

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on
16 December 2008 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: County Cllr Mr. Brazier (Chairman)

Cllr. London (Vice-chairman)

District Councillors: Mrs. Davison, Coates and Underwood.

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

Kent Association of Parish Councils: Cllr. Robson

Officers: Mr. Ash - Local Transport and Development Manager, Kent Highway Services (KHS); Mr. Aspinall - Community Operations Manager for KHS; Mr. Burton - Highway Schemes Manager for KHS; Mr Bracey - Senior Engineer, Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Mr. Wilson - Head of Environmental and Operational Services for SDC.

Cllr. White, Sundridge Parish Council; Cllr. Robsen, Hever Parish ; Cllr. Ms Walmsley, Riverhead Parish Council and District Cllr. Piper were also present.

Members of the public were also present.

482. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 07 October 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

483. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

484. MATTERS ARISING – UPDATE INCLUDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

ACTION 1 (26.06.08) - SEV 29 - Riverside, Eynsford .

The Officers informed Members that signs should have been installed by now. The action had been completed.

ACTION 2 (26.06.08) + ACTION 10 (07.10.08) - Riverhead Infant School

Kent Highways Services (KHS) reported back to Members that work on changing the traffic signals would begin in January. After the completion of the works the impact on traffic flow would be monitored over a 6 month period. Officers assured Members that any similar future requests would be dealt with within a shorter timeframe; the delay had been caused by the initial search for the relevant team responsible for changes

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to traffic signal patterns.

Members raised the option of an interactive sign. In response to a request from the Vice-Chair the Local Transport and Development Manager for KHS undertook to submit a bid for funds for a 30 mile an hour sign to indicate 30 mph " or "Slow" sign to drivers to slow down between Riverhead School and Riverhead Square. A local Member explained that they had been requesting unsuccessfully an interactive sign for some time even though Riverhead Parish Council was prepared to part-fund it. The Chairman said that Members required sets of criteria for interactive signs and details of funding policies before any further discussions on interactive signs could take place.

ACTION 15 The Local Transport and Development Manager for KHS to investigate and instigate funds for a 30- sign saying slow between Riverhead Infant School and Riverhead Square.

ACTION 16 The Local Transport and Development Manager for KHS to email Members information on interactive sign procedures.

ACTION 3 (26.06.08) BRAKES - Chart Lane, Brasted

See minute 485 below.

ACTION 4 (26.06.08) - A25 Route Safety Study

See minute 490 below.

ACTION 5 (26.06.08)

Request for Traffic Calming - Five Fields Lane

A Member who had visited the site recently reported back that no road signs had been installed. Members were very concerned with the lack of progress and felt that safety measures were required as a matter of urgency. A Member highlighted that since the last meeting of the Board there had been four accidents recorded on the Four Elms crossing. A local Member of Hever Parish Council said to Members that he had records of a petition for traffic calming measures at the crossing dating back to 1955. The local Member highlighted that the parish council had renewed their plea for actions two and a half years ago. In response the Local Transport and Development Manager for KHS explained that the order for safety measures to be installed had been sent out to the contractors and speeding checks had been carried out. The Community Operations Manager for KHS promised to oversee the progress of the implementation of safety measures and to ensure that it did not get further delayed by other unforeseen works.

ACTION 17 Five Fields Lane (Action 5); The Community Operations Manager for KHS to update the Chair, Cllr. Mrs. Davison, Mr. Lake and Mr. Parry on the installation of road safety measures in Five Fields Lane.

ACTION 7 (26.06.08) + ACTION 8 (26.06.08)

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Road Safety Measures- Seal Hollow Road

KHS Officers said that orders had gone out, phase 2 was currently on the way and phase 3 would follow (see minute 485 below),

ACTION 9 (26.06.08) - Parish Spreadsheets

At the previous meeting Officers had updated Members that the works on dropped kerbs for School Wheelchair Users had been completed; the action point had therefore been removed from the action points list.

ACTION 10 (07.10.08)

Please see action 2.

ACTION 11 (07.10.08) - Rumble strips in Seal Hollow Road

See minute 485 below.

ACTION 12 (07.10.08) - Letter to Mr. Ferrin

The Chairman had emailed 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 Council. The Chairman was waiting for a response.

ACTION 22 The Chairman asked Officers to respond to Mr. Burgess' letter that was tabled at the meeting.

485. UPDATE ON CHART LANE, SEAL HOLLOW ROAD AND FOUR ELMS
(Item No.4)

Members discussed the road safety measures listed in the Seal Hollow Road document. Officers stated that items listed in section A-B of the report would take place immediately. In response to a query by the Chairman the Community Operations Manager for Kent Highway Services (KHS) clarified that KHS would not write as a matter of course to local residents of the areas in which work was scheduled. However, KHS would liaise with the relevant parish councils as well as local councillors and give updates to any callers who had logged an interest in the call centre. The Local Transport and Development Manager for KHS suggested that Members contact the Liaison Officer for any updates. County Cllr. Mr. Chard offered to contact the Sevenoaks Chronicle on behalf of the Board to ensure that Sevenoaks' residents were kept informed. This suggestion was warmly received by the Members present.

Please see minutes of the Committee (17.03.09) for amendments to the above section.

ACTION 18 Mr. Chard to contact the Sevenoaks Chronicle with a brief description of works to be undertaken in Seal Hollow Road.

A Member asked for a date for the works to be undertaken. The Local Transport and Development Manager for KHS explained that the order had been passed to the

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contractors. The Community Operations Manager for KHS accepted the Members criticism of the communication with contractors and the delay in scheduled works. He explained that the system allowed for Officers to enter a commitment date and amend it but that, however the problem lay with contractors currently not giving KHS a schedule of dates that works would be completed. The Officer admitted that the current system set up with contractors needed to be reviewed.

486. CUSTOMER SERVICE MODUL PORTAL (CSM)

In response to a Member's query the Community Operations Manager for KHS updated Members that a short presentation on the CSM portal had been scheduled for the meeting of the Board in March. The Officer said that this project was a big undertaking by Officers with the involvement of the County Council Internet team. The Officer informed Members that the parish portal should be activated in January 2009. The Officer continued to explain that he wished to be absolutely confident in the system, hence the scheduling of the presentation for the next meeting of the Board.

487. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS WITHIN SEVENAOKS DISTRICT (Report No. 4)

The Head of Environmental and Operational Services reminded Members that any substantive objections received by Sevenoaks District Council relating to proposed changes to Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) had to be considered by the Board.

The Board reviewed comments made in response to consultations for changes to parking restrictions:

REPORT NO. 4A

Fawkham - Objections received

- The Board acknowledged Mr. Johnson's objection listed in par. 5.2 of the Officer's report and were content with the Council's response (par. 5.4) to rectify the oversight.
- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Johnson's objection (par. 5.3 of the Officer's report) as they were satisfied that Officers would request markings sympathetic to the area and in line with conservation area protocols.
- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Bryer's objection (par. 5.6 of the Officer's report) in line with the Officer's recommendation (par. 5.7)

Brasted - No objections received

Riverhead - Objections received

- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Cave's objection (par. 7.1 of the Officer's report) agreeing with the Officer's view (par. 7.4 & 7.5).
- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Pearson's objection (par. 7.6 of the Officer's report) satisfied with the Officer's explanations (par. 7.8).

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- The Board agreed to set aside Mr and Mrs Lennox's objection (par. 7.10 of the Officer's report) satisfied with the Officer's explanations (par. 7.12).
- The Board agreed to set aside any objections related to restrictions affecting the position of the burger bar (par. 7.13 - 7.26 of the Officer's report) as emergency service vehicles took precedent over the burger bar. However, the Officer had made provision for the burger van to relocate to the end of the road (par. 7.28).

West Kingsdown - No objections received

Ash-Cum-Ridley - Objections received

- The Board agreed with the Council's suggestion to defer the scheme due to the number of objections.

Leigh - Objections received

- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Whiffin's objections (par. 11.1 of the Officer's report) and the Parish Council's objection (par. 11.4) as the restrictions would ensure compliance with the Highway Code and Members were assured that work would be undertaken in a sympathetic manner to the conservation area.

Hartley- Objections received

- The Board agreed to set aside objections received in response to introduction of restrictions around the Church Road, Stack Lane and Woodland Avenue (par. 12.3 of the Officer's report) as they were satisfied with the Officer's response (Par. 12.4-12.6) and the fact that there was a church car park.

Having discussed all objections listed in the Officer's report for Item 4c) the Members agreed that it be:

Resolved: (a) That the comments and objections to the changes in the on-street parking Traffic Regulation Order Amendment 18 be noted and the Officer's recommendations set out within this report be implemented; and

(b) That the parking restrictions be introduced as proposed, subject to the Officer's recommendations set out within this report for Fawkham, Brasted, Riverhead, Fordcombe, West Kingsdown, Ash-cum-Ridley, Leigh and Hartley .

