
Swale Joint Transportation Board

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT on Monday, 4 March 2024 from 5.30 pm - 7.37 pm.

PRESENT:

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS: Simon Clark (Chair), Alastair Gould, Angela Harrison, Richard Palmer, Karen Watson.

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS: Mike Dendor and John Wright (Vice-Chair).

KENT ASSOCIATION of LOCAL COUNCILS: Peter MacDonald (Parish Councillor), Julian Saunders (Town Councillor) and Jeff Tutt (Parish Councillor).

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Councillor Elliott Jayes.

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS (VIRTUALLY): Mike Baldock, Antony Hook and Mike Whiting.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Philippa Davies, Mike Knowles and Adrian Oliver.

OFFICERS PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Alan Blackburn, Sebastian Bures, Daniel Rollinson and Richard Shelton.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (VIRTUALLY): Councillors Carole Jackson, Tony Winckless and Dolley Wooster .

APOLOGIES: Kent County Councillor Rich Lehmann and Councillor Paul Stephen.

713 **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

714 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 December 2023 (Minute Nos. 473 – 484) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

715 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

716 **Public Session**

Mr Sam Martin spoke on Item 6, Formal Objection to Traffic Order – Swale Amendment 50 2023.

Mr Martin said that if the matter was proceeded with as set out in the report, he considered this was likely to alleviate the parking issues. He referred to the objectors to the scheme suggesting the possibility of residents having a parking permit for this location. In response, the Seafront & Engineering Manager explained that the option of a residents' parking scheme was discussed with the developer and the conclusion was

that as the estate provided one parking space per property, that formalised spaces on the road were not necessary. He added that this could be an option in the future if residents submitted a petition requesting a residents' parking scheme.

The resolution to this matter is set out within the item below.

Part One Minutes for recommendation to Swale Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee

717 Formal Objection to Traffic Regulation Order - Swale Amendment 50 2023

The Seafront & Engineering Manager introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers.

Recommended:

(1) That the report be noted, and the proposed revised design of double and single yellow lines be progressed.

718 Formal Objection to Traffic Regulation Order - Swale Amendment 52 2023

The Seafront & Engineering Manager introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- In support of formalising the disabled bays, especially where parking was notoriously bad; and
- clarification sought on who would pay for the formalising work.

In response, the Seafront & Engineering Manager explained that Swale Borough Council (SBC) installed the disabled bays on behalf of Kent County Council (KCC), and the costs would be met by SBC. These included the cost of advertising the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), once when proposed and once when completed and officer time.

Further comments included:

- It was not reasonable for KCC to request work and then for SBC to pay for it;
- this matter needed to be referred back to KCC; and
- clarification sought on whether enforcement officers could act on disabled parking bays being misused if they were advisory, rather than formalised.

The Seafront & Engineering Manager explained the difference between advisory and formalised bays and said that advisory ones were not enforceable, and quicker to install as it took an average of 12 months to get the TRO finalised, for a formalised bay. Advisory bays were important as often the person concerned could not wait for the whole process to be carried out due to their health issues. Advisory bays would then be included in subsequent TROs.

Councillor Richard Palmer moved the following motion: That the Chair of the Swale Joint Transportation Board (JTB) writes to the Cabinet Member at KCC for clarification as to why SBC was expected to pay for this work, even though KCC had requested the

formalising of existing disabled persons' parking bays around the Borough. This was seconded by KCC Councillor Mike Baldock and on being put to the vote, was agreed.

Recommended:

- (1) That the report be noted and the disabled persons' parking bay in South Avenue, Sittingbourne, be formalised as advertised.**
- (2) That the Chair of the Swale JTB writes to the Cabinet Member at KCC for clarification as to why SBC was expected to pay for this work, even though KCC had requested the formalising of existing disabled persons' parking bays around the Borough.**

719 Petition - Request for Residents' Parking Scheme, Wellwinch Road, Sittingbourne

The Seafront & Engineering Manager introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- Noted that after an informal consultation on Residents' Parking Scheme was carried out, due to costs; hours of permitted parking etc. residents sometimes decided that they did not want the scheme to go ahead after all; and
- in support of the consultation going to other roads in the vicinity to take into account any displacement of vehicles.

