

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

08 March 2010

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 five items and the receipt of two new petitions:

- Priory Road Bridge Bashing Incidents
- Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge.
- A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements
- Road Safety Measures along Walderslade Woods Road
- Upgrading of Zebra Crossing on New Hythe Lane, Larkfield

1.1.2 Petitions received since the last meeting:

- Proposed Pedestrianisation of Tonbridge High Street
- Parking Problems outside No's 22 to 32 Riding Park

1.2 Priory Road Bridge Bashing Incidents

1.2.1 As agreed at the last meeting of this Board a site meeting has been arranged with local Councillors to discuss potential improvements to the advance signing of the bridge.

1.3 Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge

- 1.3.1 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.
- 1.3.2 Kent Highway Services met with the lead petitioner to discuss their concerns and have carried out traffic and pedestrian surveys for this location. It is now proposed to amend the layout of Medway Wharf Road junction with Sovereign Way to:-
- 1) Assist pedestrians crossing from Holmes Court.
 - 2) Assist pedestrians travelling from the New Ashby's Yard development to the town centre.
 - 3) Encourage vehicles to use Medway Wharf Road and Sovereign Way as opposed to the High Street in line with the objectives set out in the Town Centre Area Action Plan.
- 1.3.3 The scheme is proposed to be funded by a combination of developer and Local Transport Plan funding and once a draft design has been prepared consultation will be carried out with local Councillors.

1.4 A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements

- 1.4.1 As reported previously 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.
- 1.4.2 Officers and the Cabinet Member for Highways meet with the petitioners, members and local representatives to discuss potential improvements at the junction. At this meeting it was agreed that Officers would progress with acquiring land to improve visibility splays and provide a new footway. A further petition was then submitted signed by 56 residents registering continued concerns over the junction and supporting the proposals agreed at the meeting.
- 1.4.3 It can now be confirmed that an agreement in principle has been reached with the land owners and the land will be purchased by Kent County Council subject to final legal agreements.

1.5 Road Safety Measures along Walderslade Woods Road

- 1.5.1 Kent Highway Services have received a petition from Mrs Gillian Tatnell from Walderslade Woods with 212 signatures requesting a reduction in speed limit with traffic islands and hatching. The petition has received the support of Boxley Parish Council although Walderslade Woods Road falls within both Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling. The petition has been previously reported to this Board indicating that KHS would investigate the issues raised in the petition. This investigation has now been concluded and I can report the findings below.

- 1.5.2 Following submission of the petition a seven day speed survey was undertaken in November 2009. The survey was located in the derestricted length of the road adjacent to the pedestrian footbridge. Vehicle speeds were found to be lower than the existing posted speed limit with combined direction 85th %ile speed of 53mph, whilst the mean speed was 47mph.
- 1.5.3 Recorded personal injury crash data for the A2045 has been analysed. In the 3 year period up to September 2009, there were 11 personal injury crashes for the entire length of the road. Of these, 6 were within the derestricted length, whilst 5 were in the current 40mph limit section. From the 11 crashes, 3 were reported as serious. These crashes are typically located at the side road junctions. There have been no fatalities in the past three years, however there was a fatal crash involving a motorcyclist in March 2005, this was in the 40mph section.
- 1.5.4 A review of the current speed limit was undertaken as part of the ongoing speed limit review process on all A and B class roads in Kent. The review looked at both of the 40mph and derestricted speed limit sections. It found the existing 40mph limit section between the A229 and Fostington Way was consistent with the new guidance but concluded the national limit section between Fostington Way and Boxley Road was suitable for a reduction to 50mph because of the alignment of the carriageway and the number of junctions. It also concluded that improvements to the signage and maintenance tasks were required to improve visibility to the signage.
- 1.5.5 With these recommendations in mind, Kent Highway Services are intending to submit a bid for funding through the Local Transport Plans Integrated Transport Programme for 2011/12 to undertake the gateway signage improvement works identified by the review team, improve the side road junction warning signs and also to provide traffic islands to protect right turning traffic at the Tunbury Lane, Impton Lane and Forestdale Road junctions. It is intended that these works including the reduction of the speed limit in part of Walderslade Woods Road will reduce vehicle speeds and the crash record hence improving road safety for all users along the road.
- 1.5.6 These proposals were recently reported to the Maidstone JTB where they received supported from Members and Boxley Parish Council. However, it was also suggested that islands be installed at Wildfell Close as part of the scheme which is now being investigated.

1.6 Upgrading of Zebra Crossing on New Hythe Lane, Larkfield

- 1.6.1 At the last meeting of this Board a petition was submitted with 400 hundred signatures requesting the Zebra crossing on New Hythe Lane, Larkfield be upgraded to a pelican crossing. A further 58 signatures have subsequently been received by Kent Highway Services.
- 1.6.2 I can confirm that the upgrade will take place next financial year and future updates will be included as part of the Highway Improvement Schemes Report.

1.7 Petitions received since the last meeting

- Proposed Pedestrianisation of Tonbridge High Street – petition formally submitted to the recent meeting of the Tonbridge Forum.
- Parking Problems outside No's 22 to 32 Riding Park

1.8 Parking Problems outside No's 22 to 32 Riding Park

- 1.8.1 At the beginning of February Kent Highway Services received a petition with 12 signatures requesting the provision of a lay-by outside No's 22 to 32 Riding Park. The request is to prevent minor accidents and to stop large vehicles i.e. fire engines and dustcarts from getting stuck.
- 1.8.2 Kent Highways Services are carrying out an analysis of the crash statistics have written to the emergency services and the Borough Council's Waste Services Team to ascertain whether they have experienced any problems in this area with respect to their vehicles being obstructed. A further update will be reported to the next meeting of this Board.

1.9 Proposed Pedestrianisation of Tonbridge High Street

- 1.9.1 A petition has been submitted with 201 signatures requesting that Tonbridge High Street be pedestrianised between 10am and 4pm at weekends. Clearly this raises significant issues for the approach to traffic management in the town centre in the context of the County Council's Local Transport Plan and the transport strategy within the adopted Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan. A full response to this petition will be reported to the next meeting of 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.

1.13 Policy Considerations

- 1.13.1 Community

Background papers:

contact: Andy Corcoran

Nil

Caroline Bruce

Interim Director of Kent Highway Services