

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Minutes of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on
22 September 2009 commencing at 7 pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr Coates

Vice-Chairman: Mr Brazier

District Councillors: Mrs Davison and Dibsdall.

County Councillors: Brookbank, Chard, Gough, London and Parry.

KAPC Representative: Mr Robson.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs London, Underwood Williamson and Mr Lake.

Officers: Messrs. Ash (KCC), Burton (KCC), Connor (SDC), Ms Ireland (KCC), Morton (KCC) and Wilson (SDC).

Cllrs. Davison, Gilbert, Piper and three members of the public were also present.

18. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolved: That the minutes of the meetings of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, held on 16 June and 15 July 2009, be approved and signed by the Chairman as correct records.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dibsdall declared a personal interest as a member of a local cycling group (minute 24 refers).

20. MATTERS ARISING – UPDATE INCLUDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Actions from Previous Meetings

ACTION 10 (07.10.08) had been completed. However, the Parish Council was pursuing the possible installation of flashing 30 mph speed signs near Riverhead Infant School.

ACTION 11 (07.10.08) – Rumble strips were not being pursued, however all signs had been installed.

ACTION 32 (17.03.09) – See minute no. 25 below.

ACTION 4 (26.06.08) – The title of the Route Study was clarified as “A25 Route Study – Dryhill Lane to Surrey border”. KHS Officers would notify relevant parish councils of any proposed highway works in their areas.

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ACTIONS 19 & 20 (16.12.08) were ongoing and would be updated at the next meeting.

ACTIONS 25 & 27 (17.03.09) had been completed.

ACTION 28 (17.03.09) – The Kent Highway Services' Customer Service Module "portal" was due to be fully operational and accessible to County Councillors by end of September 2009 and would be demonstrated to the parishes.

ACTION 30 (17.03.09) – Kent Highway Services (KHS) Officers were due to meet with Otford Parish Council to discuss bids for funding a pedestrian crossing.

ACTION 1 (16.06.09) – See minute no. 25 below.

ACTION 2 (16.06.09) – KHS Officers advised that Phase 3 of the Kent Plan was now due to begin in April/May 2010.

ACTION 4 (16.06.09) – See minute no. 27 below.

ACTION 5 (16.06.09) – A CCTV survey had been organised for 29 September 2009.

ACTION 6 (16.06.09) – The Scheme Priority System had been superseded.

b) KHS Organisational Structure

The Board were pleased to receive the organisational structure. It was clarified that names were not included in the structure due to the current system which, in order to provide the best possible service, requested that enquiries from members of the public be initially directed to the contact centre, where they could be distributed as efficiently as possible. Members confirmed that they were happy with this procedure.

c) Communications on Road Matters

Following discussion with Councillors regarding the lack of communication received related to recent road closures, the County Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Waste advised that Kent Highway Services sought to improve communication with local authorities on road matters in their areas. The proposal was to split the county into the 12 district/borough areas and send information to each individually. An email will be sent to each authority and all Members together with Parish and Town Councils. The Portfolio Holder was keen to communicate on a wider basis, not just one email to the authority which they would then distribute, as he felt that in the past this approach had not worked. It was accepted that this could be overkill but the meeting preferred this approach.

Members agreed with the approach and felt it would be beneficial.

d) Flooding at Seven Acres, Crockenhill

The Technical Services Group, Drainage Division, Drainage Progress Report had been tabled for the Board's attention. The Progress Report included details of specific flood relief works undertaken at Seven Acres, Crockenhill.

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A Member thanked Kent Highway Services for their work thus far.

Following clearing of soakaways, Kent County Council's Community Delivery Manager advised that this year there should be less flooding.

e) A25 Riverhead – Seal Hollow Road Pedestrian Crossing

Kent County Council's Local Transport and Delivery Manager thanked local residents for their help in assessing safety on the Riverhead to Seal Hollow Road section of the A25. He confirmed that the Speed Limit Evaluation Team had undertaken analysis of the road and was now considering options for a safe pedestrian crossing. A crash remedial bid would be submitted in mid October for funding for the works. Plans were also in place to improve the Gateway by moving the 30 mph speed signs approximately 70 yards east.

