

## **TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**Monday, 17th June, 2024**

**Present:** County Cllr H Rayner (Chair), Cllr A Cope, Cllr D A S Davis, Cllr F A Hoskins, Cllr A Mehmet, County Cllr Mrs T Dean, County Cllr Mrs S Hohler, County Cllr S Hudson, County Cllr A Kennedy and County Cllr P Stepto.

**In attendance:** Councillors W E Palmer and M Taylor was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rue No 15.21.

Mrs S Butterfill, Mr D Hall and Mrs S Barker were also present on behalf of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC).

**Virtual:** Councillors Mrs A S Oakley and M R Rhodes participated via MS Teams in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Crisp, M A Coffin, D Thornewell and County Cllr M Hood.

(Note: Cllr Crisp submitted apologies for in person attendance but listened to the discussion via MS Teams).

### **PART 1 - PUBLIC**

#### **JTB 24/11 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Notification of substitute members were recorded as set out below:

- Councillor K Tanner substituted for Councillor M Coffin

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules 17.5 to 17.9 this Councillor had the same rights as the ordinary member of the committee for whom they were substituting.

With the approval of the Chair, the Kent Association of Local Councils advised of a substitution in their parish/town representatives for the meeting and Mr D Hall substituted for Cllr W Palmer who attended as a Borough Councillor.

#### **JTB 24/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

**JTB 24/13 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 4 March 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**JTB 24/14 SCOPE OF THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD AND LOCAL/PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Following a meeting of the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Joint Transportation Boards, Members views were sought on whether the scope of the Board should be widened. During discussion, whilst recognising officer resource implications, Members welcomed extending the scope to include public transport and local bus and train travel services.

In order to allow for due consideration to be given, Members requested that the item be included on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion and for a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Kent County Council be agreed.

**RESOLVED:** That consideration be given to the scope of the Joint Transportation Board at the next meeting.

**MATTERS FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL****JTB 24/15 WOULDHAM EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

Members received an update to the experimental scheme in Wouldham, where a 'no entry' restriction had been installed at the junction of School Lane and High Street to restrict the number of vehicles travelling southbound on High Street, reduce congestion and reduce pollution from vehicle emissions.

Concerns had been raised by Wouldham Parish Council, County Councillor Kennedy and residents regarding the increase in the amount of traffic using High Street following the construction of Peters Bridge and the Peters Village development.

In response to a public consultation, 62% supported the experimental scheme. Of the objections received, 35% stated that the scheme had too much impact on the adjacent road/communities and businesses. Members noted that this might be due to the length of the diversion route to reach the lower end of the High Street. 16% stated that driving further via the diversion route caused an increase in pollution and was inconvenient.

Wouldham Parish Council had carried out a peak traffic survey in May 2023 which identified an 84% reduction in southbound traffic which could

be approximated to be the level of compliance with the 'no entry' restriction.

During discussion, Members indicated that they would support a gradual reduction in the speed limit on Hill Road on the approach to Medway Green School.

**RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) for the 'no entry' point and accompanying 'no right turn restrictions at Scarborough Lane and Church Street be made permanent and include an amendment to exempt cyclists and equestrians from the 'no entry' restriction; and
- (2) the removal of the conversion of School Lane to 'one way' from the scheme be noted.

**MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**

**JTB 24/16 HIGHWAYS FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The report of the Kent County Highways, Transportation and Waste summarised schemes programmed for delivery in 2023/24 and provided an update on Road, Footway and Cycleway Renewal and Preservation Schemes (Appendix A), Drainage Repairs and Improvements (Appendix B), Street Lighting (Appendix C), Transportation and Safety Schemes (Appendix D), Developer Funded Works (Appendix E), Bridge Works (Appendix F), Traffic Systems (Appendix G) and the Combined Members Grant (Appendix H).

Members sought reassurance that signage would be installed leading up to the micro surfacing on Chapman Way leading into Winterfield Lane and notification of changes in bus services. Furthermore, clarification was sought in respect of the current design status for the externally funded scheme for East Street/High Street in Tonbridge and noted that the design would depend on the outcome of a ground penetrating radar survey. An update on the expected conclusion date in respect of the investigations into the feasibility options for drainage repairs and improvements to London Road, Larkfield were sought.

Concern was expressed regarding the recent flooding on Water Lane, West Malling and confirmation was sought on whether the flooding had occurred following the completion of the drainage works. In regard to develop funded works, the lack of directional signage on the newly opened section of Bellingham Way was raised.

**JTB 24/17 MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The report of the Kent Major Capital Programme Team summarised schemes programmed for implementation in line with Kent County Council's strategic targets with the road network.

Kent County Council provided an update on the major junction upgrade scheme to Coldharbour Roundabout and forthcoming planned works during June as detailed in the supplemental document. Members noted that a comprehensive update would be reported at the next meeting.

**JTB 24/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Members noted the request from Parish Councillor David Hall that Kent County Council give consideration to the implementation of a 20mph speed limit in Ightham village centre, the installation of an interactive speed sign and effective signage due to an increase in traffic issues. Further consideration would be given to the request at the next meeting of the Board.

**MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE****JTB 24/19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm