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## SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne on Monday 27th March 2006 from 5:30 pm to 7:58 pm.

**PRESENT:** Swale Borough Councillor John Wright (Chairman), Councillors Barnicott, Mick Constable, Jordan and Alan Willicombe.

Kent County Councillors Adrian Crowther, Gates, Harrison and Roger Truelove.

Parish Councillor Mrs A Lewis.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Miss Waltham and Mr Lewis (Swale Borough Council) and Messrs Haratbar and Sammut (Kent Highway Services).

**APOLOGY:** Councillor Elvina Lowe.

### 813 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th December 2005 (Minute Nos. 571 - 594) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 814 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

### **PART A MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

### 815 **KENT TRANSPORT BOARD – MINUTES**

Members considered the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th January 2006. The Chairman informed the Board that he had met with representatives from the new rail operator, Go Via, the previous week and that they had announced that there would be further consultation regarding the operation timetable and that the problems being experienced with regard to the noise from train horns, had been noted.

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the Minutes of the Kent Transport Board meeting held on 19th January 2006 be noted.***

### 816 **CYCLE LANES – TRAFFIC LIGHT JUNCTION OF NEWTON ROAD/EAST STREET, FAVERSHAM**

The Principal Engineer, Swale Borough Council (SBC) informed Members that the item had been referred from a meeting of the Faversham and Swale East Area Forum, which took place on 21st February 2006. He explained that the works had been included in the Swale Transport Strategy and that the objective of this was to introduce a cycle network over the next few years.

Members highlighted the concern that vehicle owners continued to park in the left-hand lane at the traffic lights, which caused a risk for cyclists.

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the verbal update be noted.***

**817      PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Principal Engineer (SBC) introduced his report, highlighting progress that had been made at Lower Halstow and Brenley Corner, Faversham.

A Member raised the concern that works at Homewood Avenue, Sittingbourne regarding a crossing outside of Barrow Grove School were not scheduled to begin until 2007/2008. The Senior Transportation Engineer, Kent Highway Services (KHS) clarified that the works would start in April 2007.

In response to a Member's question regarding Minute No. 586/12/05 in the update chart, the Chairman confirmed that residents at Oare had been consulted and that they had not wanted to relocate the bus shelter. However, the Member felt that action still needed to be taken and the Principal Engineer (SBC) agreed to arrange a meeting with relevant Members, on site.

Members also raised various concerns regarding the junction improvement scheme at Minster Road/Scrapsgate, continued parking problems in Sheerness, traffic issues at the junction of the Mall and the A2 at Faversham and the car spacing at Faversham Central Car Park.

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the update be noted.***

***(2) That a meeting be arranged with relevant Members at Oare to discuss further options.***

**• PRINCIPAL ENGINEER**

***(3) That the situation with regard to a junction improvement scheme at Minster Road/Scrapsgate be investigated and reported back to the next meeting and that Officers meet with Ward Members to discuss the issue.***

**• SWALE HIGHWAYS MANAGER**

***(4) That the concerns regarding parking in Sheerness be investigated and reported back to the next meeting.***

**• PRINCIPAL ENGINEER**

***(5) That the situation regarding the junction of the Mall and the A2, Faversham be included in the list of proposals for investigation and that it's position in the 'Later Years' Programme' of the Swale Transport Plan be noted.***

**• SWALE HIGHWAYS MANAGER**

**818      SWALE TRANSPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION UPDATE**

The Principal Engineer (SBC) introduced his report, which outlined the results of recent consultation exercises carried out by SBC. Key areas had been highlighted, which were the A2/M2 Link, the B2231 Lower Road, Sheppey and rail services in the Borough.

He informed Members that the problems with regard to Junction 5 of the M2 must be highlighted to Kent Highways as a matter of urgency and that the environmental impact of the A2/M2 link on local villages and the use of the 'back' roads through Upchurch and Lower Halstow as rat-runs, had been included as key items in the Strategy. Following publication of the final Strategy, it would then be subject to an annual report so that Members and residents could be updated on progress made

with delivering the Strategy's objectives.

Members discussed concerns regarding feasibility studies being carried out by developers, impacts of the Northern Relief Road on Brenley Corner and Ospringe and the need for continued rail services between the Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne.

In response to a Member's concern regarding possible Gypsy access to land at Cowstead Corner, Sheppey, the Swale Highways Manager (KHS) undertook to investigate and report back to the Member concerned.

**Recommended:**

**(1) That the report be noted.**

**(2) That Members endorse the proposed changes to the Strategy text.**

**(3) That the situation at Cowstead Corner be investigated and that the relevant Member be notified accordingly.**

**• SWALE HIGHWAY MANAGER**

**819 MILTON HIGH STREET PARKING PETITION**

The Principal Engineer (SBC) introduced the report, which explained details of a petition received from residents of Milton High Street, Sittingbourne, regarding on-street parking.

The Board felt that Ward Members should be involved in discussions with local residents to try and reach a solution.

**Recommended:**

**(1) That the petition be noted.**

**(2) That Officers discuss the matter with Ward Members.**

**• PRINCIPAL ENGINEER**

**820 JENKINS HILL/ THORN HILL/ DONKEY HILL – RESIDENTS PETITION**

The Swale Highway Manager (KHS) introduced his report, which provided details of a petition received regarding access to Bay View, Warden Bay and Leysdown, when Lower Road (Jenkins Hill) was blocked.

In response to Members' questions, the Swale Highway Manager (KHS) explained that the cost of repairing the road to an adoptable standard would be £328,000, which, in accordance with the Highways Act 1980, was the responsibility of the residents of the private road. If KHS were to take responsibility for the repairs, then it could set a precedent in relation to the 17,000 metres of private road in the Borough.

**Recommended:**

**(1) That the petition be noted.**

**(2) That no action be taken by KHS to repair the road and that the petitioners be notified accordingly.**

**• SWALE HIGHWAY MANAGER**

**821 SITTINGBOURNE RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME**

The Principal Engineer (SBC) introduced the report, informing Members that a petition had been received from the residents of Anselm Close, but that a solution to the concerns raised had now been reached.

Members agreed that such schemes were difficult to introduce and that Officers had worked hard to respond to issues and take comments received into account, when developing the scheme.

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the report be noted.***

**822 SITTINGBOURNE HIGH STREET**

The Principal Engineer (SBC) introduced his report, which detailed progress made at a recent site meeting involving members of the Swale Access Group, KHS and SBC Officers and the County Councillor for the town centre.

The County Councillor considered that more action should be taken against traders who flouted the rules and hoped that implementation of the measures identified at the meeting would be speedy. He also drew Members' attention to a tabled letter from Swale Police, explaining that clarification was needed with regard to whether certain points of the traffic calming measures could be considered as safe crossings for disabled residents and those who were partially sighted or blind. The Swale Highway Manager (KHS) confirmed that those points mentioned should not be considered as crossing points.

Members considered that support should be given to the introduction of a dedicated crossing point and the Swale Highway Manager (KHS) undertook to discuss the possibility with Officers at SBC.

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the report be noted.***

***(2) That a joint report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board, with regard to progress made with the points identified at the meeting with Swale Access Group.***

**• SWALE HIGHWAY MANAGER  
• PRINCIPAL ENGINEER**

***(3) That Officers from KHS and SBC discuss the possibility of a dedicated crossing point.***

**• SWALE HIGHWAY MANAGER  
• PRINCIPAL ENGINEER**

***(4) That the Chairman writes to Swale Police requesting that more enforcement action is taken to prevent traders using the pavement as an unauthorised extension to their business.***

**• CHAIRMAN**

**823 SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR UPDATE**

The Principal Engineer (SBC) introduced the report, which provided an update on progress made with the implementation of signage to allow the enforcement of

School Keep Clear Markings.

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the report be noted.***

**824 EASTCHURCH TRAFFIC SYSTEM – B2231 ROWETTS WAY AND LEYSDOWN ROAD – SAFETY INVESTIGATION UPDATE**

The Senior Transportation Engineer (KHS) introduced the report, which updated Members with regard to the details of safety issues along the B2231 and the recent public meeting regarding the issue.

He explained that Jacobs Babtie had been commissioned to carry out a comprehensive Route Safety Study and expected the results to be available by the end of April 2006. The Board considered that a small working party be set up to include all the key stakeholders to consider the results of the Route Safety Study.

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the report be noted.***

***(2) That a small working party be set up with key stakeholders to discuss details of the investigations.***

**• SWALE HIGHWAY MANAGER**

**825 HARTLIP HILL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the item be deferred for discussion with the Chairman.***

**• SWALE HIGHWAY MANAGER**

**826 PROPOSED INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PROGRAMME FOR 2006/2007**

The Senior Transportation Engineer (KHS) introduced the report, which updated Members on the progress of the Integrated Transport Programme for 2006/2007; Year 1 of the Local Transport Plan.

He set out the contents of the Swale Urban Package Programme, for which funding of £181,000 had been allocated; the Swale Rural Programme, which had been allocated £83,000 and the Swale Casualty reduction Programme, which had been allocated £186,000. In response to a Member's question, he explained that funding for works on the A251 between the M2 and Challock would be spread over two years, with £60,000 being allocated for expenditure in 2006/2007 and £90,000 in 2007/2008.

***Recommended:***

***(1) That the proposed Programme be agreed.***

**827 HIGHWAYS UPDATE**

The Swale Highway Manager (KHS) introduced the report of the Acting Director for KHS, which had been submitted to the Kent Highways Advisory Board on 7th March 2006.

He also drew Members' attention to the tabled item, which provided a liaison update and information regarding the divisional structure of KHS.

**Recommended:**

**(1) That the report and update be noted.**

**828 HIGHWAY WORKS PROGRAMME 2005/2006**

The Swale Highway Manager (KHS) introduced the report, which updated Members on the identified schemes that had been approved for construction by KHS in 2005/2006.

A Member considered that the completion of construction of a pathway at Lynsted should be included in the programme of works for 2007/2008. The Member also announced that he had been impressed with the efficiency of the recently appointed KHS Liaison Officer.

**Recommended:**

**(1) That the report be noted.**

**(2) That completion of the pathway at Lynsted be included in the Programme of works at the earliest opportunity.**

**• SWALE HIGHWAY MANAGER**

**829 SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS UPDATE**

The Senior Transportation Engineer (KHS) introduced the report, which updated Members on the progress made with schools in Swale, with regard to the development of School Travel Plans.

**Recommended:**

**(1) That the report be noted.**

**830 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Resolved:**

**(1) That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**831 DISABLED PERSONS PARKING BAYS**

The Principal Engineer (SBC) introduced the report, which informed Members of the various consultations carried out as part of the process for individual disabled persons parking bay applications.

**Recommended:**

**(1) That comments and objections made by consultees be noted.**

**(2) That disabled person parking bays be installed at the following:  
6 Linden Drive, Sheerness**

**63 Chatsworth Drive, Sheerness  
54 Kingsnorth Road, Faversham**

Chairman