### NOTICE is hereby given that the next meeting of the **TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY FORUM**

which will be held under the powers contained within the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came in to force on 4 April 2020. The regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) for a specified period until May 2021. The 2020 Regulations apply to local council meetings, committee and sub-committee meetings in England.

The link is as follows (no registration required):

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81720827846

Meeting ID: 817 2082 7846

### on Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 7.00pm to 9.00 pm [Whilst the meeting will conclude at 9.00 pm – every effort will be made to provide 20 minutes for the Open Session item on the agenda]

### [Meeting Open to Press & Public]

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies: To receive any apologies for non-attendance. At the time of agenda despatch apologies were received from Cllr R Challice (Meeting to be chaired by Cllr V Eni – Deputy Chairman).

### 2. **Declarations:** To:

a) receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda;

b) receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and

c) grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

**3. Minutes:** To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held 19 February 2020 (any update reports on issues discussed to be raised in the Public Session unless covered elsewhere on the agenda).

- Attached

4. **Press Release: The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport:** To receive Press Release on "Cash Boost to Get More Kids Cycling and Walking to School" and to provide comments, if required.

- Attached

5. Bus Services in Elstree and Borehamwood: To consider Operators' Reports and any matters concerning service changes. (15 Minutes).

### 6. Items by J Cartledge: To:

- (i) note installation of pedestrian crossing at Stirling Corner; and
- (ii) receive report on managing pavement parking.
- 7. Climate Change Working Group: To receive report by Cllr J Newmark on new Town Council working group.
- 8. Traffic and Road Safety Report: Hertfordshire Constabulary: To receive an update report from Hertfordshire Constabulary, if available, on local traffic and road safety issues (15 Minutes).
- **9. Train Services:** Members are asked to receive update statement, if available, from GTR Elstree and Borehamwood railway station (15 Minutes).
- **10. Open Session:** To consider items raised by attendees or items for further discussion by the Forum at a future meeting.

(Attendees are kindly asked to state their name and their interest in the Forum) (20 Minutes).

- 11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17 February 2020 at 7.00 pm (provisional date)
- 12. Meeting Close: To close meeting at 9.00 pm.

T Malton Deputy Clerk 12 October 2020

Town Council Offices Fairway Hall Brook Close Borehamwood Hertfordshire WD6 5BT

*Tel: 020 8207 1382 Fax: 020 8953 7645 tmalton@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk* 

### [Distribution List attached]

[NOTE: As a Council Policy to conserve paper and postage costs, hard copy agendas are not posted to those on the distribution list who have not attended at least one of the previous three meetings (unless requested to do so). It is understood that attendance at meetings will fluctuate as diverse topics are considered by the Forum]

Organisation	post	e-mail
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	x	x
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EBTC Transport Forum	x	x
EBTC Leader of Council	x	x
EBTC	X	x
EBTC	x	x
Hertsmere MP		x
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### ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

### TRANSPORT FORUM

**MINUTES** of a meeting held at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllr V Eni (Vice Chairman – In the Chair EBTC) Cllr Mrs S Parnell (EBTC) Cllr Mrs P Strack (EBTC) Cllr Mrs F Turner (EBTC) Cllr C Butchins (EBTC) Cllr A B Collins (EBTC) Cllr P Kaza (EBTC) A Duke – Youth Council (EBTC) N Arazi – Youth Council (EBTC) L Arazi – Youth Council (EBTC) A Sneader – Youth Council (EBTC) Cllr A Plancey (HBC) Cllr S Rosehill (HBC) PCSO 6344 T J Hainsworth S Simmonds (Sullivan Buses) A Chillingsworth (GTR) P Ladbury (GTR) J Cartledge (Resident) R Redman (Elstree Screen Heritage) S Alford (EBRA) L Stack (EBRA) C Anderson – Maxwell Park S Hyman (Resident) P Rossney (Resident) L Heritage (Resident) E Murphy (Resident) N Clark (Resident) N Shuker (Resident) 11 Members of the public T Malton – Deputy Clerk

[Only those residents wishing their names to be included in the Minutes are recorded above.]

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### **18.** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs R Butler (other Business), Cllr S Rubner (EBTC) (other Business, Cllr Mrs S Brown (HBC, HCC) (other Business), D Sullivan, Sullivan Buses (other business).

### **19. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS**

There were none.

### 20. TRANSPORT FORUM MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 23 October 2019 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### 21. BUS SERVICES IN ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD

S Simmonds gave an update report on Sullivan Buses services.

Changes to Sullivan Buses services included the 306 and 398.

The 306 service has been reduced slightly in peak hour due to heavy traffic making the service unreliable. These changes affect evening peak hour services with buses arriving every 30 minutes instead of every 20 minutes. Sullivan Buses are looking to increase the frequency of the service and are in discussion with developers offering various amounts of money and/or bus shelters. It was noted that Sullivan Buses are looking at working with Hertfordshire County Council and Hertsmere to improve their services.

The 398 was withdrawn from service on Saturday the 15 February 2020. The service had been running at a loss to Sullivan buses as there were fewer than ten passengers using the service throughout Saturday's. It was noted that Hertfordshire looked at the possibility of funding the service but declined due to lack of passengers. The 398 off peak service has also been reduced but Sullivan buses are looking to increase the shopper services for passengers using facilities from Borehamwood to South Mimms and Potters Bar.

It was further noted that the B3 was struggling to complete journeys due to the congestion in Borehamwood particularly at peak times and on Friday's. It was reported that profits for smaller bus companies were under 10% throughout the country in terms of income. 15% of profit received is from children and because the 292 and 107 do not charge children they therefore do not use the smaller bus companies causing a loss of profit to the smaller bus services in Hertfordshire. It was further reported the since the production of Oyster Cards by TFL (Transport for London) there has been a significant reduction in passengers using the smaller bus companies, this being one of the main reasons for the reduction of service.

Information on bus timetables could be found at:

Sullivan' Buses	www.sullivanbuses.co.uk
Metroline	www.metroline.co.uk
Uno	www.unobus.info

### 22. RIGHTS OF WAY

J Cartledge presented the Forum with a comprehensive power point presentation on 'Rights of Way' in Elstree and Borehamwood. (Appendix A).

It was noted that there are two categories of pathways in Elstree and Borehamwood. Residents were advised to contact Hertfordshire County Council if they were unsure which category interested pathways fall under, they were either the department of 'Highways' or 'Rights of Way'. It was however further noted that there were c30 pathways that are not registered on any documented list and that this issue had been visited at a Transport Forum meeting five years ago. *The Town Clerk had contacted Hertfordshire County Council in 2015 and he was advised to that some of the regulations were being revised. There has been no change.* 

### It was AGREED that:

Hertfordshire County Council be contacted regarding update on pathway regulations.

### 23. TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY REPORT

PCSO J Hainsworth presented the Forum with an update report on the above. (Appendix B). It was noted that the report covered six consecutive two month periods under the following headings and that all categories included all types of vehicle, including bicycles:

### <u>Headings</u>

- 1. Road Traffic Collision Damage Only
- 2. Road Traffic Incident Suspected Injury
- 3. Road Offence
- 4. Vehicle Nuisance or Inappropriate Use

### Headline Reports

• Road Traffic Collision - Damage Only

Annual totals have dropped from 190 to 111 over four years.

### • Road Traffic Incident - Suspected Injury

Annual totals have dropped from 110 to 85 over four years.

### • Road Offence

Annual totals have dropped from 213 to 155 over four years with a big reduction in Hillside over the last two years.

### • Vehicle Nuisance or Inappropriate Use

Annual totals have dropped from 281 to 133 over four years with a big reduction in Hillside over the last two years.

