

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on
16 June 2009 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Coates Chairman

District Councillors: Mrs. Davison, London and Underwood.

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

Kent Association of Parish Councils: Cllr. Robson

Officers: Mr. Ash - Local Transport and Development Manager, Kent Highway Services (KHS); Mr. Procter - Road Safety Manager for KHS; Mr. Burton - Highway Schemes Manager for KHS; Mr. Bracey - Senior Engineer, Parking and Amenities, Sevenoaks District Council (SDC), Mr. Connor - Parking and Amenities Manager (SDC) and Mr. Wilson - Head of Environmental and Operational Services for SDC.

Apologies were received for Messrs. Brookbank and Lake.

Also attending were Cllrs. Arnold, Gilbert, Mrs. Purves, Ryan and Walshe.

1 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That record of the minutes of the meeting held 17 March 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

3 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Mr Chard was congratulated on being appointed as the new Cabinet Member for Environment, Highway and Waste.

Members expressed their thanks to Cllr. London for all his services over the years as Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Resolved: That Cllr. Coates be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing municipal year.

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

4 MATTERS ARISING – UPDATE INCLUDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Chairman introduced the new layout of the action sheet. A Member informed Officers that at the junction by Riverhead Infant School traffic was queuing throughout the day since the changes to traffic light patterns (Action 10) had been made. The Local Transport and Development Manager said that additional works not relating to the Riverhead Infant School had been undertaken which may have caused the queues. The Local Transport and Development Manager continued to say that traffic flow would be monitored once all the works to the junction had been completed.

ACTION 11 (07.10.08) - Seal Hollow Road

A District Councillor said that there were no road markings and the hedge had re-grown. She also requested an interactive sign and rumble strips.

The Chairman advised that the action point would remain on the sheet.

Note by Chief Executive

Following the meeting Kent Highway Services advised that an inspection of the road took place 17.06.09. The consultants are drawing up plans and will contact local residents who may be affected by the works which are due to be completed by December 2009.

ACTION 32 (17.03.09) - Bridge Height, Station Road, Edenbridge

A Member informed Officers of the problems with signage at the eastern end of Swan Lane in Edenbridge. He was advised to contact the Community Operations Manager who had previously been dealing with the particular area via Sue Ireland, Liaison Officer for the area.

A Member highlighted the ongoing problems with the bridge at Station Road, Edenbridge. The Chairman said that this issue could be covered in the long term strategy.

ACTION 1 Officers to report back to the Committee and to submit drawings of the bridge in Station Road, Edenbridge following concerns of Members regarding the realignment of the centre line.

ACTION 4 (26.06.09) - A25 Route Study

In addition to presenting an update on the maintenance schedule at the next ordinary meeting the Local Transport and Development Manager agreed to give a A25 Route Safety Study update at the next ordinary meeting.

KHS Organisational Structure

Members discussed the Chairman's request for an organisational structure chart for Kent Highway Services, which Officers had agreed to supply for the September 2009

meeting of the Committee. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Highway and Waste asked that Members should continue to contact the Liaison Officer or the Contact Centre if they had any concerns or issues they wished to raise with Officers. He offered to supply Members with a structure chart at the next meeting. The Chairman explained that the organisational structure chart would enable Members to understand what the responsibilities and remits Officers attending the meeting had.

5 SPEEDLIMIT GUIDELINES - SPEED REVIEW UPDATE FROM NETWORK MANAGEMENT (Item No. 10)

The Road Safety Manager informed Members that the target date for the completion of the speed limit review for A and B roads was 2013. He explained that the A and B roads in Sevenoaks District Council would be reviewed in the last phase, phase three. He explained that Kent Highway Services would only know till after the review what works needed to be scheduled. He continued to say that the main objective of the review was to reach a consistency of signage, lining and speed limits throughout Kent. The Chairman noted that most of the roads that local residents had concerns about were not classified as A or B roads. The Road Safety Manager acknowledged that A and B roads formed less than 50 percent of all roads in Kent.

In response to a Member's query the Road Safety Manager said that Kent Highway Services had processes in place to allow the review to be by-passed for cases where an urgent need to change the speed limit had been identified. However, Members, he said, should be aware that Kent Highway Services did not wish to undermine the process. The Vice-chairman expressed his surprise as he remembered Members previously being informed that no speed changes could be requested until the review had been completed. A Member suggested that the Lead Officer could take this up.

Following a Member's comment the Road Safety Manager clarified that the rural roads speed limits review paper was a separate consultation paper for 2020.

Some Members felt strongly that the option of by-passing the speed review should be further investigated.

ACTION 2 Officers to supply an estimated start date for Phase 3 of the speed review.

ACTION 3 The Local Transport and Development Manager to submit a summary of criteria for reviewing speed limits.

