MINUTES of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor K M Kelly (Chairman, DBC)
Mrs. A Allen MBE (Vice-Chairman, KCC)
Mr. P Harman (KCC)
Mr. J Ozog (KCC)
Councillor J A Hayes (DBC)
Councillor E J Lampkin (DBC)
Councillor Mrs. J A Ozog (DBC)
Councillor Mrs. D Page (DBC)
Councillor R J Wells (DBC)
Councillor R Lees (Dartford Parish/Town Councils)
Councillor P F Coleman, DBC (by Chairman’s agreement)

ABSENT: Mrs P Cole (KCC)
Mr J Kite MBE (KCC)

ALSO PRESENT:
Carol Valentine – West Kent Highways Manager, KCC
Denise Sutton – Dartford District Manager, KCC
Lewis Boudville – Principal Transport Planner, DBC

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Butler, Mrs P Cole and Mr J A Kite MBE.

The Chairman welcomed a delegation of residents from Burnham Road to the meeting and advised that Mr Eric Grover would be addressing the Board regarding Item 10 - Toucan Crossing, Burnham Road – responses to Public Consultation.

He also welcomed Councillor Pat Coleman to proceedings to address the Board under the Members’ Enquiry Items as a Ward Member for Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.
98. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DARTFORD JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2017.**

    RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held on 5 December 2017 be confirmed as accurate.

99. **URGENT ITEMS**

    The Chairman confirmed that there were no urgent items for the Board to consider.

100. **MATTERS ARISING**

    The Board received a report and Appendix on issues that were outstanding from previous meetings and received further information on the following matters:

    **Parking Issues Ingress Park** [Appendix Action 5]

    It was reported that the Parking Lining works had taken place and enforcement measures by Council Officers had commenced.

    **Misuse of Busways by Motorists** [Action 6]

    The Planning Officer advised that he would be presenting a report to the next meeting of the Board.

    **Parking Control Issues: Common Lane Wilmington** [Action 7]

    The Vice-Chairman advised the Board that a number of planning issues were under consideration and that it was hoped to present a report to the next meeting of the Board.

    **Feedback on Traffic Issues: Heath Lane Speed Restrictions** [Action 12]

    The Board noted that in the absence of any ‘accident data’ KCC Highways would not undertake any works and that the Action could be deleted from the Matters Arising report.

    **KCC Policy on installation/funding of Yellow Lines** [Min. No. 93 refers]

    Mr Harman (KCC Member) sought further guidance from Officers on whether the Borough Council could undertake this work, precluded under the Combined Member Fund when not a County responsibility.

    The Dartford District Manager, KCC confirmed her earlier advice to the Board [Min. No. 93 refers] that KCC and the Combined Member Fund did not support work around parking issues unless safety was an issue. She was not
aware of any accident data for Maiden Lane which she understood continued to suffer from inconsiderate parking by motorists, but would refer the matter to her colleagues in the Safety Schemes Team and revert. She also confirmed that a KCC Officer was delivering the necessary TRO under KCC’s previous TRO policy given that the London Borough of Bexley had installed regulations on its side of the borough boundary.

The Principal Transport Planner, DBC advised Members that a meeting was scheduled to take place soon between DBC and KCC Officers to consider potential changes to the current operating Protocol between the two Authorities.

101. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES (IF ANY)

The Chairman confirmed that no matters had been referred from other Committees for the Board’s consideration.

102. CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

The Chairman confirmed that all Board members had received a copy of a tabled fact-sheet from DBC Planning Services, drawn-down from the South East Coastal Access Natural England website. The fact-sheet detailed proposals to extend the existing Thames Path National Trail (currently running from the source of the Thames to the Thames Barrier at Woolwich) to connect it to the England Coast Path which ran through Kent to the sea by 2020.

He encouraged Members to access the Natural England website and respond to their fact-sheet which sought feedback from residents in South East Coastal communities on how they would like the new National Trail along the south bank of the Thames beyond Woolwich to Grain in Kent named and sign-posted to preserve its connection to the existing Thames Path. Residents were offered a choice of 4 (four) titled signposts and asked to respond by 31 March 2018 to: SouthEastCoastalAccess@naturalengland.org.uk.

103. FASTRACK

The Chairman had nothing to add to the comprehensive record of discussion of Fastrack by the Board on 5 December 2017 [Min. No. 89 refers].

104. MEMBERS’ ENQUIRY ITEMS

**Councillor Daisy Page: Traffic and Parking Issues**

Activation date for Mill Pond Road Traffic Lights: It was reported that it was now proposed to rebuild the entire Traffic Island at Mill Pond Road. The KCC Agreements team continued to liaise with the contractor on-site over a final completion date.
Temple Hill Car Park: It was reported that the consultation process had been extended following an e-mail exchange with KCC. Cllr. Page was also liaising with the Council’s Head of Housing Services on the matter.

