DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on Tuesday 9 March 2010 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A R Martin (Chairman)
Mrs A Allen
Councillor A Bardoe
Councillor D A Hammock
Councillor J A Hayes
Councillor E J Lampkin
Mr R J Lees
Councillor J I Muckle
Mr J Ozog
Mr A S Sandhu

ABSENT: Mrs P Cole
Mr J Kite
Councillor N Pearson-Coffey

(DBC) Alec Lauder – Development Control Manager
Alfredo Mendes – Project Delivery Manager
Lewis Boudville – Transport Engineer

(KCC) David Aspinall – Community Delivery Manager
Mr Ray Dines – Transport and Development Manager
Andrew Burton – Highway Scheme Manager
Peter Slaughter – Transport Engineer
Kirstie Norton – Kent Highway Services
Jacqui Norwood – Community Liaison Officer

56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mrs P Cole and Councillor N Pearson-Coffey.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor E J Lampkin declared a general personal interest as Ringway were a client of his employer.

Councillor J A Hayes and Mr R Lees declared a personal interest in agenda items 13 and 14 as they where members for Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council.
58. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DARTFORD JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Joint Transportation Board held on 8 December 2009 be confirmed.

59. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

60. CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER

RESOLVED:

The Chairman advised that agenda item 8 – Presentation – Speed Limit Review, would be taken as the next item of business.

61. PRESENTATION - SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

Ms K Horton, Kent Highway Services, gave a presentation on the Speed Limit Review. She advised all Local Authorities were required to review all A and B roads by 2011.

She explained what speed limits should be and the key stages of the process for the review, which would be subject to funding.

Members questioned when they would become involved in this review. They were advised that due to amount of work involved it was not expected that anything would be ready to put to the Board for at least twelve months.

Members were concerned that their involvement seemed to be very late in the process and that they were not given much time to consult.

Ms Horton assured Members that their contribution and local knowledge was important, as experienced with other local authorities, where Member views had changed the recommendations to some roads.

The Chairman commented on the involvement of the Parish Representative in the process. He advised that Dartford had a very good Parish Association who he was sure would be interested in participating in this review. He suggested that it be asked to add this issue to their Work Plan for the next municipal year.

RESOLVED:
(1) That the information be noted.

(2) That the Dartford Association of Parish and Town Councils be asked to add the Speed Limit Review to its work plan for the next municipal year.

62. MATTERS ARISING

Hook Green Lane – cutting of vegetation
Councillor E J Lampkin sought clarification if Kent Highway Services or the Parish Council should be writing to the farmer to request that this vegetation be cut back.

Darenth Road – Flooding
Councillor E J Lampkin, supported by Mr A Sandu, felt that the issue of flooding on Darenth Road had not been resolved. The pavement and road still flooded and drains were blocked.

The Community Development Manager advised that he had checked with the Drainage Officers and they had only received one complaint on flooding in this area. He asked that the Members email him with the details and he will ask that it be investigated.

Wilmington Boys Grammar Entrance
Following enquiry it was confirmed that any improvements for the entrance for the school would need to be sought by the school to the education department.

Dartford Road – Yellow Lines
Mr J Ozog advised that he was happy to hold a site meeting with Officers to explain the problems. This suggestion was supported by the Chairman.

Highway Network Congestion
The Chairman requested an update on this issue as it was originally discussed by the Board in December 2008.

The Transport and Development Manager advised that this area was being monitored and a meeting was scheduled with the Highway Agency to monitor the situation on close circuit cameras.

The Chairman requested an update to the next Board meeting.

Temple Hill Estate – yellow lines proposals
Councillor J I Muckle expressed disappointment that there was not a report on this item.

The Transport and Development Manager drew Members attention to the plan attached in the agenda which showed the area which was subject to...
consultation. He advised that any objections would be reported to the June meeting.

Broad Lane Flooding
The Community Delivery Manager apologised for the misinformation that had been provided in the past for this issue. Officers were now not sure if a camera investigation was ever carried out.

He advised that the Drainage Team had revisited the site and located some old soakaways and will carry out a full survey. A meeting has been scheduled with the residents and an update will be brought to the next meeting.

63. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES (IF ANY)

There were no references from other committees.

64. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Winter Service
The Community Delivery Manager advised that Mr N Chard, KCC Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste, will report to the Policy Overview Committee on 23 March 2010 on this issue. He advised that he had instructed that a consultation be sent out to County, Borough and Parish Members, which would include an opportunity to make suggestions on improvements.

He advised that all Members of the JTB would receive an electronic copy of the Winter Policy and local plans.

The Board welcomed receiving the consultation and discussed the issue of people clearing snow from pavements outside their houses. At the time, unclear legal advice was given for clearing snow, which was common practise in other countries.

The Community Delivery Manager advised that other countries had laws which meant that people had to clear snow from outside their properties. He advised that there were myths circulated regarding snow clearance, but a person would not by liable if it was cleared sensibly.

Pot Holes
The Community Delivery Manager advised that all Members should have received a letter advising how Kent Highway Services (KHS) were dealing with pot holes. Due to the recent weather conditions, KHS had dealt with 30,000 potholes since January, in comparison to 9,000 for the same period in 2009. Additional funding had been found for pot holing, and until this issue had been remedied, other projects would be put on hold.
East Hill, Dartford – Roadworks
The Chairman requested an update on this item following concerns raised by the Executive Director. Thames Water were scheduled to carry out works which overrun and unfortunately the temporary traffic lights were not removed following completion of the works, which had added to the disruption on this route.

He was reassured that the company responsible were putting procedures in place to prevent this from happening again and hoped that the use of the permit scheme would help prevent issues like this in the future. Thames Water were also being fined for this overrun.

Thames Water – Victorian Mains Replacement
The Development Control Manager advised that meetings were still being held. Unfortunately these recently had been cancelled due to the company restructuring and they were now dealing with different officers. The works on Oakfield Lane had now been completed. However there was still some reinstatement works to be carried out in the Town Centre.

Members asked Officers to seek and provide advice on what action could be taken if the reinstatement work was not to standard.

Oakfield Lane – Safer Road Crossings
The Transport and Development Manager updated Members following the discussion at the last meeting. Officers were currently reviewing this area and if prioritised it would be included on the Highway Improvement Schemes for 2011-2012. It was expected that the progress for schemes for 2010/2011 would be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

Maintenance of Fastrack Routes
The Chairman updated the Board following consideration of this item by the Cabinet at Dartford. He advised that there was shared frustration. This was a flag ship scheme which was an exemplar for other schemes in the country.

Cabinet thanked the Board for highlighting these issues and believed that the County Council should provide appropriate resources to ensure that maintenance and management/enforcement activities are carried out to a standard to reflect the national flagship status of Fastrack. They asked that that the Board continue to monitor as part of its work plan.

65. PROSPECT PLACE

The Development Control Manager introduced the report and advised that following the publication of this report he had been contacted by Mr J Albany-Ward from the Management Company, Munroe K Asset Management.

Mr Lauder advised of the details which were approved as part of the planning application, and outlined that a no entry restriction on the main east west
corridor within the car park where its meets the main access had not been implemented.

With a complete restriction on the right hand turn as you enter the car park, and the approved ‘no entry’ at the eastern end, a circuitous route to exit and enter the car park would reduce conflict and hopefully reduce the traffic issues which overflow into the Town Centre.

Mr Lauder advised that these issues have been drawn to Mr Albany-Ward’s attention. He has advised that the landlord is keen to address the traffic issues.

In regards to the right hand turn he has advised that some measures to prevent vehicles from doing this were to be introduced within a few weeks which they would monitor.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment and frustration in the progress of this problem. Following the positive meeting with the management company he thought that they were willing to review the situation and assist with the problems caused within the Town Centre by this car park.

The Board supported any improvements that would help the problem this retail park caused the town centre. The traffic situation caused by people accessing Prospect Place was detrimental to the Town Centre, and the Board supported any action taken by Officers so that the original approved plans were applied with.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the traffic problems caused by Prospect Place be monitored and remain on the Board’s Matters Arising.

(2) That the Management Company be advised that the Board welcomes the changes to the car park at Prospect Place being implemented.

66. PEDESTRIAN ZONE: HIGH STREET, DARTFORD

The report advised the Board on the progress on the Traffic Regulation Order to remove general motor traffic from the ‘pedestrianised’ area of the town and to stop car parking on this part of the High Street.

The Chairman advised that the statutory consultation closed on the 8 March 2010 and only one response was received from the Police. He was disappointed with their response, although they had not objected to the Traffic Regulation Order, they had advised that it would be a low priority for enforcement. This differed greatly from the views provided by Chief Inspector Painter when this issue was raised with him by The Leader.
Officers advised that enforcement of the Traffic Regulation Order would be investigated and that this may include use of the static CCTV equipment if Secretary of State approval was sought and granted.

Following enquiry, Members were advised that there would be warning period for offenders prior to full enforcement so that people were made aware of the changes.

RESOLVED

That following no objections being raised, the Traffic Regulation Order to remove general motor traffic from the ‘pedestrianised’ area of the town and to stop car parking on this part of the High Street be endorsed by the Board and the necessary action be taken for its introduction.

67. VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD - DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES (NO.1) 2010

The report advised the Board of the Objections to Disabled Persons Parking Bay Orders which had been advertised in January 2010.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the following Traffic Regulation Orders for Disabled Persons Parking Bays, as details within the report and advertised, be confirmed:

30 Little Queen Street Dartford (Waid Close)
116 Charles Street Greenhithe
84 Keary Road Swanscombe
36 Keary Road Swanscombe
95 Fulwich Road Dartford

(2) That that the objectors to the Traffic Regulation Orders for Disabled Persons Parking Bays be advised accordingly.

(2) That the Disabled Persons Parking Bay Orders be removed from:

118 Littlebrook Manorway Dartford Kent
52 Attlee Drive Dartford Kent
86 High Road Dartford Kent
45 Alamein Road Swanscombe Kent
34 Perry Grove Dartford Kent
26 Essex Road Longfield Kent
177 Fulwich Road Dartford Kent
28 Osterberg Road Dartford Kent
5 Alamein Gardens Dartford Kent
24 London Road Stone Kent
79 Manor Road Swanscombe Kent
30 Fawkham Road Longfield Kent
68. NEW BARN ROAD / RED STREET, SOUTHFLEET JUNCTION MODIFICATION

The report sought Members endorsement for proposed modifications to the junction of New Barn and Red Street in Southfleet.

The Chairman advised that a copy of the report had been circulated to Local Ward Members who had raised no objections.

As advised in the report, the Highway Scheme Manager provided an update on funding. He advised that it was expected that the scheme would qualify for funding under the Local Transport Plan 2006-11. This had been discussed with the relevant Cabinet Member and it was awaiting sign off.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed illustration for modifications to the junction of New Barn Road and Red Street in Southfleet, as set out within the report, be endorsed.

69. NORTHFLEET - EBBSFLEET STATION PEDESTRIAN LINKS

The report informed Members about plans to improve pedestrian links to Ebbsfleet station from Northfleet station and the surrounding community.

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

70. CYCLE ROUTE TO EBBSFLEET STATION

The report advised Members and sought endorsement of a proposal to permit cycling on the footway on the northwest side of the Thames Way roundabout at the entrance to Ebbsfleet station.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal to redesignate 83 metres of footway as a shared-use ‘cycle Track’ on the northwest side of Thames Way, between the entrance to Ebbsfleet station and the nearby path to Swanscombe be endorsed.
71. PROGRAMMED HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The report advised on the progress of highway improvement schemes in the Borough of Dartford scheduled to be completed during 2009-10 and which roads are scheduled to be resurfaced in 2010-11.

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

72. BUDGET 2010/11 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2010/11 TO 2012/12

The Chairman advised that he had asked that this report, which was considered by the KCC Environment, Highway and Waste Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 November 2009 be included for information.

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

73. SHORT BURST ITEMS

The Chairman asked if any Members of the Board had any issues that they would like to be raised. He reminded the Board that these should not be issues that should be reported through the Kent Highway Services Customer Services.

Littlebrook Manorway
Councillor J I Muckle requested if the whole of Littlebrook Manor Way could be reviewed for resurfacing.

Princes Road
Councillor A Bardoe asked if the traffic lights on Princes Road where it meets Shepherds Lane could be examined. Currently there was a filter lane to turn left into Shepherds Lane. However people at this junction often looked at the wrong set of traffic lights. This resulted in people who were travelling along Princes Road (North west bound) using the filter lane traffic light. He asked if this could this be fitted with a hood to prevent this from happening.

Bean Junction improvements
Mr A Sandu requested to receive an update on the progress for improvements to this junction. This was supported by Councillor D A Hammock who had also requested prior to the meeting.

The Transport and Development Manager advised that an update will be provided in due course.
Hesketh Park  
Mr J Ozog asked if brown directional signs could be put in place for the park. He was advised that there were certain requirements which need to be met for these signs and he should place this enquiry via the KHS Customer Services.

Southfleet Drive – Flooding  
Councillor J Hayes advised that the drains had been cleared within this area, however there was still flooding.

The Highway Scheme Manager advised that there was significant problem identified in this area. This was currently a high priority and officers were investigating to try and resolve.

Gerdview Drive  
Councillor E J Lampkin raised the issue regarding potholes on behalf of Wilmington Parish Council. This issue had been logged with KHS in January 2010 and the last tracked response was that the road was to be inspected in February. He asked officers to note that since then there has been no further updates.

Common Lane  
Councillor E J Lampkin asked to be advised on progress following the previous overwhelming response to yellow lines in this area. Officers advised that the scheme was out to consultation and would be reported back to the next meeting.

Street Lighting  
Mrs A Allen asked how street lighting was monitored and there seemed to be a number of complaints. She asked that this be discussed at a future meeting of the Board.

Bob Dunn Way  
Members discussed the condition of the lay by area and were advised that any concerns should be logged via KHS Customer Services.

Clarification was provided on the hard-standing area, following the recent incident involving a HGV. Members were advised that these areas were not lay-bys but a hard-standing areas used by National Power and unrestricted access was required.

74. ROAD WORKS IN THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD
The Chairman advised that he had requested that the Board be advised of the roadworks which were currently being undertaken or expected within the Borough.

Following enquiry, Members were advised that if they required any further information on this works they should log it with KHS Customer Services and request a call back.

Members of the Board advised that they found this frustrating. Unlike the Parish Councils, they did not have access to the information that had been logged and subsequent updates which were posted.

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

75. KCC - ENVIRONMENT, HIGHWAYS AND WASTE POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm

Councillor A R Martin
CHAIRMAN