PCSO Hainsworth reported that the above figures were based on incidents that had been reported to Hertfordshire police by residents, other car users and pedestrians. Figures could be due to the fact that people are less inclined to report incidents and advised that Hertfordshire Constabulary could only devise their summary from incidents reported.

PCSO Hainsworth was pleased to report that the incidents of young people performing bicycle wheelies along Shenley Road high street had significantly decreased by more than half in the last four years. He further reported that there had been a 40% reduction

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in burglaries in Elstree over the last few years remarking that it was through the collective work of Neighbourhood Watch and Elstree was well ahead compared to the rest of Hertfordshire in crime prevention.

PCSO Hainsworth was applauded by the members of the Forum for his work with neighbourhood watch in Elstree.

Members of the Forum were interested to know why there had been significant improvements as reported in the attached report and what could be done to improve these positive trends further.

### 24. TRAIN SERVICES

GTR representatives reported:

- Performance Statistics for Elstree and Borehamwood station are better than any other station on this particular network.
- Report on performance are based on four weekly periods producing thirteen four weekly reports in a year.
- On-Time means trains arrive within 59 seconds of its timetabled arrival time. The target is 64% with the last target reached of 65.7%. Cancellations of services have improved since the last report.
- Weather conditions at the moment are having a big impact on the railway systems throughout the country with flooding in many areas having a greater affect on the train services. The signalling system relies on the electricity current being fed through the rails. A few inches of flooding on the line would cause a short circuit between two rails causing the signals to turn to red. This is a built-in safety system (track circuit failure). The driver will stop the train and call the signal control centre to see if it is safe to proceed to the next signal.
- GTR are working with Network Rail to develop a fifty-mile plan for outer London to improve the infrastructure. Network Rail are going to be prioritising repairs and improvements. The good news for GTR would mean improvements would be made up to the Bedford line and also south to Brighton.

- Timetable improvements from May 17 2020 throughout the network. There are also going to be an extra two trains an hour on Saturdays in both directions with six trains per hour instead of Four trains per hour.
- A grant has been given by the public of transport cycle rail club to improve the security of the bicycle site at Elstree and Borehamwood station. The money needs to be used by the end of March so GTR are looking at providing a cycle hut with a key card making the cycles secure.

It was reported that GTR are looking into the possibility of erecting an extra parking deck at the station.

Cllr A Plancey (Mayor of Hertsmere Borough Council) conveyed his congratulations to the staff of GTR and Elstree and Borehamwood station by remarking on the extra space in the forecourt for passengers and the comfortable coffee shop where passengers can sit with a coffee and relax while waiting for their trains.

Cllr Mrs Farida Turner publicly declared her gratitude on behalf of the Town to the Elstree and Borehamwood Station Manager as it had been noted that offensive graffiti at the station had swiftly been removed by him personally remarking that it had been over and above the call of duty.

### 25. FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Mr R Redman (secretary of 'Elstree Screen Heritage') began by outlining to members of the Forum what First Impressions is and what they are trying to do.

Mr Redman reported that for the past ten years they have been raising awareness of film and TV and its heritage in Elstree and Borehamwood. What has been done, what is being done and some of the exciting things they are planning to do. Mr Redman reported that First Impressions had been instrumental in the re-development of Elstree and Borehamwood Station helping the project to run as smoothly as possible and it is encouraging to hear the positive response received by Councillorss and members of the public.

Mr Redman further reported that there has been an opening for further developments of the station by way of the 'Passenger Benefit Fund'. This was due to timetable disruption in May 2019 causing a lot of stress to regular passengers. A specific amount of money was allocated the result being that Elstree and Borehamwood Station received £80,000 of the fund towards further improvement. As such, from last May to August 2019 passengers were asked what they thought the £80,000 should be spent on at the station. 123 people responded with over 400 suggestions. The top four suggestions were;

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- 1. Covers over the stairs and bridges
- 2. Improved seating
- 3. Increased planting on the platforms
- 4. Improved parking

Following a meeting in January 2020 with group representatives it was noted that the covers over the stairs and bridge would not be possible as the footbridge structures were not designed to carry the extra weight required.