REPORT NO. 4B - SWANLEY

Bramley Close - No objections received

Court Crescent - No objections received

Cyclamen Road/ Phillip Avenue - No objections received

Cyclamen Road - Objections received

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- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Bucknall's objections (par. 10.3 of the Officer's report) as they were satisfied with the Officer's response (pars. 10.4-10.6).

Goldsel Road - Objections received

- The Board agreed to set aside Mrs. Marchant's objections (par. 11.6 of the Officer's report) as they agreed with the Officer's response (pars. 11.7-11.8). In response to a Member's strong concerns Officers assured Members that agreed restrictions had been put in place in Crockenhill to counteract any displacement parking. Officers also confirmed Crockenhill Parish Council would have been consulted as part of the statutory requirements for the restrictions in Crockenhill. Although Swanley Town Council were not statutory consultees for restrictions outside their area, they had the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Mark Way - No objections received

St. George's Road - No objections received

St. George's Road/ Salisbury Avenue - No objections received

Salisbury Avenue/ London Road - No objections received

St. Mary's Road/ Apple Orchard - No objections received

The Board agreed with the Officer's amendment to the proposal to allow a reduction in length of 4 metres to accommodate residents of No. 66 St. Mary's Drive (par. 16.5).

Having discussed all objections listed in the Officer's report for Item 4b) the Members agreed that it be:

Resolved: (a) That the comments and objections to the changes in the on-street parking Traffic Regulation Order Amendment 20 be noted and the Officer's recommendations set out within this report be implemented.

(b) That the parking restrictions be introduced as proposed, subject to the officer recommendations set out within this report for Swanley; and

(c) That Members will review the impact of the new restrictions in Goldsel Road at their next meeting.

REPORT NO. 4C

Edenbridge - Objections received

- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Ritchie's objections (pars. 5.1- 5.2 of the Officer's report) as they were satisfied with the Officer's response (par. 5.3).
- The Board agreed with Officers' suggestions of amending parking restrictions to Monday-Friday, 7am to 10 am (par. 5.5) in response to residents' comments

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(par. 5.4). These times would be in line with restrictions in Sevenoaks.

Sundridge - No objections received

A local Member of Sundridge Parish Council queried the consultation process. The Senior Engineer for Traffic and Parking assured the local Member that Sundridge Parish Council would have been consulted. A County Councillor stated that he believed that the proposals for Sundridge did not meet local needs.

Officers clarified that the restrictions were for Main Road/New Road and the local Member for Sundridge Parish Council confirmed that they had been consulted.

Westerham - Objections received

Officers acknowledged that it would not be possible to accommodate the various interested parties and the Council would not be able to resolve the ongoing dispute between businesses and local residents.

- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Bulford's objections (pars. 7.1- 7.2 of the Officer's report) relating to Rysted Lane after Officers had assured Members that they will ensure sufficient parking facilities for people with disabilities.
- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Rogers' objections (par. 7.9 of the Officer's report) relating to Rysted Lane subject to Officers monitoring the area for signs of displacement parking.
- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Stone's objections (par. 7.12 of the Officer's report) relating to The Green.
- The Board agreed to set aside Ms. Goh's objections (par. 7.16 of the Officer's report) relating to Black Eagle Close subject to Officers monitoring the area for signs of displacement parking.
- The Board agreed to set aside Ms. Trodd's objections (pars. 7.19-7.20 of the Officer's report) relating to Black Eagle Close subject to Officers monitoring the area for signs of displacement parking.
- The Board agreed to set aside Mr. Vickers' objections (pars. 7.25-7.26 of the Officer's report) relating to Black Eagle Close subject to Officers monitoring the area for signs of displacement parking.

Hartley - Objections received

- The Board agreed with Officers' suggestions of amending the restriction length to accommodate Mr. and Mrs. Deane's request (par. 8.1 of the Officer's report).
- The Board agreed to set aside Ms. Conway's objections (pars. 8.3- 8.4 of the Officer's report) as they were satisfied with the Officer's response (pars. 8.5- 8.6).

Chevening - No objections received

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ACTION 19 The Senior Engineer for Traffic and Parking, SDC to give an update of displacement parking in Westerham at the next board meeting.

ACTION 20 County Cllr. Mr. Parry to be the designated Member for overseeing the monitoring of displacement parking.

Having discussed all objections listed in the Officer's report for Item 4c) the Members agreed that it be:

Resolved: (a) That the comments and objections to the changes in the on-street parking Traffic Regulation Order Amendment 21 be noted and the Officer's recommendations set out within this report be implemented; and

(b) That the parking restrictions be introduced as proposed, subject to the officer recommendations set out within this report for Edenbridge, Sundridge, Westerham, Hartley and Chevening.

