
SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Monday, 8 December 2014 from 5.30 - 6.50 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Bryan Mulhern, Prescott, Ken Pugh, Ghlin Whelan, Mike Whiting (Vice-Chairman) and Tony Winckless.

Kent County Councillors: Mike Baldock, Tom Gates (Chairman), Lee Burgess, Adrian Crowther, Harrison and Roger Truelove.

Kent Association of Local Councils: Councillors Dave Austin, Peter Macdonald and Richard Palmer.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Alan Blackburn (KCC Officer), Philippa Davies, Mike Knowles and Brian Planner.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Mike Haywood and David Simmons.

APOLOGIES: Kent County Councillor Bowles, Parish Councillor Keith Johnson and Councillor Pat Sandle.

388 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2014 (Minute Nos. 213 – 223) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to recording that Councillor Mike Baldock was the seconder for the proposal on Minute No. 219 (Lansdowne Primary School).

389 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

390 PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public had registered to speak on this item.

Part One - Minutes for recommendation to Kent County Council's Cabinet

The Chairman explained that 'The speed limit on the B2006 (Staplehurst Road, Sittingbourne)' item was an Information Item and was considered as such and minuted under Part Three of the minutes.

Part Two - Minutes for recommendation to Swale Borough Council's Cabinet

391 VARIOUS WAITING RESTRICTIONS

The Engineer introduced the report which provided a summary of recent informal consultation results with residents and formal consultees on various proposed waiting restrictions in the Borough.

A Ward Member spoke in support of the recommendations for Bank Street, Faversham and Newton Road, Faversham. He raised concern with the proposal to change single yellow

line times on Preston Street, Faversham. He considered the proposed restrictions from 8.30am to 5.00pm were too early in the evening as this was the peak period for commuters leaving the station, and because of bus traffic along Preston Street. He considered the earlier time would increase congestion and cause chaos.

Councillor Bryan Mulhern proposed an amendment to the time, from 8.30am to 6.00pm. This was seconded by Councillor Ken Pugh.

Members spoke in support of the amendment to the proposal. They considered buses had difficulty turning into Preston Street, and that 5.00pm was too early. On being put to the vote the amended proposal was agreed.

Recommended:

(1) That the proposed amendments to waiting restrictions in South Road and Preston Street (restrictions 8.30am to 6.00pm), Faversham be progressed.

(2) That proposed amendments to waiting restrictions in Bank Street and Newton Road, Faversham be abandoned.

392 FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

The Engineer introduced the report which provided a summary of formal objections received to a recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order for amendments to various waiting restrictions in the Swale area. He explained that an email had been received in relation to Harold Road/Thomas Road, Sittingbourne, in objection to the proposals.

Members spoke on the proposals.

Borden Lane, Sittingbourne – proposed ‘School Keep Clear’ markings

A Ward Member considered the proposal implied that Borden Lane would be used as a drop-off point for Westlands Primary School which he considered was not feasible, as it was already a congested road. He raised concern with safety issues and the volume of traffic on the road. The Ward Member considered the School Travel Plan needed to be in place and the entrance be used as a pedestrian entrance, not a drop-off point, without the need for ‘Keep Clear’ markings.

Kent County Council (KCC) Councillor Roger Truelove moved a motion to defer the proposal until a School Travel Plan had been produced, so that a workable pedestrian access could be implemented. This was seconded by KCC Councillor Mike Baldock. On being put to the vote, the motion for deferral was agreed.

Harold Road/Thomas Road, Sittingbourne – extension of Double Yellow Lines

A Ward Member spoke in favour of the proposal to extend the double yellow lines. He raised concerns with safety and the inability for emergency vehicles to access the road when cars were parked there. He suggested that access points be installed to allow access for emergency vehicles.

Members raised the following points: understand that emergency vehicles needed access, but residents also needed somewhere to park; a joined-up approach was required with planning/parking; parking was always a problem in areas where there was terraced housing; peoples lives cannot be put at risk in a situation where emergency vehicles cannot get access; parking had to be restricted to allow access; waste collection vehicles also required access; and this type of issue also occurred on new housing developments.

