

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

24 October 2005

Report of the Director of Planning & Transportation and the Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 CAPITAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Summary

This is a regular report to advise members of the progress with the schemes contained in the Planning & Transportation Capital Plan.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Engineering and transportation schemes of various types make up a substantial part of the Council's overall capital plan and consequently it is important that progress is kept under regular review. **Annex 1** sets out the current programme of schemes arising from the capital plan review. The bar line against each individual scheme indicates the time frame for design, consultation and implementation. It is used primarily as a management tool for balancing staff and skills resources across the whole programme and as a guide for expected capital expenditure.
- 1.1.2 The paragraphs that follow explain the progress achieved on specific projects. The implementation of some projects is the direct responsibility of the Borough Council while in others we are taking a design, facilitating or funding role. Members may have particular project matters to raise and officers will be able to deal with these at the meeting. It would be helpful, to ensure as full a response as possible, if queries could be raised in advance so that any required research, investigation or analysis can be carried out.

1.2 Parking Schemes

- 1.2.1 **Blue Bell Hill Commuter Car Park** - The last remaining item of equipment for the car park, the Help Point, has been installed but is awaiting connection to the telephone network by BT. When this is operational we will be able to complete our application for the 'Park Mark' award. Following survey work undertaken recently, a programme will be prepared for the implementation of on-street parking restrictions in the vicinity.

- 1.2.2 **Borough Green Car Park Retaining Wall** – construction work was completed in May and since then we have been engaged in completing all the documentation required by Kent County Council under their Highway Structures approval procedure.
- 1.2.3 **Vale Road Car Park, Tonbridge** – The new fencing on the boundary with the Indoor Bowls Club has been erected and following vegetation clearance, we will be able to determine how best to incorporate this space into the car park.
- 1.2.4 **West Malling Local Parking Plan** – If the land acquisition for Ryarsh Lane Car Park is completed within the next month, then it should be possible to complete the proposed extension and pedestrian link to Ryarsh Lane within this financial year.
- 1.2.5 **Tonbridge Local Parking Plan** – Phased implementation of the approved parking plan is now underway and is programmed to be complete by the end of March. Members will appreciate that this is a major project and the need for care and attention during implementation will be an absolute priority for officers.
- 1.2.6 **Parking Action Plan** – This year's review of the Parking Action Plan will be presented to the Board in January and will focus on the programming of schemes for Hadlow and Borough Green and also some potential improvements for Snodland. Phase 4 (routine parking requests held on our running lists) is programmed for implementation in the last quarter.
- 1.3 Community Security**
- 1.3.1 **St Peter & St. Pauls Churchyard, Tonbridge** – Consultation with adjacent residents only elicited a single response which was not in favour of lighting this short section of path. As the darkest area is immediately adjacent to the Kinnings Row Car Park we are minded to address any lighting deficiencies as part of the capital investment in car parks and recommend deleting this scheme at Capital Plan Review.
- 1.3.2 **CCTV System Enhancement** - West Malling has now joined the live monitored CCTV system with two centrally located cameras giving excellent coverage of the town centre. Two additional cameras have also been provided in Tonbridge, one local to the SOS nightclub and one in the vicinity of the new Botany car park.
- 1.3.3 We have also purchased two mobile cameras which will be taken to locations around the borough where the Crime & Disorder Partnership identify issues which would benefit from CCTV but do not warrant a permanently located camera. These cameras digitally record images onto an internal hard drive which can be monitored remotely by staff via a secure mobile phone link.

1.4 Transportation Schemes

- 1.4.1 **Aylesford Raised Table Crossing** – Statutory consultation is now complete but we will need to resolve an objection to the raised table from Arriva before the scheme can move forward. It is still programmed for the scheme to be completed by the end of the current financial year.
- 1.4.2 **LTP Programme - West Malling Station Northern Access** – The land survey of the site has been completed and we are now working on the detailed design of the access. A full report on the various aspects of the station appears elsewhere in the agenda.
- 1.4.3 **LTP Programme – Other Contributory Schemes LTP Programme:** At its meeting last February, the Board endorsed a number of partnership schemes supporting the County Councils Small Improvement Programme. In the main, these proposals are being project managed directly by the County Council through its consultant, Jacobs Babbie. The Divisional Manager reported on the current status of each of these schemes to the recent meeting of the Joint Transportation Board and we summarise his comments on the expected progress over the next quarter.
- **Bull Lane, Eccles** – speed management initiative: detailed design will be carried out.
 - **Beech Road, East Malling** – Safer Routes to Schools based initiative: detailed design will be completed, a works order issued and a start made on the proposals.
 - **Bow Road, Wateringbury** – zebra crossing: detailed design will be carried out.
 - **Birling and Ryarsh** - traffic calming project: the detailed design will be finalised and the works programmed in the remainder of the 2005/06 financial year.
 - **Red Hill, Wateringbury** – Speed management initiative: subject to the traffic order receiving no objections, the works will be completed during the next quarter.
 - **A227 Starvecrow Corner** – Interactive sign. The report earlier in these papers describes how this proposal has expanded into a more comprehensive scheme of highway improvement to address the traffic problems at this location. Subject to Members approving a contribution by the Borough Council, we expect the bulk of this work to be completed by the KCC Divisional Manager the end of this financial year.

