

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2011 at 6.00 pm in Council Chamber, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Harry Scobie (Chairman); Councillors Burgess (Kent County Council), Aldred, Alexandrou, Ezekiel, S Hart, Savage, Sullivan, S Tomlinson, Bayford (Kent County Council), Hayton (Kent County Council), Hibberd (Kent County Council), Jarvis (Kent County Council), Kirby (Kent County Council) and Wells (Kent County Council)

In Attendance: Councillors Fenner, Gregory, C Hart, Johnston & Poole
Paul Valek, District Manager, Kent Highway Services
Steve Darling, Safety Critical Schemes Engineer, Kent Highway Services
Robin Chantrill-Smith, Civil Enforcement Manager, Thanet District Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF PETITIONS - KENT HIGHWAYS SERVICES

Paul Valek, District Manager, announced that two petitions, relating to the following matters, had been received by Kent Highway Services:

1. Car Parking, Kent Gardens, Birchington (Lead Petitioners: Mrs Sylvia Whitlock, Mrs B Bushall and Mrs P Bird)
2. Increased Pedestrian Road Safety, St Gregory's RC Primary School and Salmestone Ward (Lead Petitioners: Mrs Fay Shuttle).

Paul confirmed that acknowledgements had been sent to the lead petitioners.

VARIATION OF AGENDA

On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed that "Westfield Road, Margate – Parking and Waiting Restrictions" – be taken directly after Agenda Item 3 – "Minutes of Previous Meeting", to enable Councillor Gregory (*who had requested to speak under Council Rule 24.1*) to attend another meeting.

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Amendment

It was noted that "Kirstie Lewis" (Minute No. 10, Page 5) should read "Katie Lewis".

On the proposal of Councillor Jarvis, seconded by Councillor Ezekiel, the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2011 were approved, subject to this amendment.

Matters Arising

Paul Valek, District Manager, provided updates on minutes on the following topics:

- (a) **A254 & A256 AT WESTWOOD - PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION (Minute No. 6)**
1. A further extension to the reduced speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on the A254 Margate/Ramsgate Road would require the re-advertisement of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO);
 2. A decision had been taken at senior level not to progress this further extension as:
 - i. It would delay the original proposal resulting in an implementation after the completion of the road-widening scheme;
 - ii. It did not have the support of Kent Police, who had advised that it was not suitable for the road conditions on the stretch of road in question;
 - iii. It would lessen the impact on the approach to the Westwood roundabout, where it was most required, and there would be no “gateway feature” as road users entered the built-up section, reminding them of the 30 mph speed limit (*30 mph repeater signs not being permitted in street-lit areas*).

Members of the Board asked that their dismay at receiving this feedback at this time, be recorded, given the lengthy debate that had taken place at the previous meeting and Members not having received any communication/ update prior to this meeting.

It was suggested that responses from all statutory consultative bodies should be reported to the Board before a decision is taken.

Decision-Making Process

It was requested that an item entitled, “decision-making process”, be placed on a future agenda of the Board.

Pre-meeting for Kent County Council Members

Paul Valek explained that a pre-meeting had not taken place for Kent County Council Members prior to this meeting, owing to the recent Kent County Council staff restructure, but he assured Members that this would be held for future meetings of the Board.

(b) **Report by Drainage Manager - Minute No. 10**

Paul Valek apologised on behalf of the newly appointed Drainage Manager that a report to cover issues previously raised by Members was not available for this meeting.

A full report would, however, be made to the next meeting of the Board.

17. **WESTFIELD ROAD, MARGATE - PARKING AND WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

Speaking under Council Procedure Rule No. 24.1, Councillor Gregory re-iterated that the safety of children walking to and from Garlinge Primary School took precedence over the protection of car parking spaces.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor Ezekiel:

“that on safety grounds, Recommendation 7.1 of the report be adopted, namely:

To approve the implementation of a revised proposal that waiting should be prohibited at all times for 15 metres in each direction on the Westfield Road arm of each of the junctions with Burlington Gardens and Waverley Road with a 10 metres prohibition being applied on each side of Burlington Gardens and Waverley Road at their junctions with Westfield Road.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

The need for policing restrictions was stressed by a Member.

