

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.]

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The 398 was withdrawn from service on Saturday the 15 February 2020.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:

Headings

- 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

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 Councillors 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;

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**).

- 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.....