

## **SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on  
7 October 2008 commencing at 8.05 p.m.

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

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

Kent Association of Parish Councils: Cllr. Robson

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

Officers: Mr. Ash - Local Transport and Development Manager, Kent Highway Services (KHS), Mr. Aspinall - Community Operations Manager for KHC, Mr. Burton - Communitywide Delivery Manager for KHC, Mr. Connor - Parking and Amenity Manager, Sevenoaks District Council (SDC). Mr. Jiwaji - Traffic Engineer for KHS, and Mr. Wilson - Head of Environmental and Operational Services for SDC.

Members of the public were also present.

### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mr. London had attended the meeting (28.06.08) but had not been included in the list of members present.

Resolved: That, subject to the above change, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 3. MATTERS ARISING – UPDATE INCLUDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### ACTION 1 (26.06.08)

SEV 29 - Riverside, Eynsford – The Officers informed the Board that signs were to be installed by end of October.

#### ACTION 2 (26.06.08)

Traffic Signal - Riverhead Infant School – Kent Highways Services (KHS) reported back to the Board that changes to the traffic signals would have too much of a negative impact on the traffic flow of the A25. Members requested that KHS investigate changing the traffic signals only during the start and end of the school

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day. The Local Transport and Development Manager undertook to report any outcome to the Chairman.

### ACTION 3 (26.06.08)

BRAKES - Chart Lane, Brasted (minute \*\* refers)

### ACTION 4 (26.06.08)

A25 Route Safety Study – KHS were awaiting the final draft of the Study. However, this would cause no delays for the progress of reports.

### ACTION 5 (26.06.08)

Request for Traffic Calming - Five Fields Lane – Signs were being manufactured.

### ACTION 6 (26.06.08)

High Street, Edenbridge – Works had been completed.

### ACTION 7 (26.06.08)

Road Safety Measures- Seal Hollow Road (minute \*\* refers)

### ACTION 8 (26.06.08)

Road Safety Measures, Seal Hollow Road (minute \*\* refers)

### ACTION 9 (26.06.08)

Dropped Kerbs for School Wheelchair Users – Works had been completed.

ACTION 10 Following on from ACTION 2 (26.06.08) above, Kent Highway Services to investigate and instigate changing traffic signal patterns at the start and end of the school day.

## 4. TRANSPORT STRATEGY (ITEM NO.4)

The Sevenoaks Transport Strategy would be available for consideration by the Board at their next meeting.

## 5. JTB MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON AIR QUALITY (ITEM NO.5)

The Head of Environmental and Operational Services for Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) reported back to the Board on the JTB Member/Officer Working Group on Air Quality meeting held 16 September 2008. He clarified that all Air Quality Management Areas previously identified would be reviewed by the Working Group. The Bat and Ball junction had been selected for review as the Group believed that there was an easy solution to improving the air quality around that junction. Sevenoaks Town Centre was also being investigated. Both schemes would look to reduce traffic congestion leading to an improvement in air quality.

The Board also received the news that DEFRA had awarded the District Council a

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grant of £25,000 for improvements to the Bat and Ball junction and for survey work in connection with Sevenoaks Town Centre.

### 6. THE PARISH PORTAL (ITEM NO. 6)

The Community Operations Manager for Kent Highway Services (KHS) gave a summary on how the Customer Service Module (CSM) operated. All inspectors from KHS had access to the CSM via a hand held computer and were able to update the progress of queries as the work was being progressed. Any queries submitted to the CMS would receive an automatic acknowledgement receipt within two days.

The CMS was still in its infancy and work would continue to perfect the system. However, KHS had given the project high priority and were determined to increase the level of service provided to residents of Kent.

The previously operated spreadsheet would eventually be replaced by the CSM. The CSM would supply Parish Councils with regular monthly updates. However, Members were concerned that only Parish Councils would receive those notifications whereas Councillors would not be notified resulting in them being unaware of important matters that may be tabled at parish meetings. It was confirmed that Councillors could also receive a print-out from the CSM if they contacted their liaison officers. By Christmas there would be a direct link via the existing Parish Portal that would allow self service of all queries.

The Community Delivery Manager agreed to investigate the possibility of a short presentation on the CSM to the Board.

### 7. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROGRESS (REPORT NO. 7)

The Board were advised that the new footway in Leigh (KHS Ref. 07-ITS-SE-01) was on hold whilst negotiations with the landowner continued.

The Countywide Delivery Manager for Kent Highway Services (KHS) explained that differences in cost for footway improvements on the High Street, Edenbridge (KHS Ref. 08-ITS-SE-02) were due to some of the allocated funds of (?) £20,000 already having been spent. No money was being allocated to other projects.