First Impressions are now looking at installing extra seating in the station booking hall, an additional kiosk outside the booking hall and planting of trees on the islands in the car park. First Impressions are in daily talks with GTR regarding proposed improvements.

P Ladbury (GTR) reported that blue screens on platforms one and four had been identified as redundant and if they were to be removed that they would be ideal areas for extra seating. Network Rail removed the screens but unfortunately have failed to remove the frames. As such, P Ladbury is now in the process of chasing up Network Rail to remove the redundant frames.

The issue was raised regarding anti-social behaviour at Elstree and Borehamwood station and Mr Redman remarked that he had been in attendance at a Youth Council meeting where they had discussed this problem. Members of the Youth Council had been invited to a Transport Forum meeting to highlight this problem. Mr Redman invited Chairman of the Youth Council Adam Duke to address members of the Forum.

Youth Cllr A Duke highlighted some of the problems that were raised at their meetings. He pointed out that he and many of the Youth Councillors and Youth in the town use the trains and buses to commute. It had been noted by the Youth Council that around many of the bus stops and in particular bus stop C there are a lot of people sitting drinking alcohol, using foul language and frequently urinating in the bushes behind the bus stop. Their behaviour also created a lot of litter around the bus stops by way of alcohol, food and cigarette debris. This of course made many students and young people very uncomfortable was extremely unnerving.

It was noted that there were still concerns regarding lack of road markings on the roundabout on Station Road and there is also a lot of mixed messages as to when this problem would finally be resolved and an update would follow.

R Redman was pleased to report the defibrillator had now been re-installed at the station.

### 26. OPEN SESSION

[For clarity and context, questions raised in the Open Session but relating to other agenda items are recorded in the text of the relevant number above]

Issues and matters raised included:

- No Bus service in Farriers Way for elderly residents (Minute 21).
- Out of service bus stops causing confusion to passengers (Minute 21)
- Responsibility and maintenance of pathways (Minute 21).
- Overgrown bushes along Watford Road and past Aldenham Road leaving approximately six inches for residents to walk along. (Minute 21).
- Fazing of traffic lights on Watford road junction making it impossible for adults and children to cross in good time (Minute 21).
- An eight-tier erected pole piled with tires on the Junction of Watford Road causing a danger to pedestrians and vehicles (Minute 21).
- Concerns at the lack of police presence patrolling the streets of Elstree and Borehamwood (Minute 22).
- Extremely loud noises created by customised car engines (removed car exhausts) experienced every day by residents and in particular driving repeatedly around the Furzehill Road roundabout (**Minute 22**).
- Roundabout road surfaces helping to create the screeching noise made by repeated speeding offenders. (Minute 22).
- Car users on mobile phones whilst driving. (Minute 22). (It was noted that a project is in place to deal with this particular issue).
- Vehicles parked on pavements blocking the way for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchair users (Minute 22).
- Vehicles parking across neighbouring household driveways (Minute 22).

It was noted that all issues raised by the Forum in particular anti-social behaviour and inappropriate car users would be reported back to Hertfordshire Constabulary by PCSO J Hainsworth.

Cllr A Collins reported that he had received correspondence from PSCO 6620 Sam Westlake-Cann regarding cars causing obstruction to pedestrians and parking across residents drive-ways in Cowley Hill. (Correspondence forwarded to Town Clerk H. Jones).

Members received an update report via Cllr A. Collins from Cllr Mrs S Brown as follows:

### Dear Resident,

In August 2018 a traffic survey was completed on Stapleton Road. One of the areas being monitored for vehicles driving in excess of the speed limit.

It was noted that this area could be investigated as a new SID Camera site. As residents have contacted me with their concerns, I have applied to the Town Council for a PCC road safety fund for a SID.

This has now been provisionally approved and a suitable location will be located on Stapleton Road.

County Councillor Susan Brown

It was noted that it was Hertsmere Borough Council that would be supplying the SID and not the Town Council.