6 TRAFFIC ORDER AMENDMENT 24 - CHANGES TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN SEVENOAKS AND RIVERHEAD (Report No. 5)

The Senior Engineer for Parking and Amenities read out a statement by the SDC Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment in which Members were asked to discount recommendations and comments in paragraphs 26, 70, 71, 72 and 73 of the Officer's report relating to The Drive. The Officer said that new parking orders in Westerham would be completed before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee. In response to a query the Senior Engineer for Parking and Amenities clarified that as a general rule for Sevenoaks Town out of for example 100 spaces, 50 would be assigned for resident permits, 20 spaces for short-term parking and 30 to non-resident permits. The Officer explained that not implementing the scheme would result in the surrounding streets experiencing additional pressures on parking spaces.

Resolved that: (a) The comments and objections to changes in the on-street parking Traffic Order Amendment 24 apart from paragraphs 26, 70, 71, 72 and 73 be noted; and

(b) The parking restrictions with the exception of the proposed restrictions in "The Drive" that relates to the issue of permits to non-residents be introduced as proposed, subject to the recommendations set out within the Officer's report for Sevenoaks and Riverhead.

7 A25 RIVERHEAD - SEAL HOLLOW ROAD (Item No. 6)

The Local Transport and Development Manager confirmed that safety measures for the crossing would be included in the annual safety schemes bid.

8 TRANSPORT STRATEGY (Report No. 7)

Members discussed the timeline of the Transport Strategy. Following discussions the Chairman reminded Members that the Transport Strategy was a strategic document and would not contain specific details such as the location of the M25 East facing slip.

Resolved: That a special meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board be held at the Council Offices at 7pm, 15 July 2009.

9 OPTIONS FOR OTFORD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING (Item No. 8)

The Local Transport and Development Manager confirmed that a proposed plan for the pedestrian crossing was due to be sent to Otford Parish Council. The Chairman requested that Kent Highway Services avoided installing the pedestrian crossing bit by bit over a long period of time. A Member highlighted that often energy supply companies caused the delay in the completion of works.

10 CHILDSBRIDGE LANE, KEMSING (Report No. 9)

The Highway Schemes Manager introduced his report.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

11 CSM DEMONSTRATION (Item No. 11)

The Highway Schemes Manager informed Members of the launch delay for the CSM portal. He asked Members to contact the Liaison Officer in the interim period to report any faults or concerns and confirmed that a demonstration would take place at an appropriate time. Members said that it was disappointing that the portal had had so many issues as this year the roads had had been seriously damaged by the adverse weather conditions

12 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT (Item No. 12)

The Highway Schemes Manager for Kent Highways Services updated Members of changes to the Appendix. In response to a query from a Member relating to the resurfacing of a pavement between Edenbridge and Crockham Hill he explained that Kent Highway Services was under a legal obligation to maintain every existing pavement in an acceptably safe condition even if it would only be used by one person. It was explained that if Kent Highway Services had not resurfaced the pavement then its condition would have necessitated its complete closure.

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

A Member confirmed that works had not yet been completed.

Bat 'n' Ball, Sevenoaks (08-ITS-SE-01)

The Officer confirmed that the scheme was on hold pending consideration of planning applications which, if successful, would require amendments to the junction. Members felt that this would be an opportunity to request Officers to consider the possibility of a roundabout.

ACTION 4 The Highway Schemes Manager to make a brief assessment of the viability for a roundabout at the Bat 'n' Ball Junction and to report back to the next ordinary meeting.

Hartfield Road, Cowden (07-ITS-SE-08)

The Local Transport and Development Manager confirmed that he was meeting the landowner on Wednesday, 17/06/09 to discuss the hedge.

A District Councillor raised his concerns with the bridge on the B2244 which had a lip where it crossed over the border from Kent to East Sussex. Officers advised the Councillor to contact the Liaison Officer.

ACTION 5 The Drainage Manager to investigate the flooding problems caused by roots blocking the drains at Hever Road, Uckfield Lane.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

13 SCHEME PRIORITY LIST 2010/11 (Report No. 13)

The Local Transport and Development Manager introduced the Scheme Priority List 2010/11 highlighting to Members that any schemes with a score below 50 would in all probability not be taken forward.

Members felt that they were unable to comment as they required further information on each scheme including details of interested groups and needs, the criteria for the provisional scoring as well as the implications of the different options for scoring the schemes.

The Local Transport and Development Manager said that training sessions for members is being arranged probably in July 2009. He also confirmed that he would be reporting back to Members at the next ordinary meeting with the information that would enable Members to assess the schemes on the Scheme Priority List 2010/11.

ACTION 6 Officers to send an email to Members with additional information for assessing schemes from the priority list 2010/11.

SEVENOAKS URBAN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL (Report No. 14)

The Local Transport and Development Manager introduced the report. No comments were made.

14 HIGHWAY ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS (Report No. 15 - cmis only)

The reports were noted.

15 DISCUSSIONS OF FUTURE ACTIONS AND REPORTS

Members discussed the future work plan. Members queried the traffic polices relating to planning item on the work plan. The Chairman clarified that this item referred to reference documents issued by Kent Highway Services relating to parking guidelines used for reference by Development Control Officers. He clarified that no joint reporting between Sevenoaks District Council and Kent Highway Services would be required.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 8.35 P.M.

Chairman