18. PETITION FOR A PELICAN CROSSING ON HERESON ROAD, RAMSGATE (NR TESCO'S AND THE NORTH POLE INN)

Speaking under Council Procedure Rule 24.1, Councillor Poole stated that, although a pelican crossing which had been petitioned for on the grounds of perceived safety had reportedly not been possible, an upgrade to the existing zebra crossing, as referred to in the report, would be welcomed.

He thanked Councillor Hayton for his offer to process an investigation into an upgrade through the Member Highway Fund.

Councillor Hayton stated that he hoped to have a residue to use for the upgrade, but could not give a commitment at the present time.

Councillor Bayford, who offered to contribute to the costs of the scheme out of his Member Highway Fund, proposed and Councillor Hayton seconded that Recommendations 5.1 & 5.2 of the report be adopted, namely:

1. to note the proposed investigation into the zebra crossing, through the Member Highway Fund;
2. to advise the lead petitioner accordingly.

On being put to the meeting, the motion was DECLARED CARRIED.

PROCESS OF SUBMITTING PETITIONS TO THE BOARD

In response to a query by Councillor Kirby, Paul Valek, District Manager, stated that the process of taking petitions to the Board was governed by the number of signatures on the petitions.

19. PETITION - ST MARY'S AVENUE, MARGATE - PARKING ON VERGES

It was proposed by Councillor Burgess, and seconded by Councillor S Tomlinson:

“that Recommendations of the report be adopted, namely:

1. to note the work carried out on the verge damage;
2. to note the proposed investigation into the installation of bollards through the Member Highway Fund;
3. to advise the lead petitioner accordingly.”

MOTION ADOPTED.

Paul Valek, District Manager, noted from a Member that the parking of vans and trucks on the grass verge at Friendly Close was giving rise to particular concerns for local residents.

20. ETHELBERT CRESCENT MARGATE - ZEBRA CROSSING AND KERB BUILD OUTS

It was proposed by Councillor S Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor Burgess:

“that it be noted that funding is to be fully delivered by Kent County Councillors Michael Jarvis and Chris Wells and that, as no objections were raised through public consultation, the scheme will be programmed for construction in early 2012”.

MOTION ADOPTED.

21. BROADLEY ROAD, MARGATE- PROHIBITION OF DRIVING

Although the proposed cycle route was welcomed, concern was expressed about cyclists' safety upon exiting this route.

It was proposed by Councillor Hayton, and seconded by Councillor Ezekiel:

1. that the recommendations contained in the report be adopted, namely:
 - i. to make the 'Kent County Council (Broadley Road, Thanet) (Prohibition of Driving) Order 2011', as advertised;
 - ii. to implement the measures outlined in Para 3.1 and to install the additional warning signs as outlined in Para 3.5, in support of the Order;
 - iii. to progress a further package of improvements as outlined in Para 3.4, as and when funding becomes available;
2. that schools in the vicinity of Broadley Road be asked to report to Kent Highway Services on any “near misses” or concerns regarding the safety of cyclists of which they became aware.

MOTION ADOPTED.

22. HIGHWAY WORKS PROGRAMME

(a) **Annex B5 - Weather Damage Repairs**

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Paul provided a verbal update as follows:

- a) £6.5 m had been made available for road repairs across Kent. This was split: £2.5m (of which Thanet's share was £220K) for pothole and patch work; and £4m, for preventative treatment in the form of surface dressing and micro surfacing.
- b) The roads identified in Thanet for preventative treatment were:

Poor Hole Lane, Broadstairs
George Hill Road, Broadstairs

Acol Hill, Acol
 Spitfire Way, Minster
 Manston Road, Manston
 Woodchruich Road, Margate
 St Peter's Road, Margate
 Violet Avenue, Ramsgate
 Bush Avenue, Ramsgate
 Vale Road, Broadstairs (*deferred*)
 Luton Avenue, Broadstairs
 Crescent Road, Birchington (*deferred*).

- c) All of those schemes had been completed, with the exception of Vale Road, Broadstairs and Crescent Road, Birchington, which had had to be deferred.

Speaking under Council Procedure Rule 24.1, Councillor Johnston raised the following issues:

(b) **Bridge Works - Seaview Terrace West, Margate - Annex D1**

Paul Valek reported that there was a possibility that the land would be developed, in which case the toilet block might be removed; that it was necessary to ascertain if there was a commercial interest; and that until that happened, funds could not be committed.

(c) **Union Row, Margate - Traffic Conditions**

Paul Valek undertook to provide an update on the scheme that had been proposed at a previous meeting of the Board.

(d) **Andrews Passage, Margate**

Paul Valek reported that the site had been visited by a Structural Engineer the previous week and that a full report with recommendations would be brought to the next meeting of the Board. In the meantime, temporary measures would be taken to make the railings safe and secure.

(e) **Railings - Margate Seafront**

Paul Valek reported that he had spoken to the Structures Manager that day (6 September 2011) and that, in view of the uncertainty around who was responsible for maintenance, investigations would now be made into previous ownership, agreements etc via their Legal Team.

Councillor Bayford suggested that the TDC Engineer be also consulted.

The following issue was raised by Councillors Hibberd and Bayford.

(f) **Works by Southern Gas Network**

Concerns were expressed by Councillors Hibberd & Bayford about South Gas Network's work in Thanet:

1. **Tothill Street, Minster:** Councillor Hibberd was aware that surfacing works had been postponed due to the proposed SGN works and asked for an update on when the SGN works were due and when the surfacing works would be completed.
2. **SGN's Programme of Mains Replacement in Thanet:** Councillor Hibberd asked to be updated on SGN's programme as the works in Hawley Street, Margate had been problematic.

3. **Harbour Street, Broadstairs:** Councillor Bayford was under the impression that no works would take place in Harbour Street, Broadstairs for five years, as promised to traders, and asked for clarification on this issue.

Paul Valek stated that he would provide an update at the next meeting of the Board.

23. HIGH STREET, MARGATE (FROM MARINE GARDENS TO GROSVENOR HILL) - SPEEDING TRAFFIC AND ANTI-SOCIAL DRIVING

Councillor Johnston spoke under Council Procedure Rule 24.1 and, in doing so, referred to the letter to Board Members from Rebecca Smith, Vice-Chairman of Margate Town Partnership, (letter circulated to Members immediately prior to the meeting), requesting the Board to ask for an Officer report investigating pedestrianisation as a positive solution to speeding traffic and to encourage business to thrive in the area.

Councillor Johnston also called for the option of pedestrianisation to be looked into.

During a discussion that ensued, the merits of TDC Ward Councillors leading on an informal consultation with traders regarding an extension of time on pedestrianisation were considered. It was also suggested that Officers consider the possibility of installing speed bumps on upper High Street.

In response to a query as to whether two consultations could proceed hand-in-hand, Paul Valek pointed out that consultation on pedestrianisation would take much longer than that on speed limit reduction, owing to the complexities it would involve, and that Officers' remit had been confined to coming up with a solution to speeding vehicles.

It was proposed by Councillor Wells, and seconded by Councillor Ezekiel:

“that Recommendation 3.1 of the report be adopted, namely:

‘to grant approval for KCC to advertise, consult on and implement (if no objections received) the Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph on upper High Street, Margate’ “.

MOTION ADOPTED

24. REPORTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT, HIGHWAYS AND WASTE POLICY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 5 JULY 2011

It was AGREED that the following reports on the KCC website, hyperlinks to which had been provided on the Agenda, be NOTED.

- (a) **Winter Service 2010/11 Review**
- (b) **Member Highways Fund**

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board would take place at 6.00 pm on Wednesday, 23 November 2011.

Meeting concluded : 7.46 pm