

Minutes of JTB Member/Officer working group on Air Quality

Tuesday 3rd June, 2008 at 5pm

Conference Room, Council Offices, Argyle Road

Present: Cllr. Loney (SDC); Cllr. Dibsdall (SDC); Cllr. Coates (SDC) Cllr. London (KCC); Cllr. Nick Chard (KCC); Richard Wilson (SDC); Alex Dawson (SDC); Alan Ash (KCC); Malcolm Appleby (KCC)

Apologies: None Received

1. Matters arising from meeting 4th March 2008

Item 2. Update on traffic congestion proposals: Bat and Ball - Proposed Filter Lane on Bradbourne Vale Road/Bat and Ball Junction (west to east leg).

JTB agreed (11th March 2008) that the proposed alterations to the West to east leg of the Bradbourne Vale Road/Bat and Ball junction be submitted for consideration in the 2008/09 LTP as a scheme to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality in this area.

Alan Ash confirmed it was in the 08/09 LTP

2. Update on traffic congestion proposals

In addition to the above scheme, the following was discussed in relation to the Bat & Ball road widening option (at the studio):

- It was not felt to be economically feasible to purchase land, which is not part of the highway or in KCC ownership. It was suggested that improvement works could be possibly funded by selling some of land if subject to a CPO
- There are no current plans for redevelopment of land or likely other funding.
- Any road widening ahead of the Studio building would also just move the traffic congestion further along the junction.
- Consideration could be given to making Hospital Road two way but this could lead to other problems or local objection.
- A route study of the A25 is being carried out by KCC so information from traffic counts could provide more useful information
- A business case needed to be drawn up so that the feasibility of all the discussed ideas could be considered more

Actions:

1. Provide more information from A25 route study and traffic counts to assist with option discussions. (Alan Ash)

2. To establish who owns land (Alex Dawson)

Sevenoaks High Street

- Drawings discussed.

- Agreed that this was a real opportunity in addition to improving air quality to review the whole street scene for both private and commercial vehicle users and generally improve the environment for both pedestrians and cyclists and local businesses.

- It was felt that a separate group was needed to scope the various proposals and considerations, including traffic management and potential Section 106 funding.

- Need to view proposals and actions in conjunction with Bligh's Meadow developments

Actions:

1. To set up initially a KCC/SDC officer group to consider the various proposals for Sevenoaks town centre.

2. The group is to provide a draft for the next meeting including cost benefit analysis (where possible) and the impact of any current Bligh's schemes.

3. The group would then be expanded to include selected Members.

3. Pollution levels within existing AQMA's

RW outlined the briefing note.

Westerham

An A25 route study is being undertaken as part of the Sevenoaks Transport Strategy. (See above). It is proposed that the STS will be open for consultation in August 2008

Swanley

The impact of the Swanley Parking Review needs to be considered as well as any potential re-development of the town centre as both of these factors may influence traffic flows and congestion.

4 . Rationale for traffic surveys in AQMA's

Cllr. Coates was concerned that traffic surveys at Seal may not be representative of the actual traffic problems and resultant pollution generated.

Action:

KCC to provide rationale and locations for any surveys they have undertaken at Seal (Alan Ash)

Note: SDC commissioned work has covered flows on the A25 - either side of the Park Lane/ Childsbridge Junction including queue length, queuing times and traffic turning and joining at the junction. Counts are not taken during school holidays or known major road works which may affect the traffic flow.

5. AOB

None

6. Date of next meeting

Committee room at 5 o'clock - Tuesday 16th September, 2008

