MINUTES of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on Tuesday 22 June 2010 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Mrs A Allen (Chairman)
 Councilor A R Martin (Vice-Chairman)
 Councilor A Bardoe
 Mrs P Cole
 Councilor D A Hammock
 Councilor J A Hayes
 Councilor E J Lampkin
 Mr R J Lees
 Councilor J I Muckle
 Mr J Ozog
 Councilor N Pearson-Coffey
 Mr A S Sandhu

ABSENT: Mr J Kite

(DBC) Alfredo Mendes – Project Delivery Manager
(KCC) David Aspinall – Community Delivery Manager
 Mr Ray Dines – Transport and Development Manager
 Andrew Burton – Highway Scheme Manager
 Rebecca Scott-Beaulieu – KHS / KCC
 Peter Slaughter – Transport Engineer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr J A Kite.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councilors A R Martin and E J Lampkin declared a personal interest in agenda item 17 – Objectors to formal proposals for yellow lines at various locations, as some of the objectors were known to them.

3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DARTFORD JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD HELD ON 9 MARCH 2010.

RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 9 March 2010 be confirmed.

4. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for consideration.

5. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES (IF ANY)

There were no references from other committees.

6. CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER

The Chairman announced that due to the public interest in agenda items 16, 17 and 18, she would take these as the first item of business.

7. STONE PLACE ROAD/LONDON ROAD/HEDGE PLACE ROAD CROSSROADS SIGNALISATION CRASH REMEDIAL MEASURE SCHEME - CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Transport and Development Manager introduced the report and set out for the Board the objections which had been received. He advised that the Police’s Traffic Management Unit had raised no objections to the principle but would like to be consulted on the detailed plans.

He advised that this proposal was for the minimum requirement to maintain free flow and the double yellow lines across the show room would protect the access for use.

The Chairman acknowledged the comments raised and the support from the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the outcome of the consultation be noted.
(ii) That the objections received on the grounds of inconvenience or additional difficulty to be park be set aside due to the safety benefits to all road users, including pedestrians.
(ii) That the crash remedial measure proposed for the signalisation of Stone Place Road/London Road/Hedge Place Road, as illustrated in the report, be endorsed.

8. OBJECTIONS TO FORMAL PROPOSALS FOR YELLOW LINES VARIOUS LOCATIONS
The Transport and Development Manager introduced the report and advised that there had been consideration of the comments received and changes had been made on some proposals.

Members discussed their concerns with the proposal for Littlebrook Manorway. The proposed waiting restrictions were being considered due to the difficulty that Fastrack buses were experiencing with parked cars. Residents, supported by some Members, felt that this problem could be resolved with the removal of the pedestrian islands.

Concern was raised on the safety implication the removal of the islands would create. It was commented that there was misunderstanding from some residents on the original proposal, as they thought that the whole of Littlebrook Manorway was to have restrictions.

Officers advised that prior to the installation of these islands there had been three serious injuries at this point. Their introduction had seen an improvement in safety and therefore a replacement crossing scheme would not be seen as priority. This proposal was to assist the buses who were finding it difficult to pass legally at this point due to parked cars.

The Board agreed to defer its decision on this proposal. They asked Officers to review all the options available, including costings, and report back to the Board.

Members requested that in the future any requests for waiting restrictions be drawn to the Local Ward Members attention before any work is commenced. This would prevent wasted Officer time for schemes like that on Common Lane, which would have never been supported locally.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the formal objections to the five of the eight proposals are noted.
(ii) Subject to the amendments detailed in the report that the proposals be implemented with the exception of the proposals related to Common Lane and Littlebrook Manor Way.
(iii) That the Traffic Regulation Orders also be progressed for the following unopposed schemes:

Devon Road Junction with Watermill Way  
Main Road junction with Gravel Road  
The Crescent

(iv) That the decision on Littlebrook Manorway be deferred and Officers review alternative proposals and present their findings, including costings, to the next meeting of the Board.

9. INSTALLATIONS OF YELLOW LINE WAITING RESTRICTIONS
The report detailed locations in Dartford where yellow line waiting restrictions were required to deter obstruction and improve safety for road users. The report also detailed locations where alterations were required on existing waiting restrictions.

Replacement maps were tabled at the meeting for Members. The Board requested that in future, reports of this type included postcodes as some road within the borough had the same name and it was difficult to identify which road the proposal was referring to.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the content of the report be noted.
(ii) That permission be granted to proceed to statutory consultation on the installation or alteration of yellow lines at all locations detailed in the report.
(iii) That any objections received in response to the statutory consultation be considered by the Board.

10. MATTERS ARISING

Broad Lane
Members of the Board were pleased to note that there had been progress on resolving flooding, and requested an update at the next meeting.

Officers were asked again to contact Transco as no response had yet been received.

London Road
Members were pleased that this issue seemed to have been resolved.

Hook Green Lane
Members requested to receive an update on the progress of cutting back of vegetation and the replacement of signs at the next meeting.

Princes Road Traffic Lights
Members were advised that a visor would be fitted to the traffic light at its next service.

Bean Junction Improvements
Members asked if Officers or Members of either authority would be given the opportunity to provide input to which scheme would be put out to public consultation.

The Transport and Development Manager advised that KCC were previously invited to a workshop looking at a range of options for the A2/Bean junction and confirmed that there would be public consultation in due course. However, it likely that progress would be delayed by the latest round of Government spending cuts.
Oakfield Lane and Old Bexley Lane
Members were advised that the possibility of lighting on this footpath would need to be addressed through the Safer Routes for School project being developed for this area. Funding for such a scheme in 2011/12 is now uncertain.

Fastrack
Members asked about the progress of maintenance of the Fastrack routes and raised the following areas of concern:

- Ground maintenance work was not being carried out to a long term plan.
- Litter picking was not carried out prior to grass cutting, resulting in a confetti effect.
- Damaged trees were not being replaced.
- Only certain planted areas were being cut – leaving some areas unmanaged and overgrown.
- Lack of understanding and communication on who was responsible for which areas and when work was due to be carried out.

The Community Development Manager advised that a joint officer meeting between the two authorities had not been held due to other priorities. He advised that funding which had been previously identified may now not be available due to the current financial review.

The Board expressed disappointment that no progress had been made since this issue was first raised in September 2009. It was acknowledged that the contract was currently being negotiated it was agreed that the issue of Fastrack maintenance should be resolved prior to any contract being set.

Members of the Board therefore resolved to refer this issue to the Cabinet to update Members on the lack of progress that had been made.

11. CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

Thames Water – Victorian Mains Replacement
The Board was advised that the Development Control Board Manager had been unable to provide an update for the meeting. During participating in a charity bike race, Mr A Lauder had an accident and had been hospitalised.

Members of the Board passed on their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Vice-Chairman raised concern with the Thames Water works on Hawley Road/Oakfield Lane. There seemed to be ongoing roadworks in this area
caused by the utility company, which was going on longer than expected. He asked to receive an update, as at one stage there was indication that they were to be fined under the permit scheme.

Members agreed that communication to residents and business was important to the success of these works. It was acknowledged that responsibility for this lay with the utility company, however if they failed to do this, there needed to be an alternative.

Pedestrian Zone: High Street, Dartford
The Project Delivery Manager advised that the Traffic Regulation Order had now been sealed and they were awaiting approval of signage from the Department for Transport so that the No Waiting Restrictions can be introduced. This would prevent the need for double yellow lines being installed on the High Street.

Potholes
Further to the update provided at the last meeting, the Operations Manager updated the Board on the position of potholes.

FM Conway have been appointed as the contractor for Dartford to tackle the potholes on primary roads. He advised that the holes they will be dealing with are listed on the KHS website.

The Chairman asked if they were still operating a ‘find and fix’ approach, or should the public continue to log locations.

He advised that the public should continue to log the locations of potholes, but these would be dealt with under previous arrangements.

A206 Bob Dunn Way/ Marsh Street Roundabout improvements
The Chairman advised that this item had been added to the agenda following a request by the local Borough Member.