Attlee Drive – green space parking: Residents continued to park on green spaces and grass verges despite representations from the Councillor to KCC.

Mr J Ozog: Heather Drive j/w Shepherds Lane – Experimental No Entry TRO into Heather Drive from Shepherds Lane

Mr Ozog advised the Board that KCC Officers continued to assess the proposal following representations from residents.

Councillor Pat Coleman (Ward Member for Sutton-at-Hone & Hawley) – A225 Dartford Road

The Chairman invited Councillor Coleman to address the Board in his role as Ward Member for Sutton-at-Hone & Hawley with his concerns over the lack of pavement provision on the Dartford Road stretch of the A225 where the speed limit increased from 30 to 60 mph.

Cllr. Coleman informed Members that the current pavement provision for pedestrians on the Dartford Road section of the A225 ended at the point where the 30 mph speed restriction increased to 60 mph. To continue their journey pedestrians were faced with crossing the A225 at this point, where the speed of traffic increased markedly, to continue their progress via a lower footpath on the opposite side of the A225 with poorer purchase and safety. If pedestrians subsequently wished to access the local train station or the High Street, they had to re-cross the A225 from the footpath still in the 60 mph zone. He asked that serious consideration be given to extending the pavement provision along this high-speed section of the A225 London Road on safety grounds.

The Chairman saw scope for the work being undertaken via the Joint Members Fund with the support of Mr Kite as the relevant County Member. He undertook to liaise with Mr Kite and approach KCC with a costed proposal.

The Dartford District Manager, KCC advised that Officers were likely to view a costed proposal for a pavement extension from Mr Kite as KCC Member favourably.

Mr Harman: Future TROs

Corner Protection – Knockall Road/Ainsford Road and Knockall Rd./London Road?

The Dartford District Manager undertook to consult KCC colleagues to ascertain if any accident data existed to undertake works on a safety issue
basis. She warned that without such data, protection works could not be financed from the Members Fund or qualify for Grant funding.

105. **TOUCAN CROSSING, BURNHAM ROAD, DARTFORD - RESPONSES TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Board received a report from KCC detailing responses to the consultation on the proposal to provide a new Toucan Crossing on Burnham Road in Dartford.

The report advised that KCC and DBC Officers had considered the feedback from the consultation process, together with additional information, to reach a final proposal to proceed with a crossing in the proposed location in Burnham Road, but to amend the crossing type from a Toucan to a Puffin Crossing.

Officers had amended the original Toucan proposal to a [pedestrian only] Puffin Crossing which benefited from traffic lights which stopped traffic when its infrared sensors detected pedestrians waiting to cross. The amended proposal also addressed respondent concerns over the more invasive cycling infrastructure involved with the construction of a Toucan Crossing and the existing behaviour of cyclists using Burnham Road.

The report and revised proposal for a Puffin Crossing at the same site in Burnham Road was presented to the Board for their feedback, prior to implementation of the scheme by KCC.

The Chairman noted that Councillors Page and Lampkin wished to address the Board on the revised KCC proposal, but first invited Mr Eric Grover to address the Board on the issue, as the representative of a delegation of Burnham Road residents attending the meeting in the public seating area. A printed list of bullet-point observations from the residents was distributed to Board members prior to Mr Grover speaking.

Mr Grover informed the Board that Burnham Road residents were not opposed to a crossing *in principle* but to the consequences that would affect them on a daily bases; in terms of invasive and restricting alterations to the current road pattern; that a Toucan Crossing option would impose on them. They deemed the Toucan option to be overly complicated and challenged its cost effectiveness and had proposed a much simpler, less invasive and low-cost Zebra Crossing solution to KCC, to be located further along Burnham Road. The Zebra Crossing option proposed by residents, located further down Burnham Road, would preserve the existing ‘Keep Right’ road signage, have less impact on the current road layout and design and allow the existing mature trees and hedge-row to be preserved: rather than removed as planned by KCC for the proposed siting of a Toucan [Puffin] Crossing option.

Mr Grover advised the Board that residents felt that KCC had not consulted them sufficiently (despite their representations and counter-proposal for a Zebra crossing) and that the County authority appeared intent on installing a
Toucan [Puffin] Crossing at the proposed location in Burnham Road irrespective of resident’s views and concerns. He noted in this regard, that the KCC report on the public consultation recorded twelve (12)respondenees commenting positively under the Theme – ‘Improved Crossing Facility/Current Island not sufficient’ [Report p.4 agenda p.16]. But that no negative responses from respondents had been recorded for that Theme in the report - and he challenged this 'omission'.

Residents also felt that KCC held a mis-guided view of their [resident] opposition to the scheme; based on residents’ wish to safe-guard the existing parking status quo in Burnham Road - this was not the case. The KCC proposal for a Toucan [Puffin] Crossing would allow the parking status quo for Burnham Road to be retained. However, a Toucan [Puffin] Crossing in the location proposed by KCC would impact on resident’s current ability to access and park at the rear of their properties. In contrast, the simpler Zebra Crossing solution proposed by residents, if located further along Burnham Road, would enable householders to continue to access the rear of their properties and park there as at present.