A representative from Greatness Residents' Association explained that there was no pavement on part of the road which was greatly used by pedestrians accessing Hillingdon Rise and the public footpath. Trying to cross the road was extremely dangerous and with the creation of the proposed Sevenoaks Academy there would be an increase in foot traffic in this already dangerous area. Residents felt very strongly about the situation and 150 had recently signed a petition asking that the situation be taken seriously. A local Member re-iterated residents concerns.

A Member requested that Kent Highway Services Officers consider the length and position of railings when entering the road from the public footpath.

Members were of the view that there were a number of simple solutions, such as speed signs, that could be completed quickly to improve the situation while provision of a pedestrian crossing was being investigated.

A County Councillor assured the Board and residents that the situation would be taken seriously. He thanked residents for their interest in the matter and requested that they help Officers obtain a better estimate of the number of people crossing the road currently and the number of potential users of a pedestrian crossing.

21. PETITION CALLING FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY MEASURES IN SUNDRIDGE
(Report No. 4)

Kent County Council's Local Transport and Delivery Manager advised that the petition looked at a number of requirements for speed and safety on the western A25. Kent Highway Services (KHS) Officers proposed to visit Sundridge, Westerham, Chevening and Brasted Parish Councils to consider the issues and possible solutions.

Members were concerned that there was specific need for safety measures in Sundridge and requested that any realistic solutions be implemented as quickly as possible, rather than waiting for consultation with all four parishes to be completed.

ACTION 1 KHS Officers undertook to report back to the next meeting of the Board with an action plan for safety measures in Sundridge.

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Resolved: That the petition be noted.

22. PLANNING PARKING REGULATIONS (Report No. 5)

The Board discussed in detail the planning guidance and issues surrounding size of parking spaces. It was confirmed that Spatial Planning Guidance 4, Interim Guidance Note 3 and the Manual for Streets were the three main guidance documents to be consulted when considering parking space provision for planning applications.

The Chairman felt that Spatial Planning Guidance 4 and Interim Guidance Note 3 offered definitive guidance on most parking space issues.

Kent Highway Services Officers undertook to supply parish/town councils with the relevant guidance.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

23. TRANSPORT STRATEGY – UPDATE (Item No. 6)

Kent County Council's Local Transport and Delivery Manager advised that the Strategy was being considered by Sevenoaks District Council's Cabinet on 24 September 2009. Following the meeting, the Strategy would be submitted for public consultation from 25 September to 13 October 2009. The results of the consultation would then be analysed and a final document submitted to the December 2009 meeting of the Board along with an implementation scheme. The final Strategy and implementation scheme would be submitted to December 2009 Cabinet for approval.

The Chairman noted that the draft of the final Strategy was a great improvement on the document submitted to the Board in July 2009, but was disappointed that many of the targets were still shown in percentages and not volumes/activity.

24. HIGHWAY SCHEME IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS 2010/11 (Report No. 11)

Kent County Council's (KCC) Highway Schemes Manager advised that the report outlined the five schemes which had been shortlisted for inclusion in KCC's 2010/11 Local Transport Plan capital programme. The Board were asked to support the inclusion of the crash remedial scheme in High Street, Westerham and to consider whether the other four schemes should be put forward or slowed down in order to undertake more consultation, with the schemes being instead ready for inclusion in the 2011/12 programme.

The Board discussed the schemes included in Appendix B to the report, which had been given a priority score that Officers believed would be below the level required to obtain funding.

Members were concerned that SEV 14, the cycle route at Dunton Green and Riverhead, which had been given a high priority score, was in a dangerous area. They did not see how it would realistically work. Kent Officers clarified that the cycle scheme proposed was from Sevenoaks Station to Pembroke Road. Members were concerned of the costs associated with this scheme and asked for further details.

A Kent Member noted that in future, the option of awarding bonus points to a

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scheme in order to make it fundable would not take place. A seminar for Board members in relation to priority scores would be held in November 2009.

ACTION 2 Members requested that Officers reconsider SEV 14 and report back to the next meeting of the Board.

Resolved: a) That the progress of the highway improvements being considered for inclusion in the 2010/11 capital programme be noted;

b) schemes SEV 00, 06, 08 and 25 be supported for inclusion in the 2010/11 programme; and

c) Officers be asked to reconsider scheme SEV 14 and a report be brought to the next meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board.

