

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**28 November 2011**

**Report of the Director of Highways and Transportation**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters For Information**

**1 PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Summary**

**An update on petitions currently being considered by the County Council including a new one from residents of Catlyn Close, East Malling.**

**1.1 Petitions currently under consideration**

1.1.1 In keeping with recent practice, this report on petitions received by the County Council is a standing item on the Board's agenda paper. For this meeting, Kent County Council Highways & Transportation (KCC H&T) will be considering the following items:

- A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements
- A20 Wrotham Hill
- Traffic volume and congestion on the High Street, East Malling
- The withdrawal of the Arriva 101 Service from Bus Stops at Cobtree Golf Course and Salisbury Road, Kits Coty
- Petition for a Zebra Crossing on Birling Road, Snodland

**1.2 A228 / Kent Street Junction Improvements**

1.2.1 Cross referencing with the Highway Improvement Schemes paper to this Board the developer 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 can then commence with a view to formal land exchange and scheme programming. Updates regarding the progression of this scheme will continue as part of the Highway Works programme report.

### **1.3 A20 Wrotham Hill**

- 1.3.1 There have been two very regrettable fatal crashes at this location which prompted this petition and the details of these crashes have now been updated onto the County's crash database.
- 1.3.2 It is understood from the last meeting of this Board that proposals may be independently developed. Kent County Council will be happy to consider those proposals when developed and available.
- 1.3.3 The County Council is continuing to monitor this location on an annual basis, and should this location meet the policy criteria to be classified as a crash cluster site, funding will be allocated through our Crash Remedial Measures (CRM) process. Officers are seeking alternative funding such as through the Member Highway Fund.
- 1.3.4 In response to the previously submitted independent report on behalf of Wrotham Parish Council, KCC H&T has agreed to undertake a route study of this section of the A20 as part of the CRM process this year. Whilst individual crash cluster sites have not been identified, this section of road will be looked at as a route, and the rate of crashes along the length compared with local and national statistics. This should identify if funding can be justified from the CRM budget allocation.
- 1.3.5 The CRM process is to be undertaken in the New Year and the route study will be added onto this process. Should the route not be identified as a priority, KCC H&T officers will then liaise with the County Councillor responsible for the area to seek funding through the Member Highway Fund process.

### **1.4 Traffic Volume and Congestion on the High Street, East Malling**

- 1.4.1 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.
- 1.4.2 The results of the traffic surveys have now been completed revealing average speeds of 24mph (northbound) and 23mph (southbound) at Chapel Street. The survey on Wateringbury Road revealed average speeds of 39mph (northbound) and 33mph (southbound).
- 1.4.3 There have been 2 recorded personal injury crashes in the historic part of East Malling Village over the past 3 year period. The crashes are on the High Street between junctions of Mill Street and Wateringbury Road. There is no pattern in the crashes that justify the need for traffic calming measures to be installed at the present time. All personal injury crashes in Kent are monitored on an annual basis and should any locations be deemed 'crash blackspots', funding will be allocated accordingly.

1.4.4 KCC H&T is continuing to monitor the Crash Record for the site. Due to no change in the Crash History since the previous meeting, it has been difficult to justify the need for funding when compared with locations countywide that have an existing crash record. Officers are seeking alternative funding such as through the Section 106 Process or the Member Highway Fund. No further updates will be provided unless any funding is secured.

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

1.5.1 Subsequent to the last meeting of this Board a 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 in contrast continues to stop at the bus stops claimed by Arriva to be unsafe.

1.5.2 Discussions concerning the option of using the closed-off slip road at the top of Blue Bell Hill as an alternative bus stop have concluded that this option would be financially prohibitive. Works to improve the bus stop by Cobtree Golf Course are due to commence in October.

## **1.6 Petition for a Zebra Crossing on Birling Road, Snodland**

1.6.1 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. 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 that should the crossing arrangements be enhanced here at all; then a school crossing patrol would be most appropriate.

1.6.2 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.

1.6.3 The lead petitioner has been informed that Councillor Sarah Hohler is seeking the feasibility of installing highway improvements on Birling Road through her Member Highway Fund process. The scheme design is currently being drawn and will be discussed with Cllr Hohler when available. These works will be updated through the Member Highway Fund process and will be removed from this petition report.

## **1.7 New Petition - Traffic Calming on Catlyn Close, East Malling and Larkfield**

1.7.1 KCC H&T has received a petition from residents of Catlyn Close, requesting that traffic calming be installed on the above named road. The petition has 46 signatures supporting the installation of traffic calming. There have been no reported personal injury crashes over the last 3 year period as a resultant of speeding.

1.7.2 KCC H&T will investigate the request from the lead petitioner with the view to provide an update at the next Joint Transportation Board.

**1.8 Legal Implications**

1.8.1 Not applicable.

**1.9 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.9.1 None arising at this time.

**1.10 Risk Assessment**

1.10.1 Not applicable

Background papers:

contact: Ben Hilden

Nil

John Burr  
Director of Highways and Transportation