
Swale Joint Transportation Board

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Committee Room - Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT on Monday, 7 October 2024 from 5.35 pm - 8.03 pm.

PRESENT:

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS: Alastair Gould, Angela Harrison, Peter Macdonald (Substitute for Councillor Richard Palmer), Karen Watson and Tony Winckless (Substitute for Councillor Simon Clark).

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS: Mike Dendor, Mike Whiting and John Wright (Chair)

KENT ASSOCIATION of LOCAL COUNCILS: Parish Councillor Julian Saunders.

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Councillors Simon Clark and Paul Stephen.

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

KENT ASSOCIATION of LOCAL COUNCILS (VIRTUALLY): Parish Councillor Jeff Tutt.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Philippa Davies and Mike Knowles.

OFFICERS PRESENT (VIRTUALLY): Ross Boyle, Daniel Cannon-Skeet, Pauline Harmer, Simon Holman, Brett O'Connell, Joseph Ratcliffe, Daniel Rollinson, Richard Shelton and Jamie Watson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE (VIRTUALLY): Councillor Elliott Jayes.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Simon Clark and Richard Palmer and Kent County Councillor Rich Lehmann.

311 Confirmation of Chair and Vice-Chair

Kent County Councillor John Wright was confirmed as Chair and Councillor Simon Clark as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2024 – 2025.

312 Change in membership

The Chair confirmed that Councillor Derek Carnell had replaced Councillor Elliott Jayes on the Board.

313 Emergency Evacuation Procedure

The Chair outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

314 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March 2024 (Minute Nos. 713 – 726) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

315 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

316 Public Session

There were no registered speakers.

Part One Minutes for recommendation to Swale Borough Council's Policy and Resources Committee**317 Informal Consultation Results - Petition for Residents' Parking, Wellwinch Road, Sittingbourne**

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

The Chair moved the recommendation in the report, and this was seconded by Councillor Tony Winckless.

Recommended:

(1) That the results of the recent informal consultation with residents of Wellwinch Road, Victoria Road and Regency Court, Sittingbourne be noted and the Residents' Parking Scheme is not extended into any of these roads.

318 Formal objections to Traffic Regulation Order Swale Amendment 56 2024

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

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- Clarification sought on why the Parking Operations Team had requested the short section of double yellow lines on Park Road, Faversham;
- not in favour of double yellow lines being installed at this location; and
- considered the way forward was to carry out an informal consultation.

In response, the Seafront & Engineering Manager explained that the Parking Operations Team had received a complaint from a local resident who had concerns with access issues to the nearby oast house.

Parish Councillor Julian Saunders moved the following motion: That the proposed double yellow lines in Park Road, Faversham be removed from the current Traffic Regulation Order until an informal consultation had taken place with residents on these and other requested double yellow lines in Park Road. This was seconded By Kent County Councillor Mike Dendor and on being put to the vote was agreed.

The Chair moved the other recommendation in the report, and this was seconded by Kent County Councillor Mike Whiting.

Recommended:

(1) That the formal responses received during the consultation period for the Traffic Regulation Order be noted, and:-

a. The disabled persons' parking bay outside 6 Bredhurst Close, Sheerness be formalised.

b. The proposed double yellow lines in Park Road, Faversham be removed from the current Order until an informal consultation has taken place with residents on these and other requested double yellow lines in Park Road.

319 Petition - Request for Residents' Parking Scheme, Belmont Road, Faversham

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

Parish Councillor Julian Saunders moved the recommendation in the report, and this was seconded by Kent County Councillor Mike Whiting.

Recommended:

(1) That the submitted petition be noted and officers undertake an informal consultation with residents of Belmont Road, Faversham on the possible introduction of a Residents' Parking Scheme on this road.

320 Informal Consultation Results - Proposed Removal of Disabled Persons' Parking Bays & Installation of Double Yellow Lines - Strode Crescent, Sheerness

The Engineer introduced the report as set out in the agenda papers.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- There was an issue throughout Sheerness with the size of vehicles parking on streets which restricted access;
- concerned with the loss of the disabled parking bays;
- dashed lines would help to delineate where disabled people could park their vehicles;
- parking enforcement needed to monitor the area;
- considered the proposal was a sensible one;
- people attending the church could still park for up to three hours; and
- clarification sought on the Council's byelaws which stipulated the size of commercial vehicles which could park on residential streets.