488. SEVENOAKS PARKING REVIEW UPDATE (ITEM NO. 5)

In response to Members' questions the Head of Environmental and Operational Services explained the decision making process procedures for changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders as previously agreed by the Board. He said that any orders that received substantive objections during the consultation process would be presented to the Board for their deliberation. The Officer reminded Members that the Board had agreed these arrangements and had set up the Parking Review Group to discuss the finer details.

ACTION 21 Officers will load future minutes of the Parking Review Group on to the Sevenoaks District Council's cmis and an email notification alerting Members will be sent out.

The Highway Schemes Manager for KHS informed Members of gas works that would take place on the A25 from now until the summer of 2009. He asked Members to raise any concerns or issues they may be alerted to with him.

489. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME - PROGRESS REPORT (Report No. 6)

Hildenborough Road, Leigh (07-ITS-SE-01)

- In response to a Member's question relating to the deferred footpath works the Highway Schemes Manager for KHS Officer clarified that both sides of the road were privately owned by the same person in question. Until issues of liability had been resolved with the landowner KHS could not proceed with introducing the new interactive speed warning sign that was a condition of the Gibbs Field development. The Community Delivery Manager advised Members that KHS were aware of the unofficial lay-by that was recently created by a contractor working for a statutory undertaker on the south side of the road. He said that KHS would endeavour to oblige these companies to remedy the damage that had been caused to this privately-owned land.

Childsbridge Lane, Seal (07-ITS-SE-07)

- In response to a Member's comment the Highway Schemes Manager for KHS clarified that there had been no delays in the procedures and subject to Officers not receiving any objections during the consultation process, work would start in February 2009.

Darent Valley (08-ITS-SE-03)

- Officers assured Members that consultation would be sought.

A Member asked the Highway Schemes Manager for KHS what could be done about discarded barriers left behind after works undertaken by gas companies. The Officer said that the KHS contact centre should be contacted who would send out a response team to remove the discarded barrier(s).

Works by Gas Contractors

A District Councillor and Member of Sevenoaks Town Council drew Members' attention to the works by gas contractors, causing disruption and traffic congestions in Sevenoaks Town. He asked whether Kent Highway Services had any powers to reduce the length of time that the contractor took to complete the works. Other Members also commented on barriers not being edged in on sites whilst work was not being undertaken. The Highway Schemes Manager for KHS informed Members that they had applied to the Secretary of State to operate a permit scheme. If this was granted, KHS would be able to put conditions on any works undertaken by contractors to ensure minimum disruption to residents. Members were informed that a meeting was scheduled to take place with the gas contractors and the Highway Schemes Manager for KHS promised to pass on Members' comments.

Resolved: That Members note the progress of programmed Highway Improvements.

490. A25 ROUTE STUDY (Report No. 7)

The Local Transport and Development Manager for Kent Highway Services gave a summary of the report. He continued to ask for any comments relating to the report to be passed on to him and confirmed that parish councils would receive copies of the report.

A resident of Sundridge Parish Council stated that in Sundridge there was a lack of safe crossings and general problems with speeding. He informed Members that the parish council had been under the impression that the report would address speeding and safe crossings and that instead the A25 Route Study was a maintenance report. In response the Chairman directed everybody's attention to paragraph 18 of the Officer's report. The Local Transport and Development Manager for KHS also pointed out that speeding was a matter of police enforcement, not engineering and that work would be undertaken to enforce the 30 mph speed limit gateways for Sundridge, Brasted and Westerham.

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In response to Members' concerns regarding the state of the current drains and the resulting treacherous driving conditions during bad weather caused by standing water, the Highway Schemes Manager for KHS conceded that drainage clearing was currently reactive, not pro-active. The Officer continued to say that it would take the maintenance team time to clean all the drains.

Resolved: (a) That the progress made on the investigation into this matter be noted; and

(b) That the Officers' proposed strategy for taking the matter forward be endorsed.

491. JTB MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON AIR QUALITY - DECEMBER (Item No. 10)

The Head of Environmental and Operational Services reported back on the meeting of the working group. The Board

Resolved: That

(a) The Bat and Ball West to East Leg junction improvement scheme be delayed whilst works by Southern Gas Networks, and

(b) Funding awarded in the 2008/09 County Council LTP works programme be carried forward.

492. HIGHWAY ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS (Reports No.10 (a)-(c))

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

(a) Mitigating the effects of HGVs on Leicestershire's Roads

(b) Permanent Lorry Park - An Update on Progress

(c) the County Council Permit Scheme Application and Implementation

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 9.10 P.M.

Chairman