

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MAIDSTONE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2008

PRESENT: **Maidstone Borough Council**

Councillors Mrs Blackmore, English, Hinder,
Marchant, Parr and J.A. Wilson

Kent County Council

County Councillors Hotson (Chairman),
Chittenden, Curwood, Daley, and Mrs Stockell

KALC Representative

Mr I Ellis

ALSO PRESENT: **Councillors Ash and Gooch**

Apologies **Councillors Mrs Parvin, Robertson and Ross and
County Councillors Carter, Chell and Wood**

16. **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

There were no Substitute Members.

17. **NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS**

Councillor Ash indicated his wish to speak on Item 5.

18. **DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

Councillor Hinder declared a personal interest in Item 14 as he is a Parish
Councillor for Bredhurst.

19. **DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING**

Councillors Chittenden, Daley, Hinder, Parr and J A Wilson stated they had
been lobbied on Item 14.

20. **EXEMPT ITEMS**

RESOLVED: That the items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

21. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2008 be
approved as a correct record and signed.

22. QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Councillor Jones, Chairman of Bredhurst Parish Council, addressed the Board regarding the Report on Bredhurst Traffic Calming – Issues Raised during Public Consultation. Councillor Jones informed the Board of the background to the traffic calming measures being introduced in Bredhurst. There have been several consultation events. A questionnaire was sent to all 330 residents of Bredhurst and 222 voted in favour of the zebra crossing. Councillor Jones fully supported the Report of the Head of Countywide Improvements.

Councillor Mohabir, a Parish Councillor and a Governor of Bredhurst School, addressed the Board regarding the Report on Bredhurst Traffic Calming – Issues Raised during Public Consultation. Councillor Mohabir confirmed his support for the zebra crossing and he had been asked by Bredhurst School to pass on their full support for the zebra crossing.

23. ORAL UPDATE REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr Corcoran, Local Transport and Development Manager of Kent County Council, updated the Board on the following outstanding issues: -

Oakwood Hospital

An update report was circulated at the meeting (copy attached as Appendix A).

Petitions

An update report was circulated at the meeting (copy attached as Appendix B).

Pipkin

The Report on the second phase of Pipkin will be going to the Highways Advisory Board in November and then to this Board's meeting in January 2009.

Deaths and Serious Injuries Report

Mr Corcoran informed the Board that a separate workshop is being arranged jointly by MBC and KCC to present the findings in this Report.

Mr Moreton, Community Delivery Manager of Kent Highway Services, updated the Board on the following outstanding issues: -

Response to Overview and Scrutiny Report on Highways

The response had been circulated to Members under Item 11 of the Agenda.

Board members mentioned some of them were still getting complaints that Parishes were not being informed prior to works commencing, especially in Otham. The Board were informed that it was hoped the Parish Portal would be available in the next four weeks.

Reports to Future Meetings

Mr Moreton informed the Board that he would like to introduce agenda setting meetings and Chairman's briefing meetings to ensure realistic timescales were being set for reports. The Chairman and the Board agreed this would be very useful.

Parish Distribution Lists

Mr Moreton had taken on board the comments made earlier about some parishes being informed about highways works and some that were not. Mr Moreton would ask his Liaison Officer to contact all parish clerks to ensure the information currently held was correct.

Mr Moreton informed the Board that the current Updates on Works Progress would be replaced with a monthly report to parishes highlighting the outstanding issues and the timescales involved. Following a request, Mr Moreton agreed to give County Councillors in urban areas a report covering each area.

