

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**14 June 2010**

**Report of the 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).**

**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 six petitions:

- Priory Road Bridge Bashing Incidents
- Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge.
- A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements
- Road Safety Measures along Walderslade Woods Road
- 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 Tonbridge Central 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 I am pleased to report that land negotiations to provide a scheme comprising visibility splays and a roadside footpath on the western side (behind the hedge) have reached a successful conclusion at this stage. The next stage is for a detailed design to be undertaken, to further inform cost estimates, exact land take requirements, details such as bus stop location, removal and relocation of telegraph poles, exact fencing details, method and timing of construction, location and negotiations regarding work compound etc.

#### **1.5 Road Safety Measures along Walderslade Woods Road**

1.5.1 Kent Highway Services 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 received the support of Boxley Parish Council although Walderslade Woods Road falls within both Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling and has been reported to both Joint Transportation Boards.

1.5.2 At the last meeting of this Board a full update was given on the outcomes of KHS's investigations with a recommendation to submit a scheme for funding

through the Local Transport Plans Integrated Transport Programme for 2011/12. The scheme consists of gateway signage improvements, improvements to the side road junction warning signs and also to provide traffic islands to protect right turning traffic. The bid has now been submitted and future updates on this scheme will be included as part of the Integrated Transport Programme.

## **1.6 Parking Problems outside No's 22 to 32 Riding Park**

- 1.6.1 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.
- 1.6.2 Kent Highways Services have contacted both the fire and ambulance services and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils waste department and none of these organisations have experience any problems in this area. There have been no reported personal injury crashes in this area either. Therefore, it is recommended that no further action be taken.

## **1.7 Proposed Pedestrianisation of Tonbridge High Street**

- 1.7.1 A petition has been submitted with 201 signatures requesting that Tonbridge High Street be pedestrianised between 10am and 4pm at weekends.
- 1.7.2 As part of the recently approved Local Development Framework the Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan sets out a master plan for the regeneration of the central area of Tonbridge including the High Street. Tonbridge & Malling's Council's overall approach to the future of this area was set out in the Tonbridge Town Centre Master Plan approved by the Council in February 2006. In both of these approved documents the proposal to reduce traffic flow through the High Street and create enhanced pedestrian priority is a core fundamental policy.
- 1.7.3 The Transport Strategy which underpins the Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan proposals a range of measures to enable the creation of greater pedestrian priority in the High Street. These measures are required to mitigate the traffic management issues that creating an enhanced pedestrian priority will generate. The proposals set out in the Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan have been widely consulted on, been subject to independent examination, approved by Tonbridge & Malling Council and have legal development plan status.
- 1.7.4 The proposal to close the High Street either permanently or part time was not supported as part of the Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan process or previously when considered in the late nineties as part of the Tonbridge Urban Transport Strategy.
- 1.7.5 It is therefore, recommended that Members continue to support the approved policies and delivery and implementation plan as set out in the Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan for the High Street.

1.7.6 A full copy of the Tonbridge Central Area Action Plan can be found on Tonbridge and Malling Borough Councils web site.

**1.8 Legal Implications**

1.8.1 None at this stage

**1.9 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.9.1 As reported.

**1.10 Risk Assessment**

1.10.1 Not applicable.

**1.11 Policy Considerations**

1.11.1 Community

Background papers:

contact: Andy Corcoran

Nil

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