

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

TRANSPORT FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting held at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT
on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 7.00pm

Present:

- Cllr S Rubner (Transport Forum Chairman - EBTC)
- Cllr C Butchins (Vice Chairman - EBTC)
- Cllr G Franklin (EBTC)
- Cllr Mrs S Parnell (EBTC)
- Cllr J Newmark (HBC)
- M Asamcah (GTR)
- D Sullivan (Sullivan Buses)
- S Simmonds (Sullivan Buses)
- R Redman (Elstree Screen Heritage)
- D Humbles (Kenilworth School-Headteacher)
- C Williams (Kenilworth School-Deputy Head)
- S Alford (EBRA)
- E Butchins (Resident)
- J Cartledge (Resident)
- M Lawson (Resident)
- R Barry (Resident)
- N Clark (Resident)
- I Mackay (Resident)
- Mr Collins (Resident)
- Mrs Collins (Resident)
- T Malton (Deputy Clerk)

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

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from PC J Hainsworth (Hertfordshire Constabulary), (other business), P Ladbury (GTR), (other business), G Brigden (Team Leader – Network and Travel Planning) and N Miller (HCC Safer Travel Team).

18. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

19. TRANSPORT FORUM MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 24 October 2018 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.

20. ACTIVE AND SAFER TRAVEL PLAN

Members of the Forum received an introduction from C Williams – Deputy Head teacher of Kenilworth Primary School, on the ‘Road Safety Travel Plan’. This resulted in Kenilworth School receiving a gold accreditation for their successful delivery of the scheme. C Williams said. *“The online ‘Safer Travel Plan’ encourages schools to establish sustainable travel in and around their own schools, it looks at ways to ensure you have healthier pupils, safe pupils, cleaner air, and stronger school community. The travel plan programme is being led by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) as a key element of its ‘Local Transport Plan’ the overall outcome will be that a Sustainable Travel Town will feel considerably different to the current conditions in the town. Ms Williams highlighted the process for submitting a proposal for a Sustainable Travel Town (STT) and other key elements such as:*

- application process
- proposal
- funding
- local objectives
- local authority support
- local plan policies
- local delivery support

It was noted that the safer Travel Plan is supported by ‘The Community of Transport’.

(Cllr R Rubner offered his congratulations to the staff of Kenilworth School on their success and the hard work remarking that they are setting a fantastic example for the town).

21. BUS SERVICES IN ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD

Following correspondence with G Brigden (Team Leader, Network & travel Planning) regarding the 657 and 292 service the following report was forwarded as follows:

Service 657

The current contract in respect of the Borehamwood – St Albans section of the route runs to the end of March but will be extended to 20 April 2019, after which date Uno will be withdrawing the commercially operated section of the route between St Albans and Harpenden. We have just awarded the new contract to Arriva and will need to negotiate with them over the extension so the new service may not be exactly the same as the present one.

Service 292

We posed TfL a number of questions when we became aware of their consultation on reducing the frequency of the 292 service. Other than providing some information indicating that the service would still have a sufficient capacity to cater for all existing passenger journeys they have yet to provide substantive answers.

It was noted that Cllr Ashley (HCC) is keen to engage with the Transport Forum members later in the year (upon political approval) about how they propose to use the powers in the Bus Service Act, 2017 and to introduce an enhanced partnership.

S Simmonds (Sullivan Buses) reported that there had been a number of changes to some of the routes into and out of Borehamwood. These timetable changes can be found on any of the websites listed below.

It was noted by Cllr Rubner (chair) at the meeting of 24 October 2018 that Cllr Newmark (HBC) had suggested that the Town Council provide additional transport in the area by using 'Community Infrastructure' money. It had been agreed at that meeting that Cllr Newmark would provide a financial report to the Committee. **(Minute 12).**

Information on new bus timetables could be found at:

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

22. TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY REPORT

There were no update reports given due to absence of PC J Hainsworth (Hertfordshire Constabulary).

23. TRAIN SERVICES

M Asamcah (GTR) gave a brief report on train services to date and particularly on major refurbishments being carried out at the station.

It was reported that Performance had been affected by 'Network Rail', Trespass, weather conditions and shortage of drivers. It was further reported that there had been overall improvement in the train services. They were 82.9% on target and were arriving within five minutes of their due time.

Mr Asamacah further reported that works at the station would be completed by end of April early May 2019. Some of the improvements being made are:

- a larger glass fronted concourse
- a new coffee shop the full length of the station accessible from both the station and the platform
- six larger ticket gates (previously four)
- larger Male and Female toilets including disabled toilet
- better ticket office (reconfigured to prevent queuing passengers from blocking passenger passing through)
- existing Nisa retail unit 50% larger and integrated with the station
- two entrances instead of one – wider than the current opening
- two exits to the platform instead of one; and
- a new glass and steel cycle hub.

It was noted that in May 2019 there is to be a new timetable for all Train services. In particular the weekend service would now be extended from two trains per hour to four trains per hour.

24. FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Mr R Redmond (First Impressions) reported on the station redevelopment by way of a power point presentation, depicting a series of photographs showing the station progress to date with an artist's impression of the final phases. Mr Redmond remarked that 'First Impressions' had worked closely with the station over the years with the support of 'Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council' by way of film plaques, planters erected from railway sleepers and general maintenance around the station. It was noted that the manual works carried out were supported by 'Elstree and Borehamwood Youth Council'. Mr Redmond was happy to report following talks with Thameslink the plaques, planters, heritage panels and signage would all be reinstated.

25. 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]

Some concerns raised by members of the forum were:

- disabled access area on the platforms hidden from CCTV (**Minute 23**)
- inappropriate access getting onto and off trains due to a large step up/down with a large gap between train and platform (**Minute 23**)
- re-installment of bus shelter in Stirling Corner.

Post meeting note:

Following correspondence with D Tannock (Strategy and Programme Manager, Bus Infrastructure Manager) Mr Tannocks response was *"the new shelter is due to be installed at the end of March, subject to necessary permits etc"*; and

- traffic flow in high street.

Cllr C Butchins requested contact details of the person that the minutes of the meeting could go to.

Cllr S Rubner (Chair) requested the statistics of the train delays be sent to T Malton in order that they could be appended to the minutes.

IT was AGREED that:

- (i) **Mr Asamacah (GTR) to raise concerns of the members regarding the positioning of the disabled area and report back to the forum; and**
- (ii) **email T Malton the statistical report of train delays highlighted at the meeting. (See Appendix A).**

Cllr P Strack reported that (GTR) previously had a scheme whereby members of the public were given a tour of the station as well as train journeys escorted by two members of the station staff. Cllr Strack remarked that this had been a very successful scheme and would also be helpful for the staff to know how disabled people get on and of the trains.

Mr Asamacah responded by saying *“we have these schemes called ‘try a train day’ and I am involved with many schools by way of going on trips, showing students how to use the ticket machines making them more confident young people”*.

Post meeting note:

R Barry will be meeting with appropriate railway staff officials at the station to follow up her comments about the problems faced by people with disabilities using platform one.

26. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7.00pm at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT.

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