There was some discussion on the best timings for any restrictions and the Seafront & Engineering Manager said that a one-hour single yellow line restriction (between 10 am and 11 am for example) could be put in place. However, there were pros and cons to this option as the restriction would also have an impact on the residents in the street. The operational side of a one-hour permit scheme would need to be looked into with the Council's Parking Team, in terms of whether this was practical in terms of enforcement, to determine whether a permit be issued, or a single yellow line be installed.

Recommended:

- (3) That the report be noted and that an informal consultation be undertaken with residents of Wellwinch Road, Regency Court and Victoria Road, Sittingbourne, on the possible introduction of a Residents' Parking Scheme in these roads, and the options minuted above be included within the consultation.**

Part Two Minutes for Information

720 Verbal update from National Highways on the M2 Junction 5 Stockbury Works

Daniel Rollinson, National Highways M2 Junction 5 Project Manager, gave a verbal update on the M2 Junction 5 Stockbury Works, Sittingbourne.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- Since the lane closures had been in place, the nearby rural lanes have had issues with 'rat-running';
- once the work was completed, KCC needed to fix the potholes and surface

damage on the lanes;

- clarification sought on the number of accidents that had taken place during all the highway works at this location;
- was the project due to be completed on time?; and
- there seemed to be a real issue of drivers crossing lanes at the last moment which caused delays, could the lanes be marked off so that vehicles could not cross into another lane?

In response, the Project Manager said that there had been no accidents directly linked to the on-going works and the works were due to be completed by mid-summer 2024. He said that the lane swapping issues were down to driver behaviour and there was little that could be done to rectify this. Road maintenance was the responsibility of KCC and the KCC District Manager said that KCC were aware of the condition of the country lanes and at some point remedial work would be carried out.

The Chair thanked the Project Manager for his update.

Resolved:

(1) That the verbal update be noted.

721 Highway Work being carried out by Developers and utility Companies (as mentioned in Minute No. 479 of December 2023 Meeting)

The KCC District Manager (Swale) introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers. He drew the Board's attention to page 35 of the agenda papers and said that the wording under 'Overrun Charges' needed to be amended to read 'avoidable'.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- The report should be shared to the project group;
- did not consider the penalties to the utility companies were high enough;
- permits were given out for too long a time period;
- all the works carried out by utility companies should be added to a map;
- the Council needed to be stricter towards the utility companies;
- the quality of repairs was not good;
- this issue needed to be fed into the Local Plan process;
- any fine money should revert to the areas affected by the works; and
- clarification sought on how works were checked and enforced.

The KCC District Manger confirmed that he would get some further information.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

722 Update from KCC on the B2005 Grovehurst Road Roundabout

Richard Shelton, Project Manager (Major Capital Programme Team, KCC) gave a verbal update on the Grovehurst Road Junction Works, Sittingbourne.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- Welcomed the progress that had been made;
- clarification sought on the signage that would be installed for the works on Swale Way; and
- concerned with the closure of the Kingsberry bridge and the further impact this would bring.

The Project Manager responded and added that there would be another drop-in session on-site on 25 March 2024, from 12 pm to 1.30 pm.

The Chair thanked the Project Manager for his update.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

723 Faversham Cross Town Walking route Active Travel scheme

The Active Travel Infrastructure Team Leader introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- The scheme would really help pedestrians and wheel chair users;
- some elements of the scheme would slow traffic down and help to instil the existing 20 mph speed limit in the town;
- this would enhance the physical environment;
- the scheme would result in some loss of parking; and
- suggested trees be added along the route.

In response, the Team Leader acknowledged that it would be beneficial to have trees placed along the route, but said the scheme was very constricted by the existing road space, but this could be reviewed at a later stage of the design detail.

The Chair thanked the Team Leader for his update.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

724 Highways Work Programme

The KCC District Manager (Swale) introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers.

The KCC District Manager responded to Members' questions and said that he would report back to Members on some of the points raised.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

725 Progress Update Report

A Member requested that a comment/update be added by officers to item 478/12/22, Faversham Pedestrianisation on the schedule.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

726 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Swale Joint Transportation Board would be confirmed at SBC's Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2024.

Chair

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All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel