

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Minutes of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on
14 December 2010 commencing at 7 pm

- Present: Chairman: Cllr. Brazier
- Vice-Chairman: Cllr. London (James)
- District Councillors: Mrs Davison, Dibsdall, Underwood, Waller and Williamson.
- County Councillors: Brookbank, Chard, Gough, Lake, London (John) and Parry.
- The representative from the Kent Association of Parish Councils: Cllr. Robson
- Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Parry.
- Officers: Messrs. Appleby (KCC), Burton (KCC), Smith (KCC), Ms. Squires (KCC), Wilson (SDC) and Lagzdins (SDC).
- Cllrs. Davison, Mrs. Parkin and Walshe were also in attendance.

22. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2010 (ITEM NO. 1)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board held on 21 September 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item No. 2)

None

24. MATTERS ARISING/UPDATES (INCLUDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS) (Report No. 3)

a) Actions from Previous Meetings

Petition relating to Cold Arbor Road, Bessels Green

Members were informed that the local County Member had continued negotiations with Officers, it was substantially agreed and interested residents had been written to. In response to a question from a resident of Bessels Green the Chairman said he was informed a meeting between residents and engineers was possible.

25. PETITION REGARDING BAYHAM ROAD AND SERPENTINE ROAD (Report No. 4)

Officers recommended to the Board that no further action is taken on this matter because there was not a quantifiable and recorded safety problem and no pattern of

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personal injury crashes which can be attributed to speed.

The Chairman informed Members of an email he received from the Kent County Council (KCC) Head of Transport and Planning that KCC Members may wish to allocate the funds from Members' Highway Funds, as the only way to take further action on the matter.

A member of the public who was a representative of the Hollybush Residents Association told the Board that in Bayham Road nearly 29% of drivers exceeded the limit. He believed the particular concern was before 8 a.m. but it also occurred at both the opening and closing times of the school, which presented dangers. He was also concerned the text of the original petition had not been included in the report. Another Member of the public believed measurements were taken at a slow point on the road and therefore failed to record the worst difficulties. The Residents Association had not discussed what particular traffic calming measures they would advocate.

Several Members voiced concern at the situation. A Member believed that before a decision was made Members should be shown the petition, a breakdown of traffic through the day and what specific times the residents have difficulties. The Chairman wanted to know what engineering measures were available for adoption to cover the petitioners' requests.

Action: Officers to bring the matter back with this information and the original petition request.

26. MAKING SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) A PERMANENT SIGN ON THE HIGHWAY (Report No.14)

Officers stated that making the SID on Seal Hollow Road permanent would mean consequential loss of coverage elsewhere because of the associated cost. In response to a question he suggested that if a SID sign is made permanent drivers may become desensitised to it. Additionally the current temporary SID can be moved and have an impact on other locations.

The KCC Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Waste commented that as a Local Member he had fought hard for such measures. Even if some drivers could be desensitised, the reinforcement effect of the SID was more important. He wanted further discussion on it but considered that budget restraints made the plan unlikely.

27. HIGH STREET EYNSFORD – ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS (Report No. 5)

Officers distributed a revised report to this item and told the Board that the revised location was supported by the Parish Council, the local County Member and the Head Teacher of the Anthony Roper school.

A Member suggested the ending of the school's drop-off scheme made the traffic problem more visible though the problem had predated this. Another Member said he was among those who wanted to increase the speed of traffic through Eynsford because it can take 45 minutes to an hour to get through the village. Emergency

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services might also face difficulties. The Chairman was unsure of the consequences of displacing so many parked cars.

It was unanimously

Resolved: That Members endorse the scheme illustrated in Appendix B of Item 5 on the agenda.

28. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (Report No. 6)

A KCC Member who represented 3 of the proposed locations and 2 of which came from his Highway Fund was very surprised by the advertising costs of the proposals. The KCC Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Waste reminded Members the advertising must be done through hard copy media. Although he had submitted a request for reform and the Local Government Association were taking the matter up, the Secretary of State had not given any sign change was likely.

Resolved: That Members endorse the proposed locations.

29. B2042 – SPEED LIMIT REVIEW (Report No. 7)

Officers informed Members that the funding for this scheme had not yet been found but the costs of signage could be quite substantial, possibly £30,000 to £35,000.

A Member considered the plans unnecessarily restrictive. She thought limits around Goathurst Common, possibly more appropriately of 30mph, would have the support of local residents and that the streets limit the speed there anyway. A District Councillor not on the Board and a member of the public agreed.

Action: Officers to put forward 2 costed schemes. One for the plan as it stands and the other to focus on the smaller area.

30. SEVENOAKS RAILWAY STATION – PEDESTRIAN BARRIERS (Report No. 8)

Officers set out reasons for the removal of the pedestrian barriers. People were still walking on the carriageway side of the barriers which then obstruct cyclists and motorcyclists. If barriers are crashed into then services may be disrupted when they are uprooted. Railings take up pedestrians' pavement space. Barriers are also being removed in some other areas, like London. In response to a question an Officer said there was growing evidence that removal of barriers may increase safety. He also suggested there was an aesthetic benefit.

The Vice-Chairman was concerned by the proposals and the possible results when pedestrians flood out of the station. He thought the retention of at least 4 barriers would be helpful. The KCC Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Waste expressed support for the scheme but also sympathy with the Vice-Chairman. He also felt the barriers were failing as they currently were.

Action: That the Vice-Chairman discuss the proposals with Officers exploring the possibility of keeping some barriers.

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31. A25 SEAL ROAD, SEVENOAKS – SPEED LIMIT ORDER CONSULTATION RESPONSES (Report No. 9)

Officers confirmed this was the final measure following analysis of that section of the road.

Resolved: That Members approve the proposed speed limit move.

32. PARKING ISSUES IN COOMBFIELD – LUCILINA DRIVE AND LINGFIELD ROAD, EDENBRIDGE (Report No. 10)

Officers believed the nearby sports clubs had generally guided drivers well, such as for parking and that failures were rare. He recommended the list of measures considered by the Town Council should be tried and tested first. Only if further problems arise should powers of enforcement increase because otherwise the impact on local residents may be widespread and permanent.

A Member, who is a District Councillor for the area believed the proposal covered what was needed. She confirmed the error in the past appeared to be a single failure to marshal an event. She highlighted that several local Councillors had not signed the petition.

Resolved:

- a) That Members note receipt of the petition.
- b) That the lead petitioner is informed of this Board's decision

33. HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROGRESS REPORT (Report No. 11)

Resolved: That Members note the progress of programmed highway improvements listed in Appendix A.

34. WINTER SERVICE REPORT – FOR INFORMATION (Report No. 12)

The KCC Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Waste commended the co-operative partnership with the District on winter services. They had collectively got a lot better over the past year. Another Members and a District Councillor not on the Board commended Officers for an extraordinary job. The Chairman believed Officers had informed the public of expected services and had achieved what they said they would.

Other Members wanted these comments qualified, stating that they believed there were clear problems in the north of the District and not all actions seemed completed in Swanley.

An Officer commented that secondary routes faced some difficulties which may have been because of an unfortunate number of accidents on the motorways causing motorway and trunk road traffic to divert to local roads causing long standing grid lock affecting the gritting lorries in falling snow conditions.

The report was noted.

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35. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – ENVIRONMENT HIGHWAYS AND WASTE POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCURTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS – FOR INFORMATION (Report No. 13)

The Chairman suggested in future such reports for information could be distributed to interested Members by way of URL links.

These reports were noted.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 8:06 P.M.

Chairman