The Board were advised that a potential improvement scheme for this junction had been identified as part of an infrastructure package which included 11 schemes supporting regeneration in Kent Thameside through to 2025. However, a recent announcement had seen part of this funding being suspended.

Members expressed surprise that this scheme was included as there was conscious that this was not a junction which needed attention. It was acknowledged however, that future developments may impact the junction.

12. PETITION : HEATHER DRIVE TRAFFIC IMPACT

The report provided details of the survey results and the response from Kent Police Traffic Management Unit following the receipt of the petition from the residents of Heather Drive.
Mr J Ozog advised that the lead petitioner had contacted him prior to the meeting and acknowledged that there would be no further action.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the information contained within the report be noted.

(2) That the undertaking from the Police Traffic Management Unit to monitor any contraventions of the existing 7.5 tonne weight restricted be noted.

(3) That Kent Highway Services advise the Lead Petitioner that there is insufficient justification for any changes to the traffic calming measures of Traffic Regulation Order relating to Heather Drive at this time and enclose a copy of the letter from the Police.

13. POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF DOUBLE YELLOW LINES ON SHEPHERDS LANE - RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

The report advised of the results of consultation about possible extension of double yellow line parking restrictions on the south side of Shepherds Lane.

RESOLVED:

That the receipt of the petition be noted and a further report be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

14. WINTER SERVICE CONSULTATION 2009/10

Members of the Board discussed the winter service consultation 2009/10 and considered a range of questions which they were asked.

The Board acknowledged that most Members had already submitted their views to Kent Highway Services as previously requested, and that it was not necessary to submit a joint response.

The Chairman agreed with this approach and urged that any Members who had not completed the consultation to do so soon as possible.

She summarised the points she had personally made: -

- more joint working was required between authorities and partners.
- better communication between departments and the public with advise.
- greater Parish Council involvement
- more use of local knowledge.
RESOLVED:

That Kent Highway Services be advised that Members individual comments have already been submitted and these should be included in its report and recommendations to the Environment, Highways & Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

15. **ON STREET PARKING ENFORCEMENT - OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

The report advised of the new parking operational protocol that had been agreed by the Kent Chief Executives for use by Kent County Council and the 12 District Authorities from 1 April 2010.

The Chairman drew Members attention to Parking Operational Protocol and acknowledged the Board’s involvement in Traffic Regulation Orders.

RESOLVED:

That the Parking Operational Protocol be noted.

16. **PROGRAMMED HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

The report advised Members on the progress of highway improvement schemes in the Borough of Dartford scheduled to be completed during 2010-11.

Following concern raised on the cost of the Princes Road scheme, the Highway Schemes Manager apologised as he had double counted and the cost was actually £139K. However, due to the recent financial announcement the Princes Road Scheme (MY1404TD) and Devon Road (09-S16-DA-02) would need to be reviewed.

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

17. **PROPOSED CYCLE-PATH FROM PRINCES ROAD TO GREEN STREET GREEN ROAD**

The report sought endorsement of a proposal to permit cycling on the widened footway between Princes Road and Green Street Green Road.

RESOLVED:
That the proposal to redesignate approximately 410 metres of widened footway as a shared-use ‘Cycle Track’ between Princes Road and Green Street Green Road be endorsed.

18. **PROPOSED CYCLE-PATHS FROM CENTRAL PARK TO DARENTH RD AND ON PRINCES ROAD AT THE JUNCTION WITH NORTH ROAD**

The report sought endorsement of the proposals to create two short lengths of shared-use cycle paths in Dartford.

Concern was raised on safety with the zig zag effect that was created on the path for cyclist for the Darenth Road proposal.

The Transport Engineer advised that this was necessary due to the terrain and to ensure that the path was DDA compliant. The design of the path would also discourage people from speeding.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the proposal to redesignate approximately 28 metres of footway as a shared-use ‘Cycle Track’ between Central Park and Darenth Road be endorsed.

(2) That the proposal to redesignate approximately 18 metres of widened footway as a shared-use ‘Cycle Track’ on the west side of Princes Road adjacent the junction with North Road be endorsed.