Officers assured the Board that the Police would be reminded of a request for police speed checks for Childsbridge Lane, Seal (KHS Ref. 07-ITS-SE-07).

The completion of the Swanley cycle route (KHS Ref. 07-ITS-SE-06) was the cause of much consternation. It was noted at the meeting that of all the improvements requested by Swanley Town Council the scheme with the lowest priority had been selected by KHS for implementation. The Chairman noted that this was a terrible indictment of the scheme.

### 8. INVESTIGATION INTO SAFETY MEASURES IN SEAL HOLLOW ROAD (REPORT NO. 8)

Members were pleased to note that the hedge on Seal Hollow Road had been cut and suggested that when the hedge was due again for pruning Kent Highways Services may wish to consider cutting it down to 1.5 metres.

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In response to comments from members of the public, Officers explained that rumble strips were not considered in the report as they caused noise pollution. However, it was later clarified that the danger of rumble strips causing a noise nuisance to any local residents and therefore rumble strips would be considered in a trial.

The option of traffic signals was dismissed due to cost implications. In summary, Officers from Kent Highway Services agreed that basic signs and rumble strips would provide some safety measures. Officers would report back to the Committee on the progress of implementing these safety measures.

**ACTION 11** Kent Highway Services to investigate and instigate rumble strips and signs in Seal Hollow Road.

### 9. REQUEST FOR SPEED REDUCTIONS AT CHART LANE, BRASTED (REPORT NO. 9)

The Local Transport and Development Manager for Kent Highway Services highlighted a letter to parish councils from Environment, Highways & Waste. Officers recognised that the situation was causing all-round discontent. The Board felt strongly that the report did not reflect the discussions of the previous meeting (26.06.08). They felt that the difficulty in resolving the matter lay in the fact that the public had identified the conditions in Chart Lane as a problem whereas criteria set by Kent Highway Services did not enable Officers to take swift actions. They also felt that at this stage changing the speed limit had to be part of a long-term plan due to the lengthy process this would have to undergo (point 6 of the report) as fortunately there had not been enough incidences reported on that stretch of road.

In response to Members' questions, Officers said that they could work on implementing road markings. A member of the public highlighted that white lines had recently been painted on the side and middle of the road leading, in her opinion, to increased speeding. She requested the removal of the painted lines.

There were also concerns from the public for the safety of cyclists and horse riders as well as people using the playground. Officers would report back to the Board with measures which could be implemented quickly.

**ACTION 12** The Chairman undertook to take the matter to Mr Ferrin, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste to highlight the length of time it took to progress the speed review process in Sevenoaks District.

**ACTION 13** Kent Highway Services to investigate and instigate safety measures that could be implemented short-term.

### 10. SWANLEY AND SEVENOAKS PARKING REVIEWS- UPDATE (REPORT NO. 10)

The Head of Environmental and Operational Services reported back on the status of the parking review in Swanley and Sevenoaks.

In response to Members' comments, Officers from the District Council gave an overview of the lengthy informal and formal consultation processes carried out as part of the parking review. These far exceeded the legal requirements. Officers

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clarified that if they did not receive any negative feedback from the consultation the decision making powers were delegated to the Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment. Officers were more than happy to update the Board at their next meeting on the status of the review.

In relation to Bayham Road and Serpetine Road a petition from residents had been received requesting the suspension of the parking restrictions in the Vine Court Road area as this had resulted in displacement parking in neighbouring roads. As a temporary measure, the residents' parking restrictions in the northern section of Vine Court Road, initially requested by local residents, would be considered for suspension to release pressure on Bayham Road and Serpetine Road. This would be considered by the District Council's Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment. In the mean time Officers would prepare suitable proposals for the Bayham Road area. Members suggested introducing parking restrictions before 10 a.m. for this area. Officers confirmed that they would continue with the formal consultation process of residents of the affected roads and would report back to the Board.

**ACTION 14** The Head of Environmental and Operational Services to submit a progress report to the next meeting of the Board.

The District Council's Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment updated Members on the negotiations between Sevenoaks District Council and Network Rail in relation to providing decked car parking at Sevenoaks station. Network Rail had let the District Council know that they were not prepared to invest in a decked car park unless they received a longer term of the lease. Negotiations would be ongoing.

### 11. HIGHWAY ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS (REPORTS NO.11 (a)-(f))

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

- (a) Quiet Surfacing Prioritisation Methodology
- (b) Traffic Regulation Order- Electronic Consultation
- (c) Scheme Preparation Progress for Capital Works for 2008/09
- (d) 20 mph Speed Limits outside Schools
- (e) Crash and Casualty Figures
- (f) Smarter Choices- 2008 Progress Report

Members were encouraged to email Kent Highway Services if they had any specific questions.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 9.35 P.M.

Chairman

