

Gravesham Joint Transportation Board

Wednesday, 13 March 2019

7.30 pm

Present:

County Councillor Alan Michael Ridgers (Chair)

Councillors: Rob Halpin
Leslie Hills
Peter Scollard
Lauren Sullivan (KCC)
Bryan Sweetland (KCC)
Susan Lindley (Shorne Parish Council)

Carol Valentine Highways Manager, West Kent (KCC)
Kevin Gore District Manager – Gravesham (KCC)
Nick May Parking Services Manager (GBC)
Chris Wakeford Committee Services Officer (Minutes)

103. Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Lesley Boycott, KCC Cllr Tan Dhesi and KCC Cllr Diane Marsh.

The Chair advised that Cllr Boycott would be stepping down from her Councillor duties in May and he took the opportunity to thank her for all her good work on the Board.

104. Minutes of the previous meeting

The District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) provided an update on the issues detailed in the previous minutes:

- Barrock Row: the next phase of works will begin in November; the District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) will invite the project manager for this matter to the next Gravesham Joint Transportation Board.
- Cross Hatching outside the Civic Centre: new lining and resurfacing will take place next week.
- Lighting at Pepperhill roundabout: 3 of the 17 lights are now working; there is a cable fault with UKPN which they are looking into.
- Lighting at Coldharbour Rd and New House Lane junction: this issue has been narrowed down to 3 columns but they are fed from an unknown source, further investigations are ongoing.

The Board expressed concern over the length of time it was taking to resolve these issues and suggested that the mechanism for reporting/resolving issues be explored in order to ensure matters raised by the Board are being reported and actioned in a timely manner.

The Board agreed that the Chair should escalate the lighting issues at Pepperhill Roundabout (reported 14 months ago) and Coldharbour Rd / New House Lane junction (reported 2 months ago) and speak to Simon Jones, Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste (KCC) and Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste.

County Cllr Bryan Sweetland suggested that a temporary power supply should be installed in the interim period, whilst the issues are being investigated.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2019 were signed by the Chair.

105. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

106. Gravesham Highway Works Programme (Information only)

The Board were presented with a report that provided an update on identified schemes approved for construction in 2018/19.

Following Members questions and comments, the District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) highlighted that:

- Footway Improvement Schemes: there have been some delays due to a lot of utility companies in the area.
- The pelican crossing on Wrotham Road should now be fixed.
- The District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) agreed to look into the impact of the footway works at Ebbsfleet FC on the bus stop and forward the information to the Board.
- The yellow lines at Pitfield Drive, Meopham should be completed within two months following the conclusion of the consultation on 21 March 2019.
- The yellow lines at Brookside Rd, Istead Rise are still with the contractors.
- The District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) agreed to meet with Cllr Hills and look at the vegetation around the Lion Roundabout and cars speeding from Dering Way.
- There is resurfacing work on the A227 that will involve closing parts of the road overnight. The District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) agreed to go out to the all the businesses affected by the road closures to discuss the reasons for the works etc. County Cllr Bryan Sweetland advised that he would go with The District Manager – Gravesham (KCC).
- Lower Thames crossing: The District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) explained that it appears works may be progressing quicker than first thought with early discussions indicating 1000 lorry movements a day on the Gravesham network.

The Board expressed concern over the potential use of the Gravesham road network for 1000 lorry movements a day as part of the Lower Thames Crossing works. The Board agreed that overtures should be made to Highways England; raising Members concerns on this matter.

107. Issues raised by taxi drivers with regards to a number of issues they are experiencing with the new road layout in the town centre (Request by Cllr Sullivan)

KCC Cllr Lauren Sullivan presented the issues that Gravesham taxi drivers have raised with regards to a number of problems they are experiencing with the new road layout in the town centre, including the following:

1. The corner of Barrack Row and Darnley Road.
2. The traffic lights on Darnley Road
3. The bus lane from Clive Road into Barrack Row
4. The possibility of a pick-up point for a wheelchair on the east side of the town.

The Chair added that he had today witnessed 27 cars pass through the Bus Gate (corner of Barrack Row and Darnley Road) in 15 minutes.

The District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) explained that, with regard to the Bus Gate issues, there is not much political will for enforcement cameras; Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) may be a better option.

The Parking Services Manager (GBC) explained that discussion with KCC would have to be had in order to find a suitable solution for this matter. If enforcement cameras were to be supported then the next steps would be consultation and procurement for the cameras so it could take some time to reach a conclusion on this matter. GBC is currently looking at ANPR for the Bus Gate in King Street and have approached KCC so depending on the outcome, this could make the remaining Bus Gate issues easier to resolve.

The Parking Services Manager (GBC) explained that with regards to point 4. 'The possibility of a pick-up point for a wheelchair on the east side of the town' there is no reason for loading restrictions and the Parking Services Manager (GBC) is happy to reinstate the double yellow line restriction and remove the kerb marks on Parrock Street (near St John's Church) next week.

108. The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Gravesend) (Waiting Restrictions) (Amendment NoXX) Order 2017

Members were presented with a draft order for waiting restrictions on various roads in Gravesend.

Only one objection and one comment had been received.

The Board agreed that, unless something drastic happens and there is a need to come back to the Board, the restrictions as detailed in the report should be actioned.

109. Traffic at Echo Square Roundabout (request by Cllr Bungar)

The Chair explained that this matter had been raised by Cllr Bungar who has concerns about the busy traffic at Echo Square Roundabout and the dangerous situation with the confusing traffic island between Whitehill Road and Sun Lane.

Cllr Rob Halpin advised that buses struggle in this area too, especially the 483.

District Manager – Gravesham (KCC) agreed to look at the junctions at Echo Square Roundabout and see what can be done.

110. Any Other Business which by reason of special circumstances the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.

The Chair agreed to the following items being raised under any other business. The urgency being that a number of items had previously been raised and were still outstanding:-

Cllr Halpin requested an update on a matter that was discussed at the last meeting regarding issues surrounding the junction at Hall Road/Painters Ash.

The Parking Services Manager (GBC) explained that he had visited the area and the Bus Stop markings and bay area will be repainted along with double yellow lines and a new sign

Cllr Scollard raised an issue at The Pathways Day Centre in the St Georges Centre; there are currently no disabled parking bays in this area and a disabled visitor recently got a parking ticket. Signage also needs to be improved.

The Parking Services Manager (GBC) explained that an appeal had been successful for the parking ticket that was issued.

The Parking Services Manager (GBC) will look into improved signage in this area to notify motorists that the road is a pedestrianised area between 10am-6pm.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 8.37 pm