

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

20 September 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 items:

- Priory Road Bridge Bashing Incidents
- Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge.
- A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements
- A20 Wrotham Hill
- Greenfrith Drive and neighbouring roads – school related parking

1.2 Priory Road Bridge Bashing Incidents

1.2.1 At a site visit with local Councillor Sarah Spence on Monday 7th June 2010 it was explained to Kent Highway Services that several HGV's have in the past hit the railway bridge (both sides) near Lavender Hill junction.

1.2.2 It was identified on site that there is already extensive existing signing that is in good condition on the approach to the bridge and at the bridge itself. However another sign could be installed on the B2260 High Street at the junction with Priory Road to give advance warning to the majority of the HGV drivers coming northbound along the High Street. Two additional signs could also be installed just after the junction of Pembury Grove with Goldsmid Road and Pembury Rd junction with Goldsmid Rd (northbound) to warn of both low bridges at Priory Road and Strawberry Vale.

- 1.2.3 These new signs are now being detailed designed and subject to funding will be implemented in due course.

1.3 Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge

- 1.3.1 As previously reported Kent Highway Services had 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 A scheme is now proposed to be funded by a combination of developers to assist pedestrians crossing from Holmes Court and Ashby's Yard to the town centre and 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 Funding of approximately £65,000 has been negotiated with developers subject to the conclusion of legal agreements and the implementation of development. Once funding is confirmed and an outline design has been prepared consultation will be carried out.

1.4 A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements

- 1.4.1 As reported previously Kent Highway Services had 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 then Cabinet Member for Highways met 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 As reported at the last meeting of this Board land negotiations to provide a scheme comprising visibility splays and a roadside footpath on the western side (behind the hedge) had reached a successful conclusion and a detailed design was required 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. However since the last meeting of this Board due to Government reductions in the Integrated Transport (Improvement) Schemes budget the County Council has had to reorganise existing staffing resources. This process has delayed the start of the detailed design process. At the next meeting of this Board a full programme for the detailed design will be reported.

1.5 A20 Wrotham Hill

- 1.5.1 At the last meeting of this Board a petition was received from the local County, Borough and Parish councillors regarding recent fatal road traffic crashes on the A20 at Wrotham Hill (minute JTB 10/018 refers). Kent Highway Services have invited the petitioners including Kent Police to a meeting to discuss the incidents and whether a highway safety scheme can be developed to overcome the safety issues raised in the petition. The outcomes from this meeting will be reported at the next meeting of this Board.

1.6 Greenfrith Drive and neighbouring streets

- 1.6.1 A petition has been received expressing concerns about school related traffic resulting in residents' drives being blocked. It seeks the installation of access protection markings. The scope and scale of the problem will need to be investigated and some consideration given to whether access protection markings are the best solution so that a report can be prepared for the Board.

1.7 Legal Implications

- 1.7.1 None at this stage

1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.8.1 As reported.

1.9 Risk Assessment

- 1.9.1 Not applicable.

1.10 Policy Considerations

- 1.10.1 Community

Background papers:

contact: Andy Corcoran

Nil

John Burr
Director of Kent Highway Services