

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

TRANSPORT & COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting held in Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood on **Wednesday 6 July 2022** at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr P Kaza (Chair EBTC)
Cllr V Eni (EBTC)
Cllr A Collins (EBTC)
R Redman (First Impressions)
R Jarvis (Neighbourhood Watch)
J Cartledge (Resident and Transport Forum Presenter)
5 Members of the Public
H Jones – Town Clerk (EBTC)
H Wilkin – Committee Officer (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: D Sullivan (Sullivan Buses), Cllr P Choudhury (HBC), Cllr P Strack (EBTC) and P Ladbury (Thameslink and Great Northern Railways).

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 25 May 2022 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chair.

16. BUS SERVICES IN ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD

D Sullivan (Sullivan Buses) was unable to attend the meeting and had provided the Chair with a written update as follows:

“Firstly many thanks to H Jones, John Cartledge and the Town Council for the wonderful gesture of naming of a seat after our former colleague Steve Simmonds. And special thanks for John Cartledge for organising the S Type bus to take the

assembled group on a short tour of Elstree. The gesture was very kind and greatly appreciated.

With this in mind, can I suggest that a bench is named in honour of the former Town Councillor & Borough Mayor Cynthia Barker who as you know passed away while in the office of Mayor in 2020. I am sure I don't need to give you any background into her work in the community, but she achieved a great deal locally as well as becoming the very first Filipino Mayor. I think there now exists a great opportunity to name a seat in her memory.

Concerning the bus service:

*306 is 11% down on passenger loadings based on the same period pre-covid in 2019
398 is up 22% on the same period as a result of additional funding received from the local MP to increase the frequency.*

B3 is 13% down on passenger loadings based on the same period pre-covid in 2019

As you may be aware (although outside our area) TfL are undertaking a public consultation on a number of Central London bus route changes. These are designed to reduce bus mileage by just over 4% and save an estimated £35million. This is part of a wider package to reduce overall operating costs. Due to significant interest, the consultation deadline has been extended to Sunday 7 August 2022. Anyone with a particular interest should go to TfL's website and search Central London Bus Review.

TfL have received a further short term funding deal to take them until 13 July 2022. The London Mayor is seeking a long-term deal to fund TfL's operating costs in the light of the reduction in customer income demand post Covid. If unable to achieve this, the Mayor advises that TfL will need to enter a period of managed decline. This scenario is disputed by Central Government.

Currently although passenger numbers on the TfL network are down (-20% M-F), passenger yield (£) is higher as a result of ad-hoc travel which does not attract discounts (eg weekly/ period Travelcard use). As previously advised, weekend leisure travel in the Capital has positively rebounded with numbers approaching pre-pandemic levels.

General

The B3 contract is anticipated to expire in late August. We have not seen an expression of interest to tender for this route. That does not mean there will not be one. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the bus company expressing the forum's concern about the loss of the B3 service.

Staffing remains a significant issue and we have concerns over escalating fuel costs as well as inflation generally. As a result of cost pressures we will be revising some fares in September, but this will be limited in Borehamwood to specific school bus journeys”.

Future service changes:

We are working on a new schedule for route 306 to commence in September 2022. This will reduce journey times early morning where buses tended to either run early or have a need to sit at bus stops awaiting time. No change to frequency or the Saturday & Sunday timetable.

Route 398 – the current Mon-Fri early morning projection to Watford (06:48 ex Borehamwood) which is poorly used will be withdrawn after the end of August. The resource will be used elsewhere.

Timetables will be produced for both services and will be on buses from mid-August.

Outside our area – we plan a new timetable for route 84 which we commenced in April this year. The changes will incorporate operating experience gained since then. The intention will be to improve the frequency of the Mon-Fri peak hour service. These changes are subject to the approval of HCC who provide some funding for this service”.

It was AGREED that:

a letter be submitted on behalf of the Forum to Hertfordshire County Council in order to seek to establish the intentions with the contract renewal for the B3 bus in Borehamwood.

17. TRAIN SERVICES

No representative was present from train services and P Ladbury had sent a report which was read out at the meeting.

“Service update.

- *The timetable in May and we will making minor timetable changes in December. I will update the September Forum about any changes that might affect services for Elstree & Borehamwood.*
- *Weekday passenger numbers are up to 71% of pre-covid numbers*

Strike action

No new strike dates have been announced by the RMT. RMT members from GTR were the only people not to vote for strike action. However, the RMT have re-balloted GTR staff with the result of the new ballot announced on 7th July.

Your station Your Community

GTR have launched a new Community Fund to support local community projects within 15 miles of one of our stations. Groups can find out more on our website or attend one of our information webinars.

Station

We are waiting for Network Rail to confirm we can install the Beryl Bike hire stands in front of the station as part of Sky Studios sustainable transport programme. Bob Redman will update the Forum on the information screen. Siggy attended a Windrush event last month in London and met Prince William”

Some Forum Members noted with concern that there appeared to be a high frequency of instances where trains were cancelled or delayed due to the reason of ‘driver shortage.’ It was noted anecdotally that the 8.15am train appeared to be cancelled more so than most other cancellations.

The Chair particularly asked for P Ladbury (Thameslink and Great Northern Railways) to be available, if possible, to attend the next meeting on 28 September 2022.

18. FIRST IMPRESSIONS

R Redman (First Impressions) reported that:

- The Mayor and Cllr. Collins, the official Town Council representatives on the ‘First Impressions’ Project Board
- met with BR on 27th June. They fully endorse the Town
- Council taking responsibility for the new information kiosk as a valuable community asset
- After subsequent discussion with BR, The Town Council signed the SLA
- Technical development is almost complete and full deployment is scheduled for 29 July 2022.

19. POLICING

Forum Members agreed that it was disappointing that the Police were unable to attend the meeting on this occasion but also understood that operational priorities for the Constabulary could be the reason for non-attendance.

It was AGREED that:

- (i) **a letter and email be sent to the Chief Inspector (M Bilsdon) requesting that a police representative be available to attend future meetings of the Transport and Community Safety Forum; and**

- (ii) a letter and email be sent to Hertfordshire County Council regarding concerns raised at the Transport and Community Safety Forum with regards to the hours of street lighting and the impact on crime levels (including fear of crime).

20. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

R Jarvis reported that:

- Neighbourhood Watch had a total of 170,938 households in Hertfordshire in the scheme (i.e. 44% in Hertsmere)
- the success of the two DVDs being played to vulnerable groups had grown to an audience wider than the Hertsmere area (one concerned tackling rogue traders and distraction burglaries (20 minutes) and a second was about pickpocketing (15 minutes)).

It was AGREED that:

the Transport and Community Safety Forum receive a video presentation from Hertsmere Neighbourhood Watch on tackling rogue traders and distraction burglaries (20 minutes) at its meeting on 28 September 2022.

21. HERTS FIRE AND RESCUE

There was no report. It was suggested this might be because Bob Williams (Watch Commander) has now retired. The town Council has written to the new watch commander but has not yet received a reply.

22. CLARION HOUSING

There was no report.

23. COUNCIL REPORTS

There were no reports.

24. OPEN SESSION

Issues were covered during the agenda items. Some Borough Councillors agreed to assist some Public concerns not directly linked with the business on the agenda after the meeting had concluded.

25. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 7.00pm in Fairway Hall.**

Date:..... CHAIR.....