

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

**TRANSPORT FORUM**

**MINUTES** of a meeting held at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT  
on Wednesday 23 October 2019 at 7.00pm

Present:

- Cllr Mrs R Butler (Transport Forum Chairman - EBTC)
- Cllr V Eni (Vice Chairman - EBTC)
- Cllr Mrs P Strack (EBTC)
- Cllr J Newmark (EBTC)
- Cllr A B Collins (EBTC)
- Cllr S Rubner (EBTC)
- D Sullivan (Sullivan Buses)
- S Simmonds (Sullivan Buses)
- A Chillingsworth (GTR)
- P Ladbury (GTR)
- G Brigden (HCC)
- J Wing (HCC)
- R Redman (Elstree Screen Heritage)
- S Alford (EBRA)
- M Lawson (Resident)
- R Barry (Resident)
- N Clark (Resident)
- P Rossney (Resident)
- L Hentage (Resident)
- A de Swart (Resident)
- S Hyman (Resident)
- R Barry (Resident)

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

**09. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs S Parnell (EBTC) (other Business), Cllr C Butchins (EBTC) (other Business) and J Cartledge.

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

There were none.

## **11. TRANSPORT FORUM MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 3 July 2019 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:

- Minute 4, Page 03, Para 3: “*Steve Blackmore Department of Transport*”

## **12. BUS SERVICES IN ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD**

It was noted that information on new bus timetables could be found at:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sullivan’ Buses | <a href="http://www.sullivanbuses.co.uk">www.sullivanbuses.co.uk</a> |
| Metroline       | <a href="http://www.metroline.co.uk">www.metroline.co.uk</a>         |
| Uno             | <a href="http://www.unobus.info">www.unobus.info</a>                 |

The Forum received an update report from Sullivan Buses and was alerted to the Hertfordshire County Council’s public consultation on a proposed “Intalink Enhanced Partnership”. The deadline for individual responses was 10 November 2019.

It was noted that in relation to the phrase “ON TIME” (paragraph 14 of the draft submission) that interpretations varied depending upon the service provider. For example, it was reported that for Thameslink “ON TIME” meant within 59 seconds of a scheduled arrival time and for Sullivan Buses it meant one minute early or five minutes late.

The Forum formally thanked Mr J Cartledge for preparing the comprehensive response to the consultation and approved its contents.

**It was RESOLVED that:**

**The tabled response to the Hertfordshire County Council’s public consultation on a proposed “Intalink Enhanced Partnership” be submitted to Hertfordshire County Council as set out.**

### **13. TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY REPORT**

There was none.

### **14. TRAIN SERVICES**

Responding to individual concerns of residents, GTR representatives agreed to provide written responses on the topics of ticket prices and stopping times.

GTR representatives reported:

- During period 7 GTR ran 4185 trains per day providing over 50,000 stops. GTR is now taking almost 500,000 extra passengers per day since the start of the franchise.
- Period 5 (21/7 – 17/8) and Period 7 (15/09 – 12/10) were particularly difficult performance periods due to a number of major Network Rail infrastructure issues: Period 5 – two main issues were a track failure at City Thameslink and overhead lines coming down at West Hampstead and Carlton Road Junction; and Period 7 – three main issues were track failures at Elstree and Farringdon and a pantograph fire in the core. These issues instigated a number of reviews into how GTR responds to major disruption with a particular focus on evacuation of trains and information provision.
- Timetable: The Winter timetable would be valid from 15 December 2019 and introduced a number of small changes to services to help improve the efficiency of the service. Most current train times remained unchanged but passengers were asked to check online journey planners as some services could provide additional journey options.
- Passenger Benefit Fund and station improvements: all those who took part in the engagement programme were thanked. The Department of Transport were conducting a thorough review of all the ideas submitted and discussing with stakeholders the suggested schemes put forward for each station. 60 schemes had been approved and details of which would be taken up at Elstree would be given as soon as possible. Defibrillators and water bottle refill taps would be added to every station where possible. Network Rail had been asked to remove the redundant blue signal boxes on Platforms 1 and 4 to provide additional seating on Platform 1 next to the accessibility access door on the train.
- SMART ticketing: To encourage customers to purchase season tickets on the Key Smartcard – 6 winners were being offered the opportunity to receive the value of

their season tickets. One winner would be chosen once per month at random from October 2019 to March 2020.

- Community Work: GTR was celebrating the 5 year anniversary of its partnership with the Princes Trust, helping young unemployed people (18-25) get into employment. A new CSR strategy was to be launched with a focus on upskilling people within communities as well as the three areas of focus, mental health, young people and homelessness. GTR launched its Charity delay repay scheme in September and passengers could donate their delay repay money to one of two charities – Samaritans or The Railway Children.

## **15. LEEMING ROAD BUSINESSES**

The Transport Forum formally thanked Cllr A Collins for conducting a comprehensive survey of local businesses in the Leeming Rid area on transport (and wider) concerns. The report was duly noted and received. Particular areas of concern included:

- The s.60 and s.35 stop and search powers and drug dealing at the Champions (separately discussed by the Town Council's Community Safety Meeting).
- The need for long term development for the most deprived ward in Hertfordshire and involvement with the Leecliffe Big Local initiative.
- Parking problems (especially by the shops on Leeming Road and the potential hazard of cars reversing onto the pedestrian crossing). It was suggested that HCC be asked to consider removing the two spaces nearest to the crossing.
- The need for disabled parking.
- Anti-social behaviour by young people on bicycles (cycling on pavements and frightening pedestrians and other road users).

## **16. 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:

- The need to repaint the roundabout by the railway station (junction between Theobald Street and Shenley Road) and the possible confusion and obstruction caused by excessive temporary signage at this site during works.
- A suggestion to open the back road behind the shops in the Business Park to ease traffic congestion. Some Members felt that such a proposal would pose a nuisance to residents whose properties bordered the park.
- Concerns that the new supermarket at the Business Park was causing increased traffic congestion.
- Car owners with excessively load exhausts. It was suggested that PCSOs are contacted if it was appropriate to do so.
- Vandalised signage on the bus stop at Leeming Road. It was noted that HCC should be contacted using the fault reporting system.
- Electric cars and the possibility of the Town Council considering a car sharing project and a bike hire scheme.
- The need for a bus stop and shelter at Farriers Way.
- The potential hazard of visibility on the downwards ramp exiting the car park by the cinema on Furzehill Road.
- Unfair penalties for disabled parkers at Elstree station. GTR representatives agree to resolve outstanding issues.
- The nuisance and pollution caused by stationary cars with motors running and the possibility of introducing “Do not Idle” stickers by PCSOs and/or local schools and encouraging parents not to drive children to school, where possible.
- The possibility of designated ambassadors on trains to provide information to passengers about services.
- The possibility of the new coffee shop at the railway station housing an ATM.
- The possibility of oyster card users accessing the train service at an earlier time of day.

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

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 7.00pm at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT.

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