- Extra parking at Elstree and Borehamwood Station (Minute 24).
- Signage at entrance to station indicating where the drop off zone is (Minute 24).
- Discarded containers by the cycle racks at the station causing a blind spot to pedestrians when walking through the tunnel and giving more room for people to park their bikes (Minute 24).
- Possibility of a cash machine installed at Elstree and Borehamwood Station (Minute 24).
- Anti-social behaviour at Elstree and Borehamwood Station (Minute 24).
- Lift at Elstree and Borehamwood station out of action (Minute 24). TF 2019/20 Page 21

- Nuisance teenagers approaching passengers for cigarettes (Minute 24).
- Lack of police presence at station (Minute 24).

Mr L Stack (EBRA) reported that following a letter he had sent to Hertfordshire County Council in May 2019 regarding various parking issues there had still not been resolved and he had yet to receive any response from the Forum and pointed out that many of the issues went back as far as ten years.

Cllr A Plancey responded to L Stack and members of the Forum by saying that any issues and concerns raised at former meetings are reported back to Hertfordshire County Council and that it is in the interest of residents to report directly to Hertfordshire County Council any issues they have regarding highways. All reports would be logged by County and would go a long way towards helping solve the situation. Cllr A Plancey further responded by advising the residents of Elstree to contact Cllr C Clapper directly via email in regards to the crossroads at Watford Road junction.

### It was AGREED that:

Hertfordshire County Council be contacted by Cllr A Plancey regarding an update on parking issues raised by L Stack (EBRA).

Vice Chairman of the Transport Forum gave an update report from Chairman Mrs R Butler (Appendix C).

### 27. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.27pm

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 6 May 2020 at 7.00pm at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT.

Date:..... CHAIRMAN.....

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### ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

### TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY FORUM

### **RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT 2019**

### 1 Purpose of report

1.1 To acquaint members of the forum with the findings of a condition survey of the rights of way in Elstree and Borehamwood parish, and to brief them on related issues.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be received for information.
- 2.2 That the advice of Hertfordshire county council be sought on appropriate action to be taken to secure the status of footpaths within Elstree and Borehamwood which are not currently registered as rights of way.

### 3 Rights of way

- 3.1 In common with virtually all of Hertfordshire's 145 civil parishes, Elstree and Borehamwood benefits from an extensive network of rights of way (ROWs). As the term implies, ROWs are routes which all or certain categories of members of the public have a right to use for passage on foot and (in some cases) by other means of transport. But they are not public highways, and the land over which they pass is not necessarily in public ownership.
- 3.2 The law governing ROWs in England and Wales is complex, and continues to evolve. But the principal relevant statute is the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. ROWs are broadly of five types, which can be distinguished in Hertfordshire by the colour of the arrows used on signs and marker posts :
  - (a) Public footpaths (PFs) : open to anyone to use on foot (and with dogs or other small animals, provided these are kept under proper control) yellow.
  - (b) Public bridleways (PBs) : also open to people on horseback or on cycles (not motorcycles) blue.
  - (c) Restricted byways (RBs) : also open to other specified categories of user, typically those in horse-drawn vehicles plum.
  - (d) Byways open to all traffic (BOATs) : also open to motor vehicles (including motorcycles), though there may be restrictions on their weight or size red.
  - (e) Unclassified county roads (UCRs) : usually unsurfaced country lanes, and often indistinguishable from BOATs white.

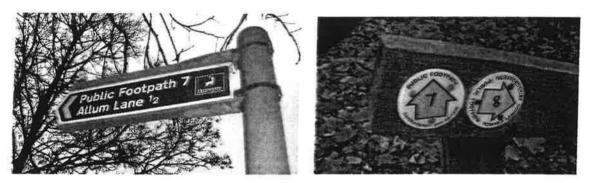
[Note : potentially confusingly, white arrows are also commonly used to identify "permissive" footpaths and bridleways. These routes have no legal status, and have simply been established on an ad-hoc basis by agreement with landowners, sometimes in order to offer a more convenient alternative to an ROW. Owners' consent to their use can be withdrawn at any time.]

