

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

**TRANSPORT & COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

**MINUTES** of a meeting held in Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood on  
**Wednesday 25 May 2022** at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr P Kaza (Chair EBTC)  
Cllr V Eni (EBTC)  
Cllr Mrs S Parnell (EBTC)  
J Cartledge (Resident and Transport Forum Presenter)  
R Redman (First Impressions)  
1 Member of the public  
H Jones – Town Clerk (EBTC)

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

**13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received from R Jarvis (Neighbourhood Watch), D Sullivan (Sullivan Buses), Cllr C Butchins (EBTC), P Ladbury (Thameslink and Great Northern Railways) and Cllr R Butler (EBTC and HCC).

**14. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS**

There were none.

**15. FORUM MINUTES**

**It was RESOLVED that:**

**the Minutes of the Transport and Community Safety Forum held on 30 March 2022 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.**

## 16. BUS SERVICES IN ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD

D Sullivan (Sullivan Buses) had provided the Chair with a written update as follows:

*“Staffing remains a very significant issue. Earlier this month the ONS published a report that shows there are more vacancies in the UK than people to fill them. Loss of key members has resulted in the management team (myself included) driving.*

*Usage on our local commercial routes is –  
Compares May 2019 with May 2022.*

*306 – 10%*

*398 + 35% (note the schedule in 2019 was significantly reduced from where it is today)*

*B3 + 24%*

*TfLs current funding agreement expires mid June. Negotiations with the DfT are continuing.*

*TfL will announce on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May significant changes to the Central London bus network. The intention is to reduce service levels by 4%. This will include a number of ‘high profile’ bus service withdrawals. These are all confined to the central area and none are in suburban London. Other services will be adjusted accordingly and only four bus stops will be left without a service. The argument will be that funding is tight and there is evidence that the recovery has flat lined. The reductions are as a result of a request by the DfT to reduce costs, and implementation of cost reductions forms a part of TfL’s negotiations for any future funding agreement.*

*The Unions will be briefed on Monday, and the reductions briefed to the media on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>. TfL will then open a public consultation which will close on the 12<sup>th</sup> July. The changes to services in this phase will then commence in March 2023 and conclude in November 2023.*

*Metroline had a much publicised fire at Potters Bar bus garage (in Hertsmere) on Sunday afternoon. There were no injuries. The fire started in a fully electric bus and spread to another four vehicles. As a result TfL & the manufacture (Switch Mobility) have grounded the remaining fleet, affecting a small number of routes across London. It seems at this stage this may be related to the design of the vehicle rather than the concept of fully electric buses. TfL, Switch Mobility & the operator are investigating the cause.*

*Meanwhile in Herts – Go-Ahead Carousel have advised they will discontinue route 103. Although not in our area, this was once the long standing LT/LCBS (etc) 336 bus route which linked Watford with Amersham. Since the 84 (in Hertsmere) was surrendered in April this is probably about the fourth or fifth route so surrendered. I would guess a reduction in patronage, failing subsidy, staffing issues and rising costs. HCC are trying to find a replacement.”*

It was suggested that an update be sought on the new B3 contract (Borehamwood Town via Organ Hall and Well End).

## **17. TRAIN SERVICES**

R Redman (First Impressions) reported on:

- GTR Notification of Potential Disruption (with reference to the RMT Ballot Update briefing report)

Forum Members expressed concern about the impact of train driver strike action at both a local and national level.

With regards to 'First Impressions' the key points Mr Redman made were:

- Nearing completion of addition of images and text for all 18 participating organisations
- Next TEAMS meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June to finalise acceptance testing
- BR and 21<sup>st</sup> Century's Head of Business Development have created a DRAFT SLA
- BR has discussed SLA in principle with Cllr. Parnell, and will meet formally with Cllrs Parnell and Collins and then with Town Clerk

Some Forum Members queried passengers not wearing face masks on trains and it was clarified that this was no longer a mandatory requirement.

## **18. POLICING**

R Redman (First Impressions) reported on:

- Equipping Special Constables With Tasers (with reference to article in Times Newspaper)

Members agreed that it was disappointing that the Police were unable to attend the meeting and further efforts would be made to encourage attendance.

Members expressed concern about the robberies that had taken place at the shop on Manor Way recently.

## **19. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

There was no report.

## **20. HERTS FIRE AND RESCUE**

There was no report.

**21. CLARION HOUSING**

There was no report.

**22. COUNCIL REPORTS**

There was no report.

**23. OPEN SESSION**

There was none.

**24. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 6 July 2022 at 7.00pm in Fairway Hall.

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