RESOLVED:

- (i). That a report on the Oakwood Hospital site be brought to the March meeting of the Board.
 - (ii) That the letter regarding HGV's and Keith Ferrin's decision be circulated to Board Members.
 - (iii) That an update on the timetable for the Countywide Freight Strategy be brought to the next meeting, together with costings for a full survey in the Borough of Maidstone and suggestions as to who could carry out this work.
 - (iv) That the results of the lorry survey carried out by the Freight Transport Association be brought to the next meeting.
 - (v) That details of the deaths and serious injuries workshop be circulated to all Board members.
24. DECriminalISED PARKING: THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 - CHANGES TO LEGISLATION AND REVISION OF THE DISTRICT/BOROUGH AGENCY AGREEMENTS

The Board considered the Report of the Parking Manager, Kent Highway Services regarding the Traffic Management Act 2004 (Part 6) Civil Enforcement of Parking which took effect in April 2008. It was noted that the most significant change was that the charge for a parking offence would vary according to the severity of the contravention.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

25. DISABLED PERSONS PARKING BAYS

The Board considered the Report of the Parking Manager, Kent Highway Services regarding the results of a consultation process on a review of the existing guidance and policy for disabled persons parking bays carried out

with a working party representing the County Council and the 12 District Councils.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

26. PUBLIC SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Board considered the Report of the Democratic Services Manager outlining new speaking arrangements for members of the public addressing the Board. The Board noted that Visiting Members and Parish Councils wishing to speak on a matter not on the Agenda, would need to do so as a member of the public.

RESOLVED: That the rules for speaking at Joint Transportation Board meetings be amended to the following:

That members of the public be allowed to speak at meetings of the Joint Transportation Board subject to the following criteria being met: -

- (a) Members of the public will only be allowed to speak at the specific agenda item for this purpose and this item will be included on the agenda following the Minutes and before consideration of Officer reports;
- (b) This item will last for a maximum period of thirty minutes.
- (c) Members of the public will be able to ask a question or express a view regarding any issue that falls within the terms of reference of the Joint Transportation Board
- (d) A member of the public will not be able to speak for more than three minutes.
- (e) Any member of the public wishing to speak on a topic that is not covered by an item on the agenda be informed that it may be the case that an answer cannot be given directly at the meeting, as the relevant officer or information might not be available.

27. STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN - KENT HIGHWAYS SERVICES COMMUNICATION WITH DISTRICT COUNCILS

The Board considered the Report of the Democratic Services Manager regarding the response from Kent County Council to the Joint Report of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Overview and Scrutiny members.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

28. OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC ORDERS

The Board considered the Report of the Assistant Director for Regulatory and Environmental Services regarding objections received in relation to the proposal Variation No 14 of the various traffic movements order relating to Rose Yard and Market Buildings. The Board noted that following a recent meeting between County and Borough officers, it had been agreed to look at possible alternative parking arrangements for those who had objected.

RESOLVED: That the Report be deferred until alternative parking arrangements had been investigated and an update be reported to the next meeting.

29. KCC INTEGRATED TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2008-09

The Board considered the Report of Head of Countywide Improvements regarding updates on the integrated transport improvement schemes that form part of this year's capital programme for Kent County Council. The Board welcomed the news that this Report would be on all future Agendas.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted

30. BREDHURST TRAFFIC CALMING – ISSUES RAISED DURING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Board considered the Report of Head of Countywide Improvements regarding an objection to the zebra crossing that forms part of Bredhurst village's traffic calming scheme. They were informed that the one objection received was due to the fact that the particular mobility scooter used by the objector's daughter was of an unusually large design. The majority of mobility scooters will be able to navigate around the telegraph pole to access the zebra crossing. The Board were informed that Kent County Council was looking at the possibility of moving the telegraph pole.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the receipt of a formal objection to the installation of a zebra crossing in Bredhurst be acknowledged.
- (ii) That, for the reasons stated in the Report of the Head of Countywide Improvement, the zebra crossing be installed as per the public consultation and exhibition carried out on 20 September 2008.

31. DURATION OF MEETING

5.00 p.m. to 6.55 p.m.

Update on the Oakwood Hospital Housing Site Funding for Public Transport

A report by the Head of Transport & Development to the Joint Transportation Board

Background

1. A sum of £200,000 was negotiated from the housing development on the Old Hospital site between Hermitage Lane & Queens Road as reported to this Board in August 2005. This money is intended for improvements to public transport which are reasonably required as a result of the Oakwood Development.
2. The money was to be paid in two equal parts of £100,000 index linked with the first being paid before occupation of the 40th unit and the balance upon the provision of a bus-only link between Hermitage Lane in the west and Queens Road in the east through the site.
3. The first £108,000 has recently been received by Kent Highway Services from the Borough Council.