3.3 Responsibility for registering and managing ROWs is vested in highway authorities, i.e. (where they exist) in county councils. Each relevant authority is required to maintain and publish "definitive statements" listing and describing all of the ROWs in its area, on a parishby-parish basis, together with a "definitive map" showing their locations. Adding a new ROW, or modifying or deleting an existing one, requires the passage of delegated legislation known as a "definitive map modification order" (DMMO). Where the change proposed is contested, this can be a lengthy and time-consuming process.

3.4 The definitive statements for Hertfordshire can be found at https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-access/rights-of-way/current-rights-ofway/definitive-statements.aspx. A version of the definitive map can be found at https:// webmaps.hertfordshire.gov.uk/row/row.htm?layers=[1:0,1,2,3,4 (this is not technically the map itself, as for legal reasons that exists only in hard copy). ROWs are shown in red on Ordnance Survey maps at 1:50,000 scale (Landranger), and in green at 1:25,000 scale (Explorer).

### 4 ROWs in Elstree and Borehamwood

- 4.1 There are currently 68 registered ROWs in Elstree and Borehamwood, of which all but four are public footpaths.
- 4.2 About half of these are cross-country routes linking to neighbouring communities, and are concentrated in the west and north of the parish. They are usually signed by green "finger posts" where they meet public roads, and by waymark discs at intervals elsewhere. Some are up to a mile in length.



The number 7 on this sign, and numbers 7 and 8 on these waymarks, refer to the official numbering of the path(s) on the definitive statements and map. They are likely to convey little or no meaning to most users. More usefully, though possibly ambiguously, the number  $\frac{1}{2}$  refers to the distance (in miles) to the stated destination.

- 4.3 The other half of the ROWs are concentrated in the urban areas in the east and south of the parish, and are not generally signed as such. They are usually much shorter, and can have a length of as little as 50 yards. Most are alleyways providing short cuts between roads in residential areas, but some are named paths leading to the fronts of residential properties (e.g. Reston Path, Ayot Path, Goodwood Path). Probably the best known and most used but least typical is the short boulevard linking Borehamwood Shopping Park with Shenley Road in the town centre.
- 4.4 There are two restricted byways in the parish, Edgwarebury Lane (linking Barnet Lane with Edgware) and Woodhall Lane (linking Theobald Street with Shenley). The former has a made-up surface, the latter does not. There is one byway open to all traffic, Tykeswater Lane (linking Theobald Street with Watling Street). This passes through a ford, and it remains unsurfaced although its continuation in Aldenham parish has been made up by Hertfordshire county council (HCC) in recent years. The sole local example of an unclassified county road is something of an anomaly, as it is actually a tarmac footpath paralleling a section of Torworth Road.
- 4.5 HCC also maintains a public register of routes which are or have been the subject of DMMO applications. Currently there are three open cases in Elstree and Borehamwood. One relates to the registration of an alleyway between Barton Way and Chandos Road, one to the registration of the perimeter path around the western side of Aldenham Reservoir, and one to the diversion of a path between Barnet Lane and Allum Lane which traverses the applicant's property.

