

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

20 November 2012

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 ROAD TRANSPORT MATTERS

Summary

This report provides an update on a range of road transport issues affecting the Borough.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 At the last meeting the Board considered various reports on transportation issues currently affecting the Borough. This report provides an update on matters previously discussed together with some information relating to the Tonbridge Transportation Strategy and some feedback on a meeting of the Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultation Group.

1.2 Local Parking Studies

1.2.1 Phase 6B of our parking programme will be formally advertised shortly following a comprehensive informal consultation as set out in the September report to the Joint Transportation Board.

1.2.2 The parking review for West Malling was the subject of public consultation earlier this year and will have been considered by the West Malling Local Parking Plan Steering Group after this report was written. I will give an oral update on progress at the meeting. Any proposals coming forward from this work will be reported to the Board for decisions on implementation in due course.

1.3 Tonbridge Transport Strategy

1.3.1 In September the Director of Kent Highways & Transportation and I reported to the Joint Transportation Board outlining a proposed shift in the transport strategy for Tonbridge Town Centre away from the aspiration to redistribute traffic from the High Street. The intention now is to provide better management of the current road structure through improved signalling, signing and some relatively modest and more achievable engineering works which would ease the flow of traffic in and around the town centre. Table 1 (**Annex 1**) sets out the objectives and proposed approaches for achieving the new Transport Strategy. Further reports will be

made to the Joint Transportation Board as the detailed programme to implement this strategy is developed in consultation with local Members.

- 1.3.2 I am conscious that significant interest has been expressed locally in Tonbridge about bus the importance of bus transport to serve the town. In particular I am very much aware that during the first weeks of the new academic year some difficulties were experienced by school children not being able to access services due to apparent capacity issues. I have asked the County Council for a report to be submitted to the Joint Transportation Board in order to outline the way in which the organisation and provision of bus services works in connection with school travel and how the relationship between KCC and bus operators works in planning services.

1.4 The Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultation Group

- 1.4.1 This Joint Parish Councils Transport Consultation Group (JPCTCG) met at the end of September and received a presentation from Tim Shaw, Chairman of the J5 Slips Committee. This group is, amongst other things, campaigning for east facing slips at junction 5 of the M25. Its aim is to promote and lobby for practical support to assist in enabling the building of these slip roads which would allow full road connectivity in all directions at the M25/M26/A21 interchange and a consequential reduction in traffic along the A25 through several villages including Borough Green. Further details can be found at their website www.j5-slips.org/

1.5 A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling Scheme - Public Inquiry

- 1.5.1 The Transport Minister Stephen Hammond has just announced that the Department for Transport will shortly restart the statutory process for the proposed multi-million pound widening of the A21. This is excellent news and should now pave the way for construction work to begin in 2015, subject of course to the release of funds. Officers will be liaising with the Highways Agency, Kent County Council, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and others in the course of the inquiry preparations. The news release issued by the Highways Agency can be found in **Annex 2**.

1.6 Legal Implications

- 1.6.1 None

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.7.1 None directly for the Borough Council.

1.8 Risk Assessment

- 1.8.1 Not required.

1.9 Equality Impact Assessment

1.9.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.10 Policy Considerations

1.10.1 Community

Background papers:

contact: Mike O'Brien

Nil

Steve Humphrey

Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	N/A	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.