Mr Grover asked that the Board consider these concerns from residents when responding to KCC on their amended proposal for a Toucan [Puffin] crossing.

The Chairman assured Mr Grover [and his resident delegation] that the final KCC decision to proceed with a Puffin Crossing scheme in the proposed location would take account of any feedback from the Board. He then invited Members to address the Board with their concerns over KCC’s amended proposal for a Puffin Crossing scheme in Burnham Road.

Councillor Daisy Page supported the concerns expressed by Mr Grover on behalf of Burnham Road residents. She questioned whether the scheme should in fact proceed, given the weight of negative responses received in the consultation process which, in her view, had not been properly addressed by Officers. In particular, over the current rear access to their properties currently enjoyed by residents and the additional off-road parking option that afforded to them. Both these facilities would be lost to residents under the amended KCC proposal for a Puffin Crossing at the proposed site in Burnham Road.

Councillor Lampkin also spoke in support of resident concerns as relayed by Mr Grover. He noted that Warwickshire County Council adopted a 24 hour traffic survey model when considering the imposition of pedestrian crossing schemes. He suggested that KCC might wish to consider undertaking a similar exercise before they commenced the proposed amended works for a Puffin Crossing in Burnham Road. The removal of two Silver Birch and other mature trees and hedge-row as part of the proposed works (even as amended) caused him particular concern. The existing mature trees and hedgerow in Burnham Road provided both a safety and noise barrier against traffic for residents, in addition to enhancing the overall environment. It was his understanding that, at present, Burnham Road residents experienced no parking difficulties; given the current off-road parking available and existing rear-access to their properties and parking; both of which would be lost under
the KCC proposals. He also noted and supported the wish of residents that the current speed camera in Burnham Road be retained [once repaired following vandalism] and the KCC proposal to re-locate an upgraded camera outside number 95-97 Burnham Road.

In summary, Councillor Lampkin proposed that the concerns of Burnham Road residents and some Board Members be formally relayed to KCC for response; prior to the amended scheme for a Puffin Crossing was implemented. If possible, he asked that the works be delayed, to allow KCC to undertake a 24 hour traffic survey in Burnham Road similar to Warwickshire County Council model, to better inform KCC over the proposed scheme.

The Chairman thanked Members for their views and expressions of concern and noted the concerns of Burnham Road residents, as relayed by Mr Grover to the Board that evening.

He recalled that the Scheme had been presented to the Board by Officers previously and been altered at the initial stage on that occasion, following Member comment. However, given the weight of further resident representations following the public consultation process and publication of the KCC report, and the concern expressed by some Members the Resident Group that evening; he proposed that he write to KCC Officers listing all of those concerns for a detailed response. He would also ask KCC Officers to confirm the number of responses received through the public consultation process which supported the proposed Toucan/Puffin works and those that opposed it. In addition, he would also ask KCC to advise on the current permitted access for residents to the rear of their properties in Burnham Road, and how the proposed siting of the amended Puffin Crossing scheme would impact on that access as currently enjoyed by those residents.

The Chairman advised that he would seek a full and timely response from KCC Officers to the concerns expressed and points made by both Members and residents that evening. However, the proposal that the intended works be postponed for a further survey to be undertaken would not be possible; given the road safety concerns that needed to be addressed and the need to finance the proposed scheme whilst allocated funding remained available.

The Chairman thanked Mr Grover for his presentation to the Committee and Members for their contribution to the discussion.

106. ROAD WORKS IN THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

The Board received a report which set out details of Highway works in progress or approved for commencement in 2017/2018.

Mr J Ozog (KCC) sought clarification on the works programmed for 18 April 2018 to Highfield Road, Dartford quoted as extending to the North Road Roundabout at Crayford Road [Report Appendix A agenda p.23].
The Dartford District Manager undertook to clarify the exact extent of the proposed works and email the Member.

The Board noted the remaining contents of the report and Appendix A as submitted.

107. KCC - ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Board noted the Minutes of the meeting of the KCC Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee held on 30 November 2017 as presented in the Agenda papers [pages 35-54 refer].

108. OTHER BUSINESS

The ‘Beast from the East’

The Vice-Chairman asked that her own and the Board’s thanks to all KCC Officers, for their outstanding efforts in maintaining the roads and traffic flow in the Borough during the previous week of extreme Winter weather be recorded in the Minutes.

Fastrack A - Electric Bus in Greenhithe

The Dartford District Manager updated the Board on proposals to run an electric bus in Greenhithe on Fastrack A. Details of the Press Launch and invitation to JTB Members to attend would be emailed in due course.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Councillor K M Kelly
CHAIRMAN