25. RAILWAY BRIDGE AT B2026 – MARLPIT HILL, EDENBRIDGE (Report No. 7)

Kent County Council's Local Transport and Delivery Manager advised that investigation had commenced into bridge clearances, running lanes and vehicles paths on the arched railway brick bridge on the B2026.

The KAPC Representative advised that many lorries were still passing the last height sign for the bridge, causing issues either diverting away from the bridge or navigating through it. He requested that adequate signage be installed to combat this issue.

The Local Transport and Delivery Manager confirmed that highway improvements for the railway bridge were necessary and urgent. Various options for improvements would be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

ACTION 3 The Board requested that where improvements were simple, such as re-painting faded road markings, they be completed before the next meeting. The Local Transport and Delivery Manager undertook to liaise with local Members as to what works could be completed before this time.

Resolved: That, subject to the comments of the Board being taken into consideration, the progress of the investigation into clearances and running widths at the railway bridge be noted.

26. HIGHWAY DRAINAGE (Report No. 8)

The report explained what a highway drainage system was, what the current repair regime was and gave details for establishing a priority of works.

The Chairman was surprised that Kent County Council (KCC) did not have a complete map structure of the area.

A member of the public noted that drainage in Underriver was still an issue. He stated that the hills in the area were causing mud to be washed into the grips and gullies. However, he was pleased that they were rapidly updating their maps showing

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the locations of gullies, etc. Kent County Council's Community Delivery Manager undertook to ask Kent Highway Services (KHS) Drainage Team to liaise with the relevant parish council regarding drainage issues and location of gullies.

It was clarified that the company undertaking drainage clearance on behalf of KHS was instructed to locate gullies and clear them. They were not provided with a map showing the location of gullies in each area. An asset outlining location and type of gully was currently being compiled. KCC's Highway Schemes Manager would speak with the Drainage Manager regarding some gullies not being cleared.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

27. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT (INCLUDING OPTIONS FOR BAT 'N' BALL JUNCTION) (Report No. 9)

The report described the progress of the Highway Improvement Scheme 2009/10 and the anticipated progress over the next three months. Kent County Council's (KCC) Highway Schemes Manager explained that more funds were needed to complete the 2009/10 Scheme and as such, some schemes had been revised.

ACTION 4 A report on Bat 'n' Ball junction would be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

The Board discussed the recent planning application which proposed to extend the life of the Quarry at Bat 'n' Ball junction and the Section 106 agreement surrounding this.

KCC's Local Transport and Delivery Manager advised that negotiations were underway with the Quarry to make significant contributions to highway improvements at the junction.

The Head of Environmental and Operations Services (SDC) noted that Sevenoaks District Council had agreed to fund £15,000 of modifications to the western approach of Bat 'n' Ball junction, instead of £10,000 as stated in para. 3 of the report.

ACTION 5 The Chairman requested that, as a matter of urgency, Kent Highway Services Officers provide the Board with copies of the new and previous proposals for highway improvements at Bat 'n' Ball junction.

It was noted that the cycle route at London Road, Swanley would be reinstated.

ACTION 6 KCC's Highway Schemes Manager undertook to investigate turning issues of buses on the bus route at Hilda May Avenue, Swanley.

Resolved: That, subject to Officers taking into consideration the above comments, the progress of the programmed Highway Improvement Scheme be noted.

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28. HIGHWAY ADVISORY BOARD REPORTS (Report No. 10)

The reports were withdrawn by Kent Highway Services Officers before the meeting. They were therefore not considered at the meeting.

29. JOINT TRANSPORTATION MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON AIR QUALITY (Item No. 12)

Volunteers were sought as the Group had recently lost some members.

Resolved: That membership of the Member/Officer Working Group on Air Quality be confirmed as Cllrs. Brookbank, Coates, Mrs Dawson, Dibsdall, London, Mr Chard and Mr Parry.

30. WORK PLAN 2009/10 (Report No. 13)

The Board considered the Work Plan for 2009/10 and noted that Parking Order Amendments for Knockholt Station and Hartslands Road would be reported to future meetings of the Board if objections to proposals were received following the consultation period. They also wished to invited the Highway Agency to a future meeting to discuss the M25 slips and the A21 linking Pembury Hospital with Sevenoaks.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 8.55 P.M.

Chairman

