

Mr. Ash gave a verbal update of the progress made on this scheme and it appeared that it might be possible to bring the scheme forward from next year's programme to the current year's.

Resolved: that the report be noted and that the Officers be thanked for their efforts in connection with the scheme.

134. REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN CHILDSBRIDGE LANE, SEAL (ITEM 9)

Mr. Ash gave a verbal update on the progress made on this project. Subject to a final traffic survey, the target for the provision of the pedestrian crossing was to be August-October 2008.

Mr. Chard expressed his thanks to Mr. Ash for the work done on the scheme.

135. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT 2008/09 (REPORT NO. 10 – 26.06.08)

The Board went through the appendices page by page, and the following points were noted:

Appendix A

Darent Valley – Accessibility Improvements – Cllr. Dibsdall informed the Board that Crockenhill Parish Council had received a presentation from a government body on "Greening the Gateway". Mr Ash undertook to give further details to enable the matter to be linked up.

Hildenborough Road, Leigh – New Footway – one of the local members mentioned that the Parish Council wished to know when the project would be completed as there appeared to be some delay. Mr Ash explained that negotiations were continuing with a private landowner regarding the dedication of a small area of land forming part of the scheme and it was hoped that this could be dealt with by an exchange of letters.

High Street, Penshurst – Traffic Management

A local Member expressed gratitude for the those works already completed but wished to see an extension to the footway beyond the village.

High Street Edenbridge – Traffic Management Scheme with Enhanced Pedestrian Capability.

Councillor Robson asked for an expected completion date for the minor remedial works outstanding on this scheme.

ACTION 6 KHS Officer to notify Councillor Robson of the completion date.

136. SEAL HOLLOW ROAD, SEVENOAKS – SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES

Mr. Jiwaji reported back on the work undertaken by the officers since the last meeting of the Board on the possible improvement in signing at the narrow section of the road together with other options such as the possibility of providing a pedestrian crossing or traffic signals in the vicinity. Further information was being sought from the Kent and Medway Camera Partnership on vehicle speeds along the section of road.

Mr. London stated that he and two other County Council members used this section of road on a daily basis and suggested that consideration should be given to the following options:-

- (a) the possibility of diverting the footpath through the hole in the wall at Knole Park for a distance of approximately 100 metres;
- (b) introducing one-way traffic signals;
- (c) providing a slow down sign in a southerly direction in the region of the approach lane to the golf club.

The Chairman said that in view of this, appropriate road signs might be the best solution.

Mr. Chard concurred with Mr. London's views but stated that should traffic signals be installed, there was a danger that traffic would build up around a blind bend.

Mr. London requested that Sevenoaks District Council to cut back the hedge at this point to facilitate pedestrian access and improve visibility.

ACTION 7 That SDC be requested to consider cutting back the hedge along the amenity land to improve visibility when approaching the area from the north.

Cllr. Mrs. Purves said that crossing the road near the golf club was particularly hazardous and that traffic calming measures at this point, perhaps a speed indicator device would be beneficial. Mr. Campbell, a member of Seal Hollow Residents Association, who was present at the meeting, concurred with Cllr. Mrs. Purves. He lived close to the section of road and frequently experienced difficulty in driving out on to the road.

Cllr. London suggested that the Town Council might be able to part fund a speed indicator at the location and that pedestrian refuges should also be considered as part of the solution.

Mr. Parry felt that the strengthening of white lines and the installation of a rumble strip to indicate to drivers that they were crossing the centre of the road might be a suitable solution to reduce speed.

ACTION 8 KHS Officer to bring forward a range of options to the next meeting of

Joint Transportation Board – 26th June 2008

the Board based on the comments made.

137. UPDATE FROM KENT HIGHWAYS ADVISORY BOARD

The Board noted an update from the Kent Advisory Board on the following subjects:-

- (a) The Director's Update.
- (b) Operation Stack Lorry Park.
- (c) Satellite Navigation Devices and their Impact on Rural Areas.
- (d) Highways Agency Tactical Diversion Routes.
- (e) Proposed KCC Permit Scheme – Highway Works.
- (f) Management of Footway Parking.
- (g) Transportation and Safety Package Programme 2008/09.

138. MINUTES OF JTB MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON AIR QUALITY

The Board received the minutes of the JTB Member/Officer Working Group on Air Quality dated 3 June 2008.

Cllr. London asked as to the position in relation to Bessels Green to which Mr. Chard advised that priority areas where it might be possible to implement schemes to improve air quality would be considered first.

139. PARISH SPREADSHEETS

The Chairman asked whether the system of Parish Spreadsheets was still in operation.

The Officer informed the Board that they were still issued to parishes but were an interim measure until the Parish Portal became available. In future, the matter would be dealt with through contact centres.

The Chairman said that at present, it was necessary for Members to have the spreadsheets available to take with them to parish meetings.

The Officer informed the Board that the Liaison Officer would be able to provide the necessary information.

Cllr. London stated that he had not received a response to a question asked about the responsibility for street lighting in Seal Hollow Road. He was informed that the Service Manager was David Latham and the local co-ordinator was Barry Frost.

Joint Transportation Board – 26th June 2008

The Chairman stressed that Members required information on any significant outstanding items of work to enable them to fulfil their duties in relation to the parishes.

Cllr. Dibsall enquired when the proposals to install additional dropped kerbs for school wheelchair users previously agreed were likely to commence as he understood they were to be completed in 2008.

The Officers stated that they would be added to the list for completion this year and incorporated as part of the existing contract.

ACTION 9 KHS Officer to incorporate the item as part of the existing contract for completion this year.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 8.30 P.M.

Chairman