The proposal for a toucan phased traffic light controlled junction **at Leybourne Way/Gighill Road junction** is being project managed in-house by borough

engineers. We expect the detailed design to be completed during the next quarter so that the work can be programmed across the turn of the financial year to match the phasing of the County Council's funding.

The traffic calming scheme at **West Peckham** was also project managed by Borough staff and this was recently completed on site.

- 1.4.4 **Station Road/Priory Grove, Ditton** – Following the land survey, designs and estimates were prepared. In the absence of any compulsory purchase, the viability of this scheme depends entirely upon the acceptance of all the residents and this is currently being tested with them. A full report on this scheme will be presented to the next meeting of this board.
- 1.4.5 **Fairfield Road Link, Borough Green** – Final approval of the details of the scheme is awaited from the adjacent land owners before opening up the access through to the station yard.
- 1.4.6 **Wouldham Traffic Management** – No further progress to report on this initiative at this time although the completion of other projects will permit resources to be directed back to this scheme enabling measures to be implemented by October 2006.
- 1.4.7 **Street Furniture – Tonbridge Town Lands/Richard Mylls Partnership** – The repairs to the shelter and seats outside St Stephens church in Tonbridge were completed and seem to have been appreciated by those that use the shelter on their way to and from the High Street.

1.5 Environmental Enhancements

- 1.5.1 **Woodlands Parade Enhancement** – Although the progress of this scheme has been quite protracted, we are now optimistic that an agreement with the land owner will be made in due course and that the scheme will proceed. It is extremely difficult to be certain about programming but we will keep local members informed of ongoing discussion.
- 1.5.2 **Tonbridge Town Lock** – This project is reported elsewhere in these papers.

1.6 Land Drainage

- 1.6.1 **Pen Stream, Tonbridge** – The next stage in this scheme is to engage an external consultant to computer model part of the stream so that the effectiveness of improvement options can be determined.
- 1.6.2 **Aylesford Flood Alleviation Scheme** – Planning consent for a revised access road was granted to Cemex (RMC) by Kent County Council in June. This access road makes no concession to the long term aim of providing flood water storage at this location and effectively means that storage would need to be at more than

one location. Naturally this has a cascade effect upon cost, economics and ability to attract grant aid respectively.

- 1.6.3 It is important to note that the Aylesford Stream will become 'main river' from the 1st April 2006 and powers to undertake works will transfer to the Environment Agency. The lead on the future management of the scheme must therefore be considered.
- 1.6.4 **East Peckham Flood Alleviation Scheme** – This major scheme is nearing completion and its commissioning is due to take place on the 18th November. The Environment Agency's Regional Flood Defence Committee visited the site recently. Ongoing liaison with local residents is taking place and it is envisaged that the partnership, which has been recognised as 'best practice' will continue into the maintenance phase.

1.7 Progress with List C Assessments

- 1.7.1 **Eccles Parking** – Public consultation has been undertaken and a good response received. The survey has provided details of vehicle ownership, nature of parking problems, potential usage of secure parking and residents own views and suggestions. The results are being analysed and will assist in developing a strategy to ease parking and access problems in 'The Square'.
- 1.7.2 **Car Park Enhancement Programme** – So far this has involved collating asset registers for all the Council's car parks by a combination of desk work and site surveys. Condition surveys will then inform the plan for future capital investment in our car parks.
- 1.7.3 Other list C assessments are also being progressed such that they may ultimately be reported to the Finance & Property Advisory Board on the 4 January 2006.

Background papers:

contact: Steve Medlock

Nil

File ref: D17/1

Steve Humphrey
Director of Planning & Transportation

Councillor Matthew Balfour
Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation