
SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Monday, 4 July 2016 from 5.30pm - 6.37pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Cameron Beart, Bobbin (substitute for Councillor Prescott), Mike Cosgrove (substitute for Councillor Bryan Mulhern), Sue Gent (substitute for Councillor Ken Pugh) and Ghlin Whelan.

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

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Martyn Cassell, Philippa Davies, Mike Knowles, Kieren Mansfield and Kirstie Williams.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Mike Henderson, Alan Horton and James Hunt and Parish Councillor Peter Finch.

APOLOGIES: Councillors June Garrad, Bryan Mulhern, Prescott, Ken Pugh and Mike Whiting.

766 CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved:

(1) Kent County Councillor Andrew Bowles was confirmed as Chairman for the 2016-17 municipal year.

(2) Swale Borough Councillor Mike Whiting was confirmed as Vice-Chairman for the 2016-17 municipal year.

767 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the evacuation procedure.

768 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 March 2016 (Minute Nos. 561 – 574) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

769 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

770 PUBLIC SESSION

Parish Councillor Peter Macdonald, Minster-on-Sea Parish Council, requested that in the interests of road safety and quality of life, Elm Lane, Bell Farm Lane, Plough Road and Oak Lane, on the Isle of Sheppey, be designated as quiet lanes, restricting vehicles to a maximum speed of 20mph. He read out his statement which was also tabled at the meeting. Mr Macdonald reported that Minster-on-Sea Parish Council sought the support of the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) in pursuing Quiet Lane status for these lanes.

The Mid Kent Highway Manager explained that although Kent County Council (KCC) did not fund quiet lanes, they did support them. Once a lane was designated a quiet lane, KCC would adapt their maintenance of the lane accordingly.

Members made the following comments: pleased to see this come forward; happy that the JTB supported this initiative; Elm Lane was a dangerous lane; do not consider the lanes were maintained anyway; supported the increase of quiet lanes; too much maintenance will allow vehicles to travel faster, hedges helped to slow cars down, smoother surface allowed cars to go faster; and do not cut hedges back, let them overhang as this would make the lane more rural.

Recommended:

(1) That the JTB unanimously supports Minster-on-Sea Parish Council in pursuing Quiet Lane Status on Elm Lane, Bell Farm Lane, Plough Road and Oak Lane, on the Isle of Sheppey.

771 IMPROVEMENTS TO THE A2500 LOWER ROAD, ISLE OF SHEPPEY

This report provided an update to the joint working between Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council for improvements to the junction between Barton Hill Drive and the Lower Road on the Isle of Sheppey, together with the potential improvements to the A2500, between Cowstead Corner and the above junction.

The Economy and Community Services Manager provided a further update. He advised that Section 106 Agreement funds were anticipated to be £540,000. The price of the scheme was £1.804million, with a funding gap of £1.264million. He reported that the scheme was listed sixth in the priority list for Kent and Medway for the purposes of the current round of Local Growth Fund, and would go forward to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. The projects allocated funding would be announced in the 2016 Autumn Statement. In response to question, the Economy and Community Services Manager explained that although cycle-ways had been discussed, they were not promoted through the round of growth funding, as this was solely for the new roundabout junction at Barton Hill Drive.

Members raised the following points: cycle-ways should be included as part of the design work going forward, so that there was a facility for cyclists; thought the cycle path was going to be included within the road widening scheme, rather than the roundabout scheme; it would be preferable to facilitate a cycle route off the highway, as these were dangerous roads; and concerned that costs were increasing.

The Chairman stated that he would take the initiative of including the cycle-ways when looking at the widening scheme, back to KCC.

Recommended:

(1) That the report be noted.

772 SWALE HIGHWAY WORKS PROGRAMME

The Board considered the report which provided an update on the identified schemes approved for consultation in 2016/17.

Members went through the report and the following comments and responses were made:

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A Member reported that the work on Stickfast Lane, Iwade, had already started to crack, and the road had flooded since the works had been carried out.

A KALC representative considered that re-alignment of the junction at Barton Hill Drive/Lower Road, Minster and Barton Hill Drive/Plover Road, Minster was a waste of money. He suggested that in the short-term, as an emergency, to keep the traffic flowing, that the traffic lights be disabled and there be no right turn from Eastchurch with access to the hospital via Thistle Hill Road and Plover Road, and no right turn from Barton Hill Drive; traffic would filter left and use the Thistle Hill roundabout to go towards the A249. Members raised concern with the increased journey to the hospital; holiday-makers not knowing the short-cuts; signage costs; and disadvantages in making a U-turn. Members agreed with the restrictions that were suggested. The Mid Kent Highway Manager agreed to take these comments back to KCC.

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The Mid Kent Highway Manager undertook to forward an update on Staplehurst Road, Sittingbourne to the JTB.

A Member raised concern with right turn lane junctions, specifically at Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch, as this increased the speed of traffic and was dangerous for emergency vehicles.

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A Member raised concern with the double yellow lines on both corners of Lynsted Road, Halfway Houses, Isle of Sheppey, and the safety implications of two-way cycle path going down a one-way street. The Mid Kent Highway Manager undertook to report this back to KCC.

The Mid Kent Highway Manager undertook to provide an update on the Old Water Works site, Rook Lane, Bobbing and Rook Lane/Keycol Hill, Bobbing signs.

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A Member requested that a '20's Plenty' in Faversham update be provided within Appendix F.

The Mid Kent Highway Manager undertook to provide an update on the school safety zone outside Bobbing Village School.

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The Mid Kent Highway Manager undertook to provide a public rights of way economic analysis to Members.

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The Mid Kent Highway Manager undertook to provide an update on progress of the bridge works on the creek in Faversham to Members.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

773 PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT

Members considered the report that gave an update on the progress made regarding various schemes in the Borough.

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590/03/12 – an update was requested on the status of re-positioning the 30mph boundary sign.

A Member requested further information on the Lower Road Junction with Barton Hill Drive, Isle of Sheppey. The Mid Kent Highway Manager undertook to forward more details to Members.

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A Member requested an update on what was recorded on the comments for the Swale Rail item.

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A Member requested further information on funding possibilities from a Member's grant for the pedestrian crossing at South Avenue School, Sittingbourne. The Mid Kent Highway Manager undertook to forward the information.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

Chairman

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