

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

18 June 2009

Report of the Interim Director of Kent Highway Services

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO KENT HIGHWAY SERVICES

Summary

An update on petitions currently being considered by Kent Highway Services (KHS) and information on fresh submissions.

1.1 Petitions currently under consideration

1.1.1 In keeping with recent practice, this report on petitions received by KHS is a standing item on the Board's agenda paper. For this meeting, KHS will be considering the following eight items

- Safer crossing for Pedestrians on Rochester Road in Burham
- Wincliffe Road PACT request (Partners and Communities Together)
- Ridgeway Pedestrian Crossings
- Station Road, Aylesford, Pedestrian Crossing
- Priory Road Bridge Bashing Incidents
- Fernleigh Rise, Ditton.
- Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge.
- A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements

1.2 Safer crossing for Pedestrians on Rochester Road in Burham

1.2.1 A petition was submitted by 380 residents led by Mrs Pauline Harvey of Bell Lane, Burham. It supported proposals to install further measures to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing Rochester Road, Burham. Kent Highway Services recently installed a number of speed management measures on a section of Rochester Road through Burham. These measures consisted of a combination of roads signs and carriageway markings to inform drivers to keep speeds under

30mph. As part of these works an improved crossing was installed by the playground consisting of ramped kerbs, tactile paving and warning signs.

- 1.2.2 As a result of concerns raised about visibility at one of the crossing points during an independent safety audit carried out on the installed measures further improvements were suggested and the petition supported the implementation of these improvements.
- 1.2.3 No adverse comments were received during a local consultation by Burham Parish Council on these improvements and they are now being programmed for implementation this summer.

1.3 Wincliffe Road PACT request

- 1.3.1 At the time of writing it is confirmed that orders have been raised for the excavation works to be undertaken and quotations for suitable planting have been requested. It is planned that the works commence before the end of May with completion being mid/late June. The lead petitioner has been informed accordingly.

1.4 Aylesford Pedestrian Crossings

- 1.4.1 A petition has been submitted by parents of children who attend Aylesford Primary School requesting that suitable and safe pedestrian crossings be implemented in Aylesford.
- 1.4.2 Kent Highway Services recently installed a pedestrian refuge island and right turn lane on Station Road near the station which has been reported to previous meetings of this Board as part of the Integrated Transport Programme for Kent. This facility is currently being reviewed and subject to the outcome of this review a bid has been submitted to upgrade this island to a controlled crossing.
- 1.4.3 Kent Highway Services are also proposing to install new pedestrians crossing on Station Road near its junction with Hall Road and a developer funded crossing near Medway Court. A more detailed update on the progress of these schemes can be found as part of the 2009/10 Scheme Progress Report.

1.5 The Ridgeway – Pedestrian Crossing

- 1.5.1 As reported to this Board a petition had been submitted by 56 residents lead by Dr Brierley of Thorpe Avenue seeking action to improve highway safety along the Ridgeway, Tonbridge.
- 1.5.2 Kent Highway Services submitted a bid for a pedestrian crossing in the location described in the petition as part of the 2009/10 Integrated Transport Programme for Kent. Unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful and has now been reassessed and resubmitted as part of the 2010/11 Integrated Transport Programme for Kent. A more detailed update on the 2010/11 Integrated Transport Programme for Kent is reported separately.

1.6 Priory Road Bridge Bashing Incidents

- 1.6.1 Information is still being awaited from Officers within the KHS Alliance but a more detailed update is expected for the next meeting of this Board.

1.7 Fernleigh Rise, Ditton

- 1.7.1 Since the last meeting of this Board, Officers met with colleagues from the Borough Council to review the situation, taking note of the current parking arrangements and what, if anything, could be done to alleviate the residents' concerns and considered the request for bollards to be installed. It is clear that the main problem of verge parking is contained within the northernmost area of Fernleigh Rise. Many households have more than one/two vehicles and the topography of the area heading south makes access to/from driveways problematic because of the gradients involved combined with the fact that vehicle design has altered significantly since the properties were built, therefore, ground clearance is far less resulting in the underside striking the ground. Residents therefore park on the verges.
- 1.7.2 A consultation exercise was conducted whereby Officers asked if bollards would be an acceptable solution. Responses were mixed but the conclusion drawn was that bollards would not be favoured by the majority of residents, especially as they would simply relocate the verge parking issue further down the road, thereby causing damage to verges that are currently in good condition.
- 1.7.3 Officers conducted a further site meeting, along with the local Member and other options such as paving over the verges or cutting them back to create parking bays was discussed.
- 1.7.4 Paving over verges encourages what is effectively pavement parking and could lead to further obstructions for pedestrians. It was also noted that several properties would need to have their driveway entrances adjusted because frontages have been extended in previous years. Funding for such a project would have to be bid for and there is no guarantee that any bid would be successful. In addition, adjustments to the driveway entrances would lead to costs that would have to be borne by the property owners. It is unlikely that this option is viable or appropriate.
- 1.7.5 Kent Highway Services do not normally utilise public monies for creating parking places and the shear engineering requirements for carrying such works would be prohibitively expensive. This option could not therefore be considered.
- 1.7.6 The only option remaining would be to investigate the possibility of creating a one way system in and out of Fernleigh Rise. Vehicles would gain access via the northern entrance and exit via the southern entrance. Double yellow lines could then be implemented on one side of the road, freeing up the opposite side for parking and leaving a running lane free. This too has problems regarding compliance, enforcement and community support.

1.7.7 It can not be guaranteed that any investigation would be positive or achieve suitable funding or priority but it would seem to be the only potentially viable option. Officers would welcome the comments of the Board with regard to a way forward as the only alternative would be to concede that there is nothing that can be done in this instance to deliver a practical and affordable solution with local support.

1.8 Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge

1.8.1 Kent Highway Services have received a letter signed on behalf of 18 residents of Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge requesting a safe cross-over for residents to cross at this junction to access the local shops.

1.8.2 Kent Highway Services have met with the lead petitioner to discuss their concerns and have commissioned a traffic and pedestrian survey for this location. Once the results of these surveys are known KHS will complete its investigations and will report back to the next meeting of this Board.

1.9 A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements

1.9.1 As reported verbally to the last meeting of this Board Kent Highway Services received a petition signed by 42 residents of Mereworth requesting safety improvements to the junction of Kent Street and the A228 for drivers and pedestrians.

1.9.2 Officers and the Cabinet Member for Highways have meet with the petitioners, members and local representatives to discuss potential improvements. Officers are now in discussions with adjacent land owners to secure land to improve visibility splays and provide a new footway.

1.9.3 Subsequently a further petition has been submitted signed by 56 residents registering continued concerns over the junction and supporting the proposals discussed. Future updates will be reported back to this Board.

1.10 Legal Implications

1.10.1 None at this stage

1.11 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.11.1 As reported.

1.12 Risk Assessment

1.12.1 Not applicable.

Background papers:

Nil

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