Kent County Councillor Mike Whiting moved the recommendation in the report, with the following amendment: That residents be consulted upon the option of extending double yellow lines on the opposite side of the road. This was seconded by Kent County Councillor Mike Dendor and on being put to the vote was agreed.

Kent County Councillor Mike Whiting moved the following motion: That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) looked further into the Council's byelaws at the next JTB Chair's briefing. This was seconded by Councillor Tony Winckless, and on being put to the vote was agreed.

Recommended:

- (1) That the results of the recent informal consultation with residents be noted and the disabled bays be removed, and a double yellow line be installed, and officers look at installing dashed lines for parking partially on the footway.**
- (2) That residents be consulted upon the option of extending double yellow lines on the opposite side of the road.**
- (3) That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) look further into the Council's byelaws at the next JTB Chair's briefing in relation to the issue of parked commercial vehicles on residential streets.**

Part Two Minutes for recommendation to Kent County Council's Cabinet**321 Kent Local Transport Plan 5**

The Transport Strategy Manager gave a presentation and drew attention to the tabled paper which had also been added to the online agenda. He reminded the Board that the consultation ended at midnight on 8 October 2024.

Members were invited to comment. After much discussion, Kent County Councillor Mike Whiting moved the following motion: That the views of the Swale JTB be formally sent as a response to the consultation. This was seconded by Councillor Karen Watson, and on being put to the vote was agreed.

The points that members of the Board wanted to be considered are set out below:

- 1) The Board would like the Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5) to contain a specific aim of restoring direct train services from Sheerness to London, via Queenborough, Swale, Kemsley and Rainham, to help improve the economy of the Isle of Sheppey.
- 2) The Board would like the LTP5 to contain a specific aim of restoring half-hourly off-peak rail services between Sittingbourne and Sheerness to reduce reliance on car use, improve the tourist economy of the Isle of Sheppey and improve connectivity with the North Kent Mainline.
- 3) The Board would like the LTP5 to contain a specific aim of increasing parking capacity at Swale Station (formally Swale Halt) to provide an alternative for those who drive to Sheerness, Queenborough, Kemsley and Sittingbourne stations, where car parking is limited, and to reduce town centre congestion.
- 4) The Board would like the alignment of the Sheerness to Leysdown walking and cycling route within the Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP) and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to be altered to run from Queenborough to Leysdown, with branches via Westminster and via Halfway to connect Sheerness to the route.
- 5) The Board would like the LTP5 to contain a specific aim of opening up the freight rail lines into Ridham Dock and Sheerness Docks to support industrial growth in those areas and relieve traffic congestion and associated air pollution.
- 6) The Board feels the Draft LTP5 does not contain enough data regarding current and projected CO2 and NOX emissions and particulate air pollution across the borough and more widely in Kent to both guide broader transport policy and support suitable mitigation measures. This should be addressed.
- 7) The Board would like the LTP5 to contain a specific aim of improving bus services to both rural and urban communities in Swale to help ensure communities and residents were not isolated, and to improve the economic development potential of all tiers of

settlement within the Borough.

8) The Board would like the LTP5 to contain clarity on KCC's view of the desirability, or otherwise, of the completion of the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road from Great Easthall to the Bapchild, and the creation of a new Sittingbourne Southern Relief Road from Bapchild to a new M2 motorway junction (J5a) south of the Kent Science Park.

9) The Board would like the LTP5 to contain a specific requirement to improve J7 of the M2 (Brenley Corner), east of Faversham, in line with the previous Government's RIS3 proposals, in order to deal with future housing and economic growth locally and in Canterbury District, and future growth in international traffic via the port of Dover.

10) The Board would like the LTP5 to contain a specific aim of creating a safe cycling and walking route between Faversham and Canterbury, augmenting improvements to connectivity between Sittingbourne and Faversham.

Recommended:

(1) That the presentation be noted and the points raised above be formally submitted as a response from the Swale JTB to the consultation.

322 Quiet Lanes

This item was abandoned as Parish Councillor Jeff Tutt who was due to speak on the matter left the call as he needed to attend another meeting.

Part Three Minutes for Information

323 Kingsferry Bridge closure - an update

The Senior Stakeholder and Communications Manager, Network Rail and the Project Manager, Network Rail gave a presentation on the Kingsferry Bridge closure.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- Acknowledged that there was never a good time to do these major repair works to the bridge;
- clarification sought on the shift patterns;
- was there a 'Plan B' in the scenario of the work not being completed in time and/or another issue coming up?; and
- clarification sought on bus replacement services.

In response, the Senior Stakeholder and Communications Manager explained that there would be some 24-hour shifts. A bespoke contractor was carrying out the work and some of the work needed to be carried out in daylight hours. He explained that in terms of a 'Plan B', some of the works had already been completed, and a lot had already been learnt about the project. The contractor was due to commence another project in November 2024, and so the works on the Kingsferry Bridge could not be delayed. If another issue was found, there were skilled workers, such as welders, on site to deal with the issue. The Senior Stakeholder and Communications Manager explained that there would be a replacement bus service, but noted that a lot of people would likely revert to using their cars which then increased congestion. He also confirmed that in relation to the Grovehurst Road works, two lanes would be opened up to help mitigate any congestion. The Project Manager – Major Capital Programme also confirmed that traffic management from the northbound (not southbound) A249 would be removed and

free vehicle recovery would be provided from Bobbing Roundabout to Cowstead Corner.

Resolved:

(1) That the update be noted.

324 Verbal update from National Highways on the M2 Junction 5 Stockbury works

The National Highways M2 Junction 5 Project Manager gave a verbal update on the M2 Junction 5 Stockbury Works, Sittingbourne. He explained that it was likely the last time he would present to the Board, as the flyover was opened in both directions in July 2024. There was some snagging work and some overnight/weekend work to complete, but the site should be de-mobilised by Christmas 2024. The Project Manager said that overall the scheme was performing as expected and he thanked everyone for their input over the past three years.

The Chair invited comments from Members and points raised included:

- There was still quite a lot of damage on the roads used as 'rat-runs';
- wanted to thank and congratulate the Project Manager and his Team on the work carried out, and it being ahead of schedule;
- considered the junction improvements had made a difference;
- hundreds of trees had been chopped down to allow the works to go ahead and hoped these would be replaced soon, and maintained;
- clarification sought on the loss of one of the lay-bys; and
- some of the new signposts were not clear.

In response, the Project Manager said the contract had a five-year aftercare in terms of the planted saplings, and any damaged saplings would be replaced. After five years, the responsibility for the saplings/trees would be passed to the relevant highway authority. The Project Manager explained that the lay-by in question had to be closed as it was too close to the flyover and there were no plans to replace it. Some of the signs were being updated so that they were clearer to understand. In response to a further question, the Project Manager explained that as yet there had been no monitoring on the impact of the works on Junction 7 of the M20. This would be carried out over the next couple of years.

Resolved:

(1) That the verbal update be noted.

325 Update from KCC on the B2005 roundabout Grovehurst Road, Sittingbourne

The 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:

- Clarification sought on how well the road closures had gone on Swale Way and Grovehurst Road;
- more information needed on the diversion of traffic along Grovehurst Road and

- near Nicholls Transport, as this could result in one housing estate being cut-off;
- it had been hoped that there would have been some alternative parking arrangements for the residents on Keycoll Hill; and
- very impressed with the signage along Saffron Way.

In response, the Project Manager said that there had been very few complaints; there might need to be a temporary diversion near to the Nicholls Transport depot and he hoped to be able to provide an update on this shortly. The Project Manager said there was no plan to add any alternative parking for Keycoll Hill residents as there were challenges with the utilities in the area which were too expensive to re-locate.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

326 Highways Work Programme

Members were advised that the KCC District Manager (Swale) had left KCC and the person to contact going forward was the Swale Highway Manager, Daniel Cannon-Skeet (Daniel.cannon-skeet@kent.gov.uk).

The Chair asked that Members contact the relevant officer direct if they had any queries on the report.

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

327 Progress Update Report

Resolved:

(1) That the report be noted.

328 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Swale Joint Transportation Board meeting is 2 December 2024 at 5.30 pm.

Chair

Copies of this document are available on the Council website <http://www.swale.gov.uk/dso/>. If you would like hard copies or alternative versions (i.e. large print, audio, different language) we will do our best to accommodate your request please contact Swale Borough Council at Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT or telephone the Customer Service Centre 01795 417850.

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