

Gravesham Joint Transportation Board

Wednesday, 09 March 2022

7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Peter Scollard (Chair)
County Cllr Conrad Broadley (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Brian Francis
Leslie Hills
Nirmal Khabra
Bob Lane
Jordan Meade (KCC)
Alan Ridgers (KCC)
Lauren Sullivan (KCC)
Bryan Sweetland (KCC)

Please note: Cllr John Burden and Cllr Gurdip Bungar were also in attendance.

Nick May Parking & Environmental Enforcement Services Manager
Kevin Gore Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC)
Ryan Danton Parking Officer
Ben Clarke Committee Services Officer (Minutes)

8. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Tony Rana who was a Ward Member invited to speak regarding the issues at Whitehill and Sun Lane. Cllr Gurdip Bungar had been invited to take Cllr Rana's place as Ward Member.

9. To sign the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 08 September 2021 were signed by the Chair.

10. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Nirmal Khabra declared an other interest as he was a local taxi driver in the Borough of Gravesham.

11. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Minute 173. Reports from Officers 173.1 Bath Street - Fastrack Infrastructure Scheme

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) confirmed to the Board that Graham Killick was due to attend the next meeting of Gravesham JTB; the Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) agreed to confirm it with Graham Killick outside of the meeting and inform the Chair.

12. Reports from Officers

12.1 Clive Road Bus Gate - Information Only Letter

The Board were presented with a letter from KCC explaining that a decision had been made to prohibit taxis using the Clive Road exit at Barrack Row as the shortcut for taxis would risk potentially creating queues within Barrack Row and causing congestion within the Gravesend Bus Hub. Thus, negatively impacting buses as well as fellow taxis that had fairly queued for a fare on the New Road rank.

The Board raised a number of concerns regarding the decision and County Cllr Sullivan asked that a letter be sent to KCC from the Board requesting a pilot scheme to be created whereby taxis could use the Clive Road exit during the pilot scheme. At the end of the pilot scheme the results would be reviewed to see if there was a noticeable impact on bus travel times and if there wasn't there should be a review to allow taxi vehicles to use the exit.

The Chair agreed that a letter be sent to KCC.

In relation to the recent carried out at Barrack Row, County Cllr Ridgers asked for an update on the closure of Ashboy Road, when it would reopen and would it reopen as a two or one way road for vehicles.

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) had not seen any proposed traffic order or road plan changes for Ashboy Road and assumed it would return to normal use once it reopened. The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) agreed to speak to Graham Killick, who was the Project Manager for the Scheme, and report back to the Board.

13. Issues raised by Councillors with the approval of the Chair

13.1 Springhead Road - Parking Issue - Raised by Cllr Scollard

The Chair advised that he already received a response and asked the Parking Services & Enforcement Manager to update the Board.

The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager explained that a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) attended, and letters were sent out last week to a number of houses along Springhead Road that had vehicles parked in a similar behaviour to the picture attached to agenda. The letters issued warnings to the homeowners to not cause an obstruction to the pavement with their vehicles.

13.2 Springhead Road - Overgrown Hedges - Raised by Cllr Scollard

The Chair visited the area with the Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) and the Parking Services & Enforcement Manager and noted the issues with the overgrown vegetation, parked vehicles on the pavement and access to pedestrians.

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) advised that the ground in the area was not made of concrete, and it was not built to take the weight of traffic which could cause further issues if a boundary line for off road parking was painted. The Dartford & Gravesham

District Manager (KCC) suggested a petition be created which let the residents decide what would be the best option for the road such as painting yellow lines which would decrease parking on the pavement but would have a knock on effect of decreasing the overall spaces for parking on the road.

The Board shared their own experiences with complaints received from residents about parking on the pavement and sought further clarification on the responsibilities of the Police when a vehicle was parked on the pavement.

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) and the Parking Services & Enforcement Manager explained that:

- Kent Police enforced obstructions on the highway under the Road Traffic Act; if there were no yellow lines in the road but a vehicle caused an obstruction on the highway then that would be enforceable by Kent Police, but it was not an urgent matter for them. They determined enforcement on a case by case basis, and they often conducted a test to see if a pram/wheelchair could get past a wall and a vehicle parked on the pavement and if they couldn't then the vehicle would receive a fine
- Driving on the footway was also considered illegal and enforceable by Kent Police
- KCC were able to fine cars that had legally parked on the pavement but had caused damage or obstruction to the footway if the footway was not designed for traffic use. KCC had enforced 286 cases in Gravesham over the last three years where damage to the footway had been caused by a vehicle
- GBC's Civil Enforcement Officers can only take action with vehicles parked on the footway when they are parked adjacent to a single or double yellow line, this is because the yellow lines cover the centre of the carriageway to the boundary of the property so cover footways. If there are no yellow lines footway parking is a Police responsibility under the offence of 'unnecessary obstruction'.

The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager updated the Board on a recent consultation on parking on the pavement outside of London by the Department for Transport:

- The consultation found three possible solutions to footway parking outside of London; within London all parking on the footway was banned unless a London authority had put forward a certain area in which footway parking was allowed following evidence of the need
- The first solution was a legislative change to introduce a London-style pavement parking prohibition throughout England
- The second solution was amending the local authorities Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to include a footway/verge parking ban on certain roads, however this option would result in a significant cost to the Council to conduct the TRO work, hold formal consultations with residents and if the changes were to go ahead, significant costs to install the required signs.
- The third solution was a legislative change to allow local authorities with civil parking enforcement powers to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement'; in effect it would allow CEOs to have Police powers and fine vehicles with PCNS when parked causing an obstruction to the pavement/footway

The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager advised that all three had their positives and negatives; the consultation ended in November 2020 but due to the long process and complexities of the three options, the results of the consultation still had not been released

by the DfT. Once the results were made known, an update would be brought back to the Board.

The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager reminded Members that CEO's would still fine vehicles parked on the footway adjacent to single and double yellow lines.

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

Old Road East Speeding Vehicles - Request from Cllr Tony Rana

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) advised that he had received an email update from the Schemes & Planning Project Manager who was unsure why the item had been requested at JTB as officers hadn't had a chance to look into the issues at Old Road East yet. The Schemes & Planning Project Manager agreed to look into all the spread data for the area and arrange for an ATC to be placed in the area if there was no data currently held. An update would be brought back to the next JTB meeting.

Whitehill/Sun Lane Requested Changes from a Previous JTB Meeting - Request from Cllr Tony Rana

The Chair allowed Cllr Bungar to address the Board; Cllr Bungar voiced his concerns for the road layout and laid out the measures that himself and Cllr Rana wanted implemented. The Chair echoed Cllr Bungar's concerns around traffic in the area and the danger motorists caused to pedestrians/school children when they drove on the pavement to get round traffic.

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) explained that following the previous JTB meeting, he attended the site with Cllr Rana and Claire Venner. Claire Venner arranged for a number of surveys to be undertaken and Cllr Rana was informed of the civil engineering solutions. Unfortunately, Claire Venner left KCC shortly after and all of the survey's requests were transferred over to another officer who would provide an update to Cllr Rana once he had investigated the issues and received the results of the surveys.

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) advised that the new officer would attend future meetings or his manager, Paul Leary, would.

Following further concerns raised by Cllr Bungar, the Chair reminded Members that JTB was an advisory board only and Members could raise individual issues/requests with the Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) outside of the meeting at any time.

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) explained that Whitehill Road was a classified road and all driveways needed planning permission from the Council; a joint task could be undertaken with KCC and the Council to try and remove some of the parked vehicles off Whitehill Road which would alleviate some of the issues.

The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager agreed to liaise with the Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) and the Planning Team on the matter.

In response to the request of making Whitehill Road one way, the Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) explained that although KCC Members often use some of their funding to pay for ATCs that were placed in the area, making roads one way was a lengthy process. An unintended consequence of making a road one way could be increasing traffic

in nearby areas and making other areas unsafe so a thorough investigation would need to be completed before any one way change were considered. Following the investigation, an update would be given to Cllr Rana.

Double Yellow Lines and Request for a review of Parking on Dover Road – Requests from Cllr Conrad Broadley

Cllr Broadley voiced his concerns to the Board and laid out a number of measures that he felt would alleviate some of the parking issues on Dover Road.

The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager explained that following a visit to Dover Road, the proposed restrictions were removed from the consultation, and it was agreed with Cllr Broadley that a review of the parking on the whole of Dover Road would be enacted. The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager agreed that some of the current restrictions weren't needed, and others needed strengthening such as relaxing the restrictions on the west side and increasing the restrictions on the east side.

The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager advised that an amendment order had just been completed and there were a few other scheduled on the Planned Works; a review of parking for the whole of Dover Road would require a formal consultation to all residents. The consultation period was for 21 days but it would take around 6 months for the whole process to be completed. The Parking Services & Enforcement Manager was hopeful that the constitution could be started around June/July 2022.

Rumble Strips Springhead Parkway – Request from Cllr Broadly

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) apologised for the delay and explained that KCC had given verbal permission to the developer to remove the rumble strips and tarmac the road a number of years ago, but it wasn't actioned by the developer. KCC had liaised with the developer and were waiting for the plans to be received from the developer so that they could be signed off through the technical approval process.

London Road Cycle Scheme – Request from Cllr Singh

Cllr Sullivan queried if the London Road Cycle Scheme would come to a meeting of Gravesham JTB as it was being submitted to GET.

The Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) provided the below written response from the Scheme Project Manager regarding the Cycle Scheme:

KCC have commissioned a consultant to look at the consultation feedback and provide a technical note with recommended measures to be developed further. These include improving existing cycle and pedestrian facilities, as well measures to reduce speed on London Road without detrimental impacts on parking. The proposed way forward will then be brought to ETCC on 17 March and if ratified, will be progressed through future JTB meetings and stakeholder working groups.

In response to further questions, the Dartford & Gravesham District Manager (KCC) confirmed that the cycle scheme was being submitted to the ETCC soon and he was hopeful an update could be provided at the next meeting of Gravesham JTB.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 20:29pm.