### 5 ROW volunteers

- 5.1 Primary responsibility for maintaining paths and ensuring that they are usable rests with the owners of the land over which they run. For example, farmers are legally required to reinstate paths in fields if they are ploughed, and to leave corridors through standing crops. Owners are expected to remove obstructions and ensure that gates, stiles, steps, etc are safe to use. HCC provides and maintains signs, and has a limited budget to assist with (e.g.) surface drainage improvements and the provision and upkeep of bridges and other structures. Over time, it has sponsored the removal of stiles, because these can present obstacles to less-agile users, and there is now only one remaining stile in this parish. on a footpath running from Elstree Hill North to Aldenham Road. It also funds the cost of mowing or strimming some paths which are liable to become overgrown. Where a barrier to entry is still required, usually because of the presence of livestock or to deny access to off-road motorcyclists, it installs kissing gates instead. The council's Countryside and ROW (CROW) team includes a number area officers, each of whom has responsibility for overseeing the condition of ROWs in a particular group of parishes. The officer responsible for (inter alia) Elstree and Borehamwood publishes a monthly list of problems reported and action taken or proposed, which is circulated to anyone interested in receiving it.
- 5.2 But the CROW's resources are very thinly spread over a large countywide network of paths, and budgetary restrictions mean that it does not have the resources actively to monitor their condition and that of associated structures and equipment (such as signage). So it has recently recruited a team of ROW volunteers, each of whom is responsible for a particular parish (or group of parishes). These volunteers are provided with basic training in ROW law, health and safety, etc, and equipped with a toolkit which includes a saw, secateurs, a hammer, nails, waymark discs, a clipboard, protective gloves and glasses, etc. Their role is to carry out periodic inspections of all of the routes in their respective parishes, tackle small-scale maintenance tasks such as pruning of intruding vegetation or renewal/upgrading of waymarks, and submit reports of any more substantial issues requiring action to HCC.
- 5.3 Problems reported are graded according to the severity of the issue. Those categorised as being of severity 1 are obstructive or dangerous, severity 2 are of high priority, severity 3 are of moderate priority, and severity 4 are not urgent. They are also listed according to the nature of the problem, i.e. access furniture (stiles, gates), surface furniture (bridges, steps), signage, vegetation, obstructions, and "other". The reports are processed by another group of volunteers recruited by CROW, so that a prioritised programme of remedial action can be drawn up and implemented.

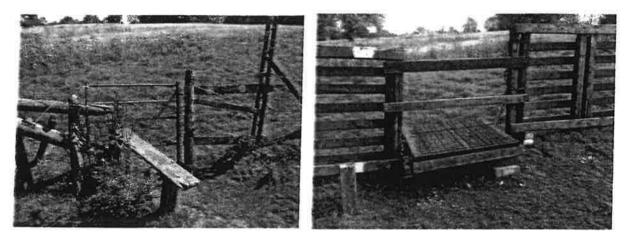
### 6. Elstree and Borehamwood ROW survey findings

6.1 All of the registered ROWs in Elstree and Borehamwood were surveyed during September-November 2019. After any necessary running repairs had been completed, a small majority (35) of the 68 routes had no issues which required reporting to HCC. The nature and severity of the 77 issues found on the remaining 33 routes was as shown in this table.

Severity → Subject ↓	Obstructive / dangerous	High priority	Moderate priority	Not urgent	Totals
Access furniture	0	6	4	1	11
Surface furniture	0	2	2	1	5
Signage	0		13	19	32
Vegetation	0	1	7	10	18
Obstructions	0	1	1	0	2
Other	0		4	5	9
Totals	0	10	31	36	77

6.2 Fortunately, no dangerous or seriously obstructive issues were identified. The only potential candidate for this classification was the stile mentioned in paragraph 5.1, which was in a

semi-derelict state and liable to collapse in use. This was reported to HCC, which notified the occupier of the fields concerned, and it was reconstructed before the survey had been completed. It is still not wholly satisfactory, because the supporting bricks are loose and the upper rail is high, but it is a considerable improvement. In the longer term, replacement by a kissing gate remains desirable.



Before

After

- 6.3 Of the ten reported items in the "high priority" category, the majority relate to issues with defective gates. There are also two footbridges with handrails that require stabilising, one badly leaning fence which is at risk of collapsing across the path, and one large fallen tree which requires power tools in order to reduce it to moveable lengths.
- 6.4 Of the 67 reported items categorised as being of moderate priority or not urgent, all but 18 relate to signage. Commonly these are cases where signs or marker posts are loose or missing, or where additional, re-sited or reworded signs would be helpful to unfamiliar users.
- 6.5 There are nine items in the miscellaneous category of "others". Three of these relate to the accuracy or currency of entries on the definitive statements and map, three to drainage and/or surface condition, one to fencing, one to fly tipping, and one to the legal classification of part of the route.
- 6.6 In order to track changes in the overall condition of the path network over time, a condition scoring system has been devised. Ten points are awarded to a path with no reported problems. Four points are deducted if there are one or more problems of severity 1, three if any are of severity 2, two if they are of severity 3, and one if they are of severity 4. Thus a path with a reported problem of each of these four levels of severity would score zero. Expressed as a percentage of the possible maximum, the average score for all of the routes in Elstree and Borehamwood in 2019 was 88%. This result provides a baseline with which scores in future surveys can be compared.

### 7 Unregistered paths

- 7.1 In addition to those which appear on the ROW definitive map and statements and were covered by the survey, several alleyways in the urban areas of the parish are included on the (separate) "list of streets" maintained by HCC under the Highways Act 1980. Somewhat superfluously, a number of them appear on both. But there are also more than 30 paths in regular use which are not currently included on either list. Most of these are short cuts between residential roads, but they include some in parks and several in relatively open countryside (mainly west of the railway), at least three of which including one bridleway are waymarked as "permissive" paths .
- 7.2 Adding paths to the statutory register of ROWs ensures their continuing availability in the future, and prevents them from being closed without the approval of the relevant authority (which in the case of Elstree and Borehamwood is HCC). But this can be a time-consuming process (unless the owner(s) of the land over which they pass is/are supportive), requiring the collection and submission of evidence to show that they were already in existence in

1949, or that they have been in continuous unchallenged use by the public for at least 20 years. And under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 this right to inclusion on the basis of a specific path's historic existence will lapse on 1 January 2026 if no application has been made in respect of it by that date.

- 7.3 In 2015 the Transport and Road Safety Forum received a presentation on urban footpaths in the parish, which drew its attention to 33 paths which did not appear on either the definitive map and statements or the list of streets, plus a further 10 which although they were included in the list of streets were recorded as not being maintainable by HCC. It was noted that if action was not taken to regularise the status of these paths, they might be at greater risk of closure in or after 2026 without HCC's consent being required. It was therefore agreed by the forum *"That the Town Council makes a formal approach to the rights of way team at HCC to seek its advice and assistance in securing any necessary upgrading to the statutory protection afforded to urban footpaths in the parish."*
- 7.4 On contacting HCC, the council was advised that while it would be advantageous to seek to register these routes in order to secure their future availability to the public, it was anticipated that a more streamlined registration process would shortly be introduced under the provisions of the Deregulation Act 2015. Rather than embarking upon immediate applications, therefore, the council was advised to stay its hand until this new procedure was in place.
- 7.5 Four years have since elapsed, during which nothing further has been heard from HCC on this matter, and the 2026 registration deadline is drawing closer. It is therefore recommended that, if the forum agrees, contact with HCC on this matter should be reactivated and its advice sought on the most appropriate action to be taken now.

JC 23.11.19

# APPENDIX B

### Road Traffic Collision, Damage Only

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### **Chair's Update to the Transport Forum**

I am sorry that I cannot be at tonight's meeting and thank you to Cllr Victor Eni for covering in my absence.

**Roundabout at Theobald Street/Station Road/Shenley Road:** County Council continue to state that the weather has prevented them from repainting it. It's state continues to deteriorate. I hope that they will get it done in the spring.

Cllr Susan Brown HCC has been informed by Tim Burt HCC that the issue of the roundabout is in the hands of Highways and concurs with above that the works will be carried out as soon as weather has improved.

**Motorbike stands outside Iceland:** County Council have said there is no intention to install stands as not all motorbikes require them however they are going to raise it at their next meeting with Cllr Plancey.

Oak Farm Bench - thank you to those involved in getting this done!

Town Councillor Rebecca Challice (aka Butler) Chair of the Transport Forum

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