Expenditure of the Money

4. Details of how this money is to be spent have been left to the agreement of this Board and as such a report was submitted to its August 2005 meeting. The report outlined for Members a number of items that the money could be spent on. These included bus stops, bus priority measures, real time information, improvements to footways and works within the Hospital site to improve access for public transport.
5. Unfortunately little progress has been made on these projects over the last two years. Following a recent meeting between Kent Highway Services and Maidstone Borough Council it has been agreed that, due to the time lapse since the original proposals, it would be necessary to carry out a consultation with the residents, local members, the bus companies and the hospital to see if they are still relevant and request any other ideas for the expenditure of the money.
6. The results of this consultation will be reported back to this board in March for a decision to proceed with design and implementation.

Bus Only Link

7. The payment of the second £100,000 is conditional to the provision, by the developer, of bus-only link between Hermitage Lane in the west and Queens Road in the east through the site. There have been ongoing negotiations with the developer concerning the provision of this link.
8. Following the recent meeting between Kent Highway Services and Maidstone Borough Council and it has been agreed that Kent Highway Services will provide a design and cost estimate to the developer for these works. The developer will then be requested to pay this amount and the further £100,000 and Kent Highway Services will carry out the necessary consultations and works. This will then discharge the developer from their condition.

Accountable Officer:

Andy Corcoran 01622 798378

Petitions submitted to Kent Highway Services

A report by the Head of Transport & Development to the Joint Transportation Board

Summary

1. A report to make the Board aware of petitions received by Kent Highway Services. Copies of the full petitions can be viewed by request. Updates on the progress of these petitions will be reported to future meetings on this Board.

Traffic Calming Measures, Heath Road, Coxheath

2. A petition has been submitted by some 59 residents, lead by Mr A R Monk of Westerhill Road Coxheath. It seeks action to improve the traffic calming measures installed along Heath Road, Coxheath as the petitioners feel these are currently dangerous.
3. Kent Highway Services are currently improving the signing of the scheme and are in discussions with the local Members and the Parish Council concerning the design and further potential improvements to the scheme.
4. Officers have responded to the lead petitioner to let him know that the residents' concerns have been reported to this Board and that discussions are taking place with respect to further improvements.

Safe Crossing for Marden Road, Staplehurst

5. A petition has been submitted by Staplehurst Parish Council with over 150 signatures requesting a safer crossing in the Marden Road, Staplehurst.
6. Kent Highway Services are investigating this request with a view of submitting a bid for the provision of a crossing as part of the Integrated Transport Programme for Kent.
7. Officers have responded to the Parish Council informing them their concerns have been reported to this Board and that investigations are ongoing.

Closure of Pheasant Lane, Maidstone South

8. A petition has been submitted by some 120 residents, lead by Mr David Fraiss of Osborne House, Loose Road of the Pheasant Lane Action Group seeking the closure of Pheasant Lane to vehicles other than for residential access. The petitioners feel the lane is being used as a rat run, is too narrow for the volume of traffic, has too many blind bends with drivers driving too fast and pedestrians are at great risk.
9. Kent Highway Services are investigating this request and intend to carry out a consultation with residents, Members and statutory bodies including the police & emergency services to gain their views on a potential closure. This consultation is proposed to start by the end of October and the results will be reported back to the next meeting of this Board for a decision on whether to proceed.
10. Keith Ferrin, the Cabinet Member for Highways, and Officers have meet with the lead petitioners informing them their concerns have been reported to this Board and that a consultation will be undertaken.

Request for the Implementation of a Weight Restriction through Yalding

11. A petition has been submitted by Yalding Parish Council with over 570 signatures supporting a previous request for a weight restriction through Yalding and that surveys of lorry movements through Yalding and East Farleigh be undertaken.
12. It has previously been agreed that no further work on this issue be carried out until the Countywide Freight Strategy for Kent has been adopted.
13. Officers have responded to the Parish Council informing them their petition will be reported to this Board and the Highways Advisory Board.

Accountable Officer: Andy Corcoran 01622 798378