19. **PROPOSED CYCLE-PATH ON SHEPHERDS LANE FROM PRINCES ROAD TO HEATHCLOSE ROAD**

The report sought endorsement of the proposal to permit cycling on the widened footway on the south side of Shepherds Lane between Princes Road and Heathclose Road.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal to redesignate 355 metres of footway as a shared-use ‘Cycle Track’ on the south side of Shepherds Lane between junction with Princes Road and the junction with Heathclose Road be endorsed.

20. **SHORT BURST ITEMS**

Bexley Park
Mrs A Allen asked to receive an update when these roads would be adopted. The Police would not support residents on some issues because the roads remained unadopted.
Littlebrook Manorway
Councillor J I Muckle asked if a decision had been made regarding resurfacing. He was advised that no decision had been made.

Petition – Lighting, Bean Primary School
Councillor D A Hammock advised that he had been asked to submitted a petition to the Board.

Cycle Lane
Councillor D A Hammock requested that consideration be given for a cycle path at Swan Valley School. The School would be becoming a school of cycling excellence, and it would be beneficial for them to have a path from the school to the new cyclopark at Gravesend.

A225 Sutton at Hone
Parish Councillor N Pearson-Coffey asked on behalf of the Parish Council if they could have some advise on speeding and what measures could be put in place.

Drop Kerb – School Lane, Bean
Councillor N Pearson-Coffey on behalf of residents, passed on their compliments of the contractors who undertook the work. However, they missed installing one outside the Primary School which was scheduled.

Double Yellow Lines, Bean Hill
Councillor N Pearson-Coffey advised that it was now two years since these lines were approved and they had still not been installed.

Bean Interchange
Councillor N Pearson-Coffey advised that HGV vehicles were still entering the village because they are using Sat Nav systems. This was also made worst as the European drivers do not understand feet and inch measurements used on signs..

Illegal Horse grazing
Mrs P Cole thanked all officers for their support on removing the horses which were grazing illegally in Stone.

Littlebrook Manorway
Mr A Sandhu advised of a problem that had been raised by residents. Trees had grown very tall and were now interfering with the telephone lines. He asked that these be pruned at a suitable time.

He also asked that the flooding in this area be reviewed during heavy rainfall.

He commented that there seemed to have been an improvement with the distribution vehicles following the Leader of the Council writing to J Sainsbury’s.
Councillor J I Muckle advised that this problem had not been resolved and he was still showing drivers where they should be going.

Sandpit Road
Mr A Sandhu requested that restrictions be reviewed in this area as there was difficult entering the businesses due to the vehicles parked by the car repair business.

London Road / Cotton Lane
Mr J Ozog asked if the trees could be pruned back at this junction as you were unable to read the signs or view the traffic lights.

West Hill Park
Mr J Ozog asked to receive an update when this would be adopted.

Heath Close Road
Mr J Ozog asked if restriction could be reviewed in this area. On the curve of the road, school buses were having difficulty getting through due to parked cars.

Swan Lane / Princes Road
Mr J Ozog asked if this area could be tidied up, and asked for some possible proposals and costings and indicated that he may consider using his KCC grant to complete.

High Road, Wilmington
Councillor E J Lampkin asked that residents receive a formal response on the position of the yellow line proposal.

Raeburn Ave
Councillor E J Lampkin advised that trees had to be removed in this area due to the damage they were causing, but sought clarification if they were to be replaced and if there was a policy to do so.

Church Hill Road
Councillor E J Lampkin acknowledged that there had been previous requests for a mini roundabout at this location. However, residents have asked if part-time traffic lights were a possibility.

21. ROAD WORKS IN THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.
22. **KCC - ENVIRONMENT, HIGHWAYS AND WASTE POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

Members enquired if there was a update on the progress of the Lower Thames Crossing which was referred to in both sets of minutes from the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview Committee.

Kent Highway Services advised that there was no further progress to be reported.

**RESOLVED:**

That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm

Councillor A Allen
CHAIRMAN