With reference to paragraph three on page 43 of the report, a Member sought clarification on whether residents would be penalised for parking 'one wheel on, one wheel off' the pavement. A Member explained that so long as a metre was left on the pavement for pedestrian access, traffic wardens would not penalise drivers.

The Head of Service Delivery advised that enforcement could only be carried out where there was a traffic order in place, so not on a pavement if there were no yellow lines; the Police would get involved if there were obstruction issues.

KCC Members, Ward Members and officers agreed to meet to look into the possibility of installing access barriers for the emergency services.

Belvedere Road, Faversham – Proposed double yellow lines

A Ward Member explained that the parking problem occurred during the working day, by commuter traffic and suggested that restrictions be put in place during the middle of the day, and extended further along Belvedere Road as there were pinch-points.

Councillor Bryan Mulhern proposed that the matter be deferred to the March 2015 meeting of the Board for further consultation so that a better solution could be reached. This was seconded by Councillor Mike Whiting.

The Engineer reported that parking along Belvedere Road was residents, rather than commuters. He advised that a one-hour parking restriction, put in some areas to restrict commuter parking, would not be appropriate in this location. Parking on the pinch-points raised emergency access issues.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion for deferral was agreed.

Preston Street, Faversham – proposed double yellow lines and residents' parking

A Ward Member welcomed the proposal.

Recommended:

- (1) That the proposed amendments to waiting restrictions on Borden Lane, Sittingbourne be deferred to allow a School Travel Plan to be produced.***
- (2) That the extension of double yellow lines on Harold Road/Thomas Road, Sittingbourne be progressed.***
- (3) That the proposed amendments to waiting restrictions on Belvedere Road, Faversham be deferred for further consultation so that a better solution could be reached.***
- (4) That the proposed double yellow lines and residents' parking on Preston Street, Faversham be progressed.***

Part Three - Information items

393 THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE B2006 (STAPLEHURST ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE)

The report outlined the response to the request for a lower speed limit, highlighting current County Council policy and national guidance.

Recommended:

- (1) That the report be noted.***

394 HIGHWAY WORKS PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Board considered the Highway Works Programme which updated Members on the identified schemes approved for consultation in 2014/15. Members went through the report and made the following comments:

Page 55

Members congratulated officers for the work carried out on The Broadway, Minster, and also for the work carried out to repair potholes on The Broadway, Sheerness.

Page 57

Concern with drainage on Milton Road, from Milton Creek; an update was needed.

Officers were thanked for drainage work carried out in the Borden area.

Page 65

School Lane, Iwade – there was mud on the road and pinch-points were not lit well or signposted; illuminated signs were needed as it was quite dangerous and confusing.

Page 66

Disappointed that traffic lights at Morrisons in Sittingbourne were not linked with the retail park

The District Manager explained that there was an error in the report and he reminded Members that the JTB meeting in June 2014 had not wanted a ban on the right hand turn from Lower Road to Barton Hill Road.

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In response to a question, the District Manager advised that a consultant had been employed to carry out the further design work on the A2/A251 junction at Faversham and this should take place during the first half of 2015.

A Member clarified the options for a new footway at Highsted Road, Sittingbourne and explained that negotiations had stalled as the preferred side for the footway was not available to use as residents were unwilling to give up the land and the other side was too expensive to take forward as a footway.

Lorry route signing had been implemented in Faversham, but this had not addressed all the access problems, with lorries still getting stuck.

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Officers were thanked for the work carried out at the junction of Swale Way/Lloyd Drive, Sittingbourne.

Recommended:

(1) That the report be noted.

395 PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered the report that gave an update on the progress made in relation to previous recommendations by the Board.

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The District Manager agreed to forward a suggestion that there be a cycle route from Cowstead Corner to Minster to the Strategic Transportation Officer.

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A Member requested that a letter be written to the KCC Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to request a copy of the draft Swale Transportation Strategy for discussion with local Members.

A Member requested that a letter be written to the KCC Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to request an update on the Sheppey Crossing.

Recommended:

(1) That the report be noted.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee.