

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

13 June 2011

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
- Traffic volume and congestion on the High Street, East Malling
- Traffic volume and speed of traffic along Vines Lane, Hildenborough
- The withdrawal of the Arriva 101 Service from Bus Stops at Cobtree Golf Course and Salisbury Road, Kits Coty

1.1.2 Further petitions have been received since the last meeting of this Board.

- Petition for a zebra crossing on Birling Road, Snodland

1.2 Priory Road Bridge Bashing Incidents

1.2.1 The additional signing identified is currently being assessed in association with a Countywide initiative addressing known records of bridge strikes. The result of this assessment as it applies to the bridge at Priory Road will be reported to a future meeting of the Board.

1.3 Holmes Court, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge

- 1.3.1 Petitioner has confirmed that dropped kerbs only are required for residents with buggies and to assist the less able to cross, to access the local shops. This improvement is now being progressed via Cllr Smith's Member Highway Fund. Progress on this item will be tracked through the parallel reporting on the approved Member Highway Schemes table. There is potential for a further stage of upgrade to include a controlled crossing arising from a development related contribution and this will be reported as part of the schedule of S106 works that accompanies the paper on Highway Improvements.

1.4 A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements

- 1.4.1 Cross referencing with the Highway Improvement Schemes paper to this Board the Kings Hill developer, Liberty, has confirmed that payment is overdue and once indexation levels have been established the appropriate payment will be made. Detailed design and further discussions with the land owner's agent regarding construction methodology are advancing with a view to formal land exchange and scheme programming. Updates on the progression of this scheme will continue to forthcoming meetings as required.

1.5 A20 Wrotham Hill

- 1.5.1 Whilst there have been two very regrettable fatal crashes at this location which prompted this petition, currently this site does not appear on the County's crash cluster (or black site) list. This paper confirms that the remedial measures previously suggested cannot therefore be implemented from this year's budget.
- 1.5.2 It is understood from the last meeting of this Board that proposals may be independently developed. Kent Highway Services will be happy to consider those proposals when developed and available.

1.6 Traffic Volume and Congestion on the High Street, East Malling

- 1.6.1 This petition made particular reference to the closure of the A228 last summer and other representations have since suggested that some traffic has not returned to the A228 since re-opening and have continued to use East Malling as a cut through. At the time of writing there is some unfortunate faltering over undertaking traffic counts to measure against claims and perceptions. It is hoped however that by the time this report is presented, a way forward to establishing traffic data is obtained. The petitioner will be updated regarding the current position and this item will be reported again at the next meeting of this Board.

1.7 Traffic volume and speed of traffic along Vines Lane, Hildenborough

- 1.7.1 Traffic counts undertaken in Vines Lane revealed directional 85th percentile speeds of 41 and 38mph at the eastern end of Vines Lane and 37 and 38mph at the western end. A study of the crash records showed that there have been no injury crashes in the last three years. Under the current circumstances the

petitioners request for traffic calming could not be justified. A copy of the letter to the petitioner is contained in **[Annex 1]**.

1.8 The withdrawal of the Arriva 101 Service from Bus Stops at Cobtree Golf Course and Salisbury Road, Kits Coty

1.8.1 Subsequent to the last meeting of this Board an on-site meeting has been held between officers and Members to discuss alternative ways forward. It was agreed that Cllr Peter Homewood is to promote further use of the Kent Top Travel 150 service which contradictorily continues to stop at the bus stops claimed by Arriva to be unsafe.

1.8.2 At the time of writing this report a further on-site meeting has been arranged with local Members and Arriva to discuss the option of using the redundant slip road at the top of Blue Bell Hill as an alternative bus stop. A verbal update will be provided to this Board regarding standpoints and outcomes.

1.9 Petition for a zebra crossing on Birling Road, Snodland

1.9.1 A petition of at least 200 signatures has been received to provide a zebra crossing on Birling Road, Snodland at a point where children and parents regularly walk to and from Snodland Primary School. It will be tabled at the meeting. A pedestrian crossing count has been undertaken and this has revealed a low concentration of pedestrians crossing outside school times. The distribution of pedestrian crossing numbers throughout the day suggests therefore that should the crossing arrangements be enhanced here at all, then a school crossing patrol would be most appropriate.

1.9.2 It is considered that the petitioner is informed of the results of this work and the school is consulted. Members will be updated further at 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:

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Nil

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