
SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Monday, 26 June 2017 from 5.30 - 7.55 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Mike Baldock, Cameron Beart, Booth, James Hunt, Ken Ingleton (Chairman), Bryan Mulhern, and David Simmons.

Kent County Councillors Andy Booth, Sue Gent, Antony Hook, Ken Pugh, Mike Whiting and John Wright.

Kent Association of Local Councils: Parish Councillors Peter MacDonald, Richard Palmer and Amanda Saunders (substitute for Parish Councillor Dave Austin).

OFFICERS PRESENT: Martyn Cassell, Kellie MacKenzie, Richard Shelton and Kirstie Williams.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Mike Henderson, Alan Horton, George Samuel, Roger Truelove and Ghlin Whelan.

APOLOGIES: County Councillor Bowles and Parish Councillor Dave Austin.

65 CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Resolved:

(1) Councillor Ken Ingleton was confirmed as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

(2) County Councillor Bowles was confirmed as Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

66 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman ensured that those present were aware of the emergency evacuation procedure.

67 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 March 2017 (Minute Nos. 1273 – 1278) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

69 PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Brian Clark presented a statement and petition on behalf of local residents which sought parking restrictions in Highsted Road, Sittingbourne between 10am and 11pm Monday to Friday. The statement and petition was also tabled for Members. Mr Clark spoke about the traffic problems caused in Highsted Road, following the opening of the Swanstree Avenue link road some seven years ago, and the parking problems experienced by local residents on a daily basis. He stated that the way vehicles were parked was a danger to other road users and pedestrians. Mr Clark raised concern that there was no footpath along the section of the road between Farm Crescent and the junction of Swanstree Avenue with children and mothers with prams having to walk in the road. Mr Clark requested that the issues were looked at and that it was more luck than judgement that no serious accidents had occurred.

Kent County Councillor John Wright supported the petition. He stated that Highsted Road, Bell Road and Brenchley Road were the sites of the three major service areas and that there was significant traffic congestion and highway safety issues in the area. He urged officers to look at this in conjunction with the wider issues.

Councillor Roger Truelove (previous Kent County Councillor for the area) stated that their would be no solution to the issues raised without the cooperation of the Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital and Highsted Grammar School.

The Chairman accepted the petition and advised that a report would be written and submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

Mr Simon Harwood, spoke on behalf of local residents, other parents and governors of Tunstall Primary School, Tunstall Parish Councillors and drivers in the local vicinity who had signed the petition to provide Tunstall School with a Pedestrian Crossing. Mr Harwood drew attention to Minute No. 1227/03/17 on page 94 of the Progress Update Report, and stated that a KCC School Crossing Patrol was not in place as stated in the report, and that the school was struggling to fill the position.

Mr Harwood did not consider the proposed crossing patrol was adequate as there were two crossing points to the school, and the crossing patrol would only cover one of these for 30 minutes in the morning and afternoon, and also funding was not guaranteed in the future. Mr Harwood stated that both crossings were ambiguous, both to drivers and pedestrians alike, and whilst vehicles had the right of way it was not always clear if vehicles were stopping in both directions leading to confusion, risk and danger to pedestrians. He explained that Tunstall Road provided busy access to and from south Sittingbourne and the School was increasingly being used as a community facility and that school operating hours were not restricted to 9am to 3.30pm, but were actually operating from 8am to 6pm. Mr Harwood asked officers to reconsider the request and support formalising both crossings which he considered would significantly reduce the risks of an accident involving a pedestrian.

County Councillor John Wright supported the request and raised points which included: the number of pupils at the school was set to increase so the issues would increase; shame the report did not include a map; Tunstall Road was a

primary cut-through to the A249 so was a busy road despite the road humps; the prioritisation signs were not adequate at the junction of Cranbrook Road and Tunstall Road; there should be interactive flashing school warning signs along Tunstall Road; the situation would only get worse as the town grew and the area becomes more of a thoroughfare through to the A249; and request a more detailed response by officers regarding prudent improvement measures.

A Member recalled that when the planning application for the school was being considered, concerns were raised about the potential for increased traffic, however the reports from KCC Highways and Transportation had anticipated that traffic flows would be reduced. He suggested looking again at these reports and that KCC be requested to mitigate the impacts that they failed to predict.

Councillor George Samuel, a Ward Member, was disappointed with the response from KCC. He noted that the school patrol would not cover all the times when children were likely to be crossing, and was concerned about what happened if the crossing patrol person was not available or if funding was not available. He considered a controlled pedestrian crossing would offer a more permanent solution and mitigate future problems and also requested a more in-depth response from KCC.

County Councillor John Wright moved the following motion: That KCC Highways and Transportation provide a more in-depth report on the proposals for providing Tunstall School with a Pedestrian Crossing for consideration at a future meeting of the Board. This was seconded and agreed by Members.

Recommended:

- (1) That KCC Highways and Transportation provide a more in-depth report on the proposals for providing Tunstall School with a pedestrian crossing for consideration at a future meeting of the Board.***

70 PETITION FOR RESIDENTS PARKING - SCHOOL ROAD, FAVERSHAM - UPDATE REPORT

The Interim Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact introduced the report which provided a summary of the results of the recent consultation with residents of School Road, Plantation Road and Kings Road in Faversham as to whether they would support the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in their road. He then outlined the recommendations set out in the report for Members.

The Cabinet Member for Safer Families and Communities, drew attention to the results of the consultation set out at Annex C of the Committee report for a parking scheme in School Road, Faversham. He considered that some of the comments raised objecting to the scheme demonstrated a lack of understanding about how the permit scheme worked, and noted that the scheme was overwhelmingly supported.

Members considered the results of the consultation and raised points which included: concern about how the consultation was pursued; the Electoral Register could have been used as it was a public document; fully support proposals for the

scheme in School Road as local residents had been concerned for some time; School Road was very narrow with parking on the residential side only, so consider it should not be operated under the parking vouchers scheme, but with permit parking only; and were the Ward Member and County Member advised when consultation letters were sent out?

In response to concerns about the poor response rate and access to personal information on properties, the Interim Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact agreed to look at how the process for consultations could be improved. He agreed that the Ward Members and County Members should be informed when consultation letters were sent out. With regard to the Electoral Register, the Interim Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact explained that residents could opt-out of having their details on the register, so it would not necessarily help and advised that officers were looking at other more intuitive ways to engage with residents.

Recommended:

- (1) That a Residents Parking Scheme is introduced in School Road, Faversham.***
- (2) That Plantation Road is included in the Residents Parking Scheme.***
- (3) That a Residents Parking Scheme is not introduced in Kings Road, Faversham.***

71 FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER SWALE AMENDMENT 6

The Interim Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact introduced the report which provided a summary of formal objections and support received in relation to the recently advertised Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Swale Amendment 6. The Interim Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact outlined the recommendations for Members.

A Member queried how the funding for the Ranelagh Road, Sheerness item was to be progressed as the County Member that had supported the scheme had not been re-elected? The Interim Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact stated that the reporting timescales had crossed over with the election period and officers would need to liaise with the current County Members about whether they would be able to fund the item.

The Mid-Kent Highway Manager confirmed that none of the County Member Highway Funding had been rolled-over to new Members. In response to a query she agreed to let Members know how much funding was required for the Ranelagh Road scheme.

A Member proposed that the Ranelagh Road item be deferred to allow discussion with the County Members to consider whether they would fund the scheme. Discussion ensued and Members agreed to support the scheme.

Members raised points which included: supported yellow lines in Ranelagh Road as footpath at the end of Stroud Crescent was very narrow; note the complaint on page 47 of the report about parking in the area which flagged-up that the planners needed to be more proactive in collecting Section 106 monies from developers and ensuring there was a more adequate contribution to provision of car parking; and supported the yellow lines in Ospringe Place, Faversham as it had no corner protection and they would improve safety in the area and issues with exiting Ospringe Place.

Recommended:

- (1) That the proposed double yellow lines at the side of the Funeral Directors in Ranelagh Road, Sheerness be progressed.**
- (2) That the proposed double yellow lines in Ospringe Place, Faversham, be progressed on both sides of the road.**
- (3) That the proposed double yellow lines in Fairview Road, Sittingbourne, be progressed.**

72 PETITION FOR CHANGES TO RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME - UFTON LANE, SITTINGBOURNE - UPDATE REPORT

The Interim Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact introduced the item which provided an update to the petition submitted to the Board in March 2017 by residents of Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne. He outlined the recommendations in the report for Members.

County Councillor John Wright raised comments which included: need to consult with businesses in the area; vehicles parked around the junction of College Road, Burley Road and Epps Road, had been damaged where the road had been widened and need to look at extending the residents parking zone further to towards the junction so it was not so wide; and local residents were concerned about speed, so should look at having a comprehensive consultation in terms of traffic flow and direction; and also given the residents the option in Ufton Lane of amending the waiting limit by one hour or 30 minutes.

Councillor Roger Truelove, a Ward Member, raised points which included: this was a residents parking scheme which he considered did not work for the residents because it was adjacent to the 'business district' of Sittingbourne; as a consequence residents in the whole area were affected by office workers parking for two hours and then going out of the office, so residents that had paid for parking were not able to access it; taxis were also parking in the area when they should access their own site; how many licenses were given to taxi drivers to park in Cockleshell Walk?

The Cabinet Member for Safer Families and Communities (also a Ward Member) raised the need to supply information as part of the consultation to residents outlining the hidden impacts the ½ hour waiting would have, so they could make an informed decision.

Members raised the following points: need to consult with businesses that would be affected in West Street as a lot of people parked there and walked to the shops; and there was merit in trialling Ufton Lane in the first instance.

Recommended:

- (1) That officers proceed with an informal consultation with residents located within the 2 hour waiting limit of Ufton Lane on proposals to amend the waiting limit to one hour or 30 minutes and that the impacts of such proposals be clearly set out for residents.***
- (2) That officers extend the informal consultation area to include all residents located within the 1 hour waiting limit areas of the Residents Parking Scheme to gauge support for changing the waiting limit to 30 minutes and that the impacts of such proposals be clearly set out for residents.***

73 LOWER ROAD JUNCTION WITH BARTON HILL DRIVE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY - UPDATE REPORT

The Major Projects – Project Manager (KCC Highways and Transportation) introduced the report which provided an update on the South East LEP (SELEP) funding and the programme to deliver the junction improvements at the A2500 Lower Road / Barton Hill Road, Minster.

The Major Projects – Project Manager reported that progress was on programme as previously reported to the Board. The SELEP bid had been prepared and was due to be issued on 23 June 2017, but had been extended to 30 June 2017. A decision from SELEP was expected on 8 September 2017. The Major Projects – Project Manager reported that the Section 106 Agreements for the Plover Road and Harps Farm developments had been drafted and agreed and just needed to be signed-off. The earliest start date to deliver the junction improvements was summer 2018.

The Major Projects – Project Manager reported that they had identified a further Department of Transport funding stream in the National Productivity Infrastructure Fund (NPIF). He explained that they had been reviewing a number of projects that could come forward for consideration but as an authority were limited to two bids. There was a proposal to put in a bid for the improvement of the widening and provision of a footway/cycle way between the A249 Neats Court and Barton Hill Drive to widen the footway which was currently 5.86 metres, to 7.3 metres to bring it in-line with current standards and also provide a new link for cyclists and pedestrians between Minster and the retail areas of Neats Court. The Major Projects – Project Manager explained that housing from Policy AX1 of the Local Plan provided match-funding to support the bid. A report on the proposals could be provided at a future meeting of the Board.

Members considered the update report and raised points which included: current situation was intolerable and a disgrace, queuing was not just at peak times; solution would be to shut-off the southbound junction with A2500 (Barton Hill Drive); parking restrictions were required on Plover Road and Thistle Hill; design of roundabout did not work for HGVs; if there was another access on the road it would

make the situation worse; road was substantially less than the minimum design for a carriageway road and had too many vehicles travelling on it; design was hopeless; smaller roundabout would be more suitable; how confident were officers that funding would be confirmed?; was there a Plan B if the funding was not confirmed; need to seriously consider the impacts and disruption to visitors and businesses during the peak holiday season; did not understand why the project could not be brought forward to ensure it was not undertaken during the summer period; the semi-permanent scheme had not been considered by the Board; the design and shape of the roundabout needed to be looked at; and request that officers liaised with Swale Borough Council's Section 106 Officer to establish what money from the original Thistle Hill development had been spent as this could be used for this development.

In response to queries, the Major Projects – Projects Officer stated that he was aware that there was another drawing showing a four-armed roundabout but this had not been allocated within the Local Plan. He was unaware whether a permanent scheme had been actioned. With regard to concerns about parking in Thistle Hill, he agreed to take the comment back to the relevant officer. The Major Projects – Projects Officer stated that the design was typical and suitable for the volume of traffic. With regard to funding, he stated that KCC had a 100% success rate with SELEP, so he was pretty confident funding for the project would be secured.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

74 HIGHWAY WORKS PROGRAMME

The Board considered the report which provided an update on the identified schemes approved for construction in 2017/18.

Page 71 – Footway and Carriageway Improvement Schemes

A250 Halfway Road Power Station Road Roundabout

A Member sought clarification on when the work would be completed.

Another Member considered an excellent job had been carried out so far.

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The Knole, Faversham

A Member raised concern that the surface treatment work would not commence until September 2017 and requested that the work be brought forward.

Elm Lane, Minster

A Member reported that this was in a terrible state and proper repairs had not been carried out on the busy lane for 50 years. He added that it needed to be repaired

properly before the surface treatment work was carried out. Another Member stated that the shoulders of the road were non-existent where they had widened the road by spreading out more tarmac.

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Cryalls Lane, Sittingbourne

A Member requested that Borden Parish Council and the local Ward Members be informed regarding the details of the soakaway.

A2 Dully Road, Bapchild

A Member requested that Bapchild Parish Council and the local Ward Members be informed regarding the details of the soakaway.

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Appendix C – Street Lighting

A Member stated that there were a number of street lights on The Meads, Sittingbourne which needed to be replaced with LED lights, but noted that these were on unadopted roads. He sought clarification on whether there was a requirement for developers to install LED lights as a matter of course on new developments.

The Mid-Kent Highway Manager understood that it had been a requirement for LED lighting to be installed on new estates for some time, and there was a back-log of installing the new lights on unadopted roads.

A Member sought clarification when ornate lamps would be replaced.

Rushenden Road, Queenborough

A Member reported that there were numerous lights out of action and asked that this be looked at. He raised concern that the KCC website had stated that they were programmed for repair, but still had not been.

Light not working in Upper Brents junction Broomfield Road, Faversham

A Member raised concern that this had been reported six months ago and still had not been repaired, he asked that if it could not be repaired it be added to the replacement list.

A Member requested that the programme for conversion to LED lights be published.

Page 81 – Developer Funded Works

SW/003028 Ospringe School, Ospringe

A Member requested further information on the revised vehicle access.

SW/3037 Stickfast Lane, Iwade

A Member reported that there was a problem with surface water run-off and flooding which he believed was caused as a result of resurfacing works carried out by the brick clay extractor developer.

SW/3027 Tunstall Road, Tunstall

A Member raised concern that there was no footpath connection along Tunstall Road and pedestrians had to walk in the road.

SW/003055 Scocles Court

A Member asked that a footpath be provided as part of the design.

A Member asked whether the actual dates when Certificate 1s were issued on 12 Months Maintenance Period could be included in the report.

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SW/003049 Sunny View, Scocles Road

Footpaths could have been extended for the frontage but have not been.

SW/003050 Love Lane/Graveney Road, Faversham

A Member requested seeing the initial design as there was considerable house building planned for this area of Faversham. He considered traffic lights were a mistake and would lead to queing along the A2 which would increase air pollution.

SW/003051 Spirit of Sittingbourne Railway Station/Town Centre Highway Revisions

Members raised points which included: requested further information on the design submission received; business and residents affected should have been given three or four months to make alternative arrangements; and there would be a Members' Briefing prior to Full Council on 28 June 2017 by contractors from Spirit of Sittingbourne on the highway revisions.

SW/003048 Parsonage House, Newington and SW/003040 Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch

A Member stated that both sites were subject to significant highway issues and housing developments but no mitigation measures in terms of highway safety or air pollution had been sought for the local area.

SW/003047 The Old Diary, Halfway

A Member sought clarification as he was unaware that a new entrance was being sought.

Page 83**SW/003035 109-111 Staplehurst Road, Sittingbourne**

A Member welcomed the traffic calming undertaken, but raised concern that the primary reason for the works was to prevent HGVs accessing the road and he did not consider that had been achieved.

SW/003034 Selling Road, Faversham

A Member stated that this was already causing problems for vehicles trying to access onto the road from Selling but also because the road was used as a rat-run.

In response to a query, a Member advised that the works were due to commence in August 2017.

Page 85 – Transportation, PROW and Safety Schemes**The Brents area, Faversham**

A Member raised concern that officers had still not emailed him details of all what was planned as he had requested. He considered that to fail to contact and cooperate with the Ward Member was wrong and asked if he could be contacted to arrange a site visit with the relevant officer to sort the problem out.

A Member requested details of any casualty reduction measures in Swale for 2017/18.

Bobbing Village School

A Member requested that officers look at the School Warning Triangle as it was fading.

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A Member reported that the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan had been agreed following the referendum and formal adoption was sought at Council on 28 June 2017. He looked forward to approval from Cabinet to release the final £200,000 funding for the project. He requested a status report on when the work was likely to be commenced.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

75 PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT

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

383/12/15 Pedestrian Crossing at South Avenue School, Sittingbourne

In response to a query from a Member, the Mid-Kent Highway Manager reported that following receipt of a petition a report would only be provided if there were grounds to support it. Whilst if a County Member brought a case forward a report would be provided.

1079/12/16 Update on the 20's Plenty for Faversham Working Group

The Mid-Kent Highway Manager reported that the project would be delivered as a third -party project.

County Councillor Antony Hook, reported that he had received an apology from KCC Highways and Transportation that a report had not been provided and that this had been because not everyone at KCC had seen the information. There would be a meeting with the Schemes Project Manager, KCC and the Working Group, a provisional date of 19 July 2017 was given.

Members raised points which included: disappointment that no update report has been provided; if this was a third party project then why did the update report state that the A2 was not suitable, surely that was for the third-party to establish; appalled that this was designated a third-party project; KCC had been provided several times with an extensive study of where there were bicycle problems in Faversham and a useful report by knowledgeable consultants which state the default position was that Faversham was a 20mph limit and that would need to include the A2; need to have a serious and cooperative discussion with KCC about this; and if the whole town was made 20mph then the high cost would disappear as they would be no need to change signage for individual streets

1227/03/17 The Meads

A Member stated that without knowing the costs for the TRO it was difficult to know whether a third party could be sought.

A Member stated that residents would be disappointed, but the County Member would be taking the project forward.

1229/03/17 Review Speed Limit on Scocles Road, Minster

A Member noted that KCC would not be looking to fund implementation of the scheme. He reported that planning were currently looking at an application in Scocles Road and KCC had put two requests in for funding, one of which was for £1,000 per dwelling for a new roundabout, which the Member stated already had funding. The other request for funding was to move the 30mph signs to the other side of Elm Lane. The Member suggested that it seemed sensible to allocate the monies from this development to fund the signage for 30mph signs along the entire length of Scocles Road making the road safer.

1084/12/16 A2 Teynham Speed Limit Petition Response

A Member asked that Members of the Board had sight of the response from Matthew Balfour sent to County Councillor Bowles.

1085/12/16 Eligibility of New Developments to Purchase Permits in Residents' Parking Schemes

The Cabinet Member for Families and Communities reminded Members that at the Board meeting in December 2016, they had considered a report relating to managing the Parking Permit Scheme in relation to new developments. The recommendations from the Board were then considered at the Cabinet meeting in February 2017. Unfortunately this had not resolved the issue and the Residents Parking Scheme Policy was being considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 12 July 2017.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

76 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting was at 5.30pm on Monday 11 September 2017.

Chairman

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