

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

TRANSPORT FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting held at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT on Wednesday 5 July 2017 at 7.00pm

Present:

- Cllr C Butchins (Transport Forum Chairman - EBTC)
- Cllr S Rubner (Vice Chairman in the Chair ~~-~~ (EBTC))
- Cllr G Franklin (EBTC)
- S Simmonds (Sullivan Buses)
- L Heyman (GTR)
- J Cartledge (Resident)
- L Stack (EBRA)
- R Redman (First Impressions and Elstree Screen Heritage)
- N Clark (Resident)
- S Alford (EBRA)
- S Szmolenski (Resident)
- A de Swarte (Resident)
- S, J and B Melinek (Residents)
- D and V Neiman (Residents)
- 3 other residents
- H Jones (Town Clerk)

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

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from O Dowden MP, (Hertsmere MP), A Dismore AM (London Assembly: Barnet and Camden), Cllr S Brown (Hertfordshire County Council), Cllr A Plancey (Hertfordshire County Council), Cllr G Silver (EBTC), Cllr C Kelly (Hertsmere Borough Council), M and C Blake (Residents), PCSO 6344 J Hainsworth (Hertfordshire Constabulary, D Sullivan (Sullivan Buses), C Izzard (Metroline) and E Aherne-Sime (Metroline).

02. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

03. TRANSPORT FORUM MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 10 May 2017 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.

04. BUS SERVICES IN ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD

Sullivan Buses

Members received a report from S Simmonds (Sullivan Buses).

“Borehamwood Area Bus Changes: July to September 2017:

1/ Plenty of resurfacing work is going on. As a result Sullivan Buses are making changes to the B3 as it will not be able to serve much of Well End from the 19th to 26th July outside of the peak hours. An emergency timetable for the period of the roadworks is set out in the attached notice.

2/ There will be diversions to the 306 evening service after 20.00 from 10th to 17th July due to resurfacing in the Bushey area. Notices will be posted.

3/ From early September Sullivan Buses will be making changes as follows:-

306 Borehamwood to Watford via Elstree and Bushey Minor timetable changes during Monday to Friday peak hours and school times and on Sundays to reflect worsening traffic conditions throughout the route. The extra buses from Tesco's to North Borehamwood at 16.55 and 17.25 will no longer run. These two journeys suffered from very low passenger numbers in part because traffic had made them unreliable. There will be an extra 306 bus from Queens' School to Borehamwood in the afternoons.

398 Potters Bar- Borehamwood-Radlett- Watford Owing to disappointing loadings the Monday to Friday service is being reduced from hourly to two hourly between peak hours and the evening departures from Watford will be reduced to hourly instead of every 30 minutes with the last bus at 18.55. There will be a couple of extra buses in the evening peak between Potters Bar and Borehamwood, although the last journey from Potters Bar will be one hour earlier at 17.45. Hertfordshire and Hertsmere councils have been informed about the changes.

It is believed there will be some changes to the Uno 601, 615 and 658 at the end of September but details are not yet known.

Route B3: Road Closures in Well End: Weds 19th July To Weds 26th July: 9.30 am to 4.00 Pm

Road closures for resurfacing will be taking place in Well End on the above dates. During these times Route B3 will be unable to serve bus stops in Denham Way and the section of Studio Way from the Banks Road (Toby Carvery) roundabout to Rowley Lane.

To give certainty and to minimise the inconvenience for our passengers route B3 to Well End will be diverted and run in two separate sections (each one running once an hour) as follows:

*Alexandra Road bus stops dep 9.49 and every hour until 15.49
Tesco dep for Alexandra Road 9.43 and every hour until 15.43*

*Toby Carvery bus stop for Town Centre depart 10.17 and every hour until 15.17
Tesco dep for Toby Carvery stop 10.08 and every hour until 15.08.*

No other bus stops in Well End will be served during the above times.

Monday to Friday peak hour buses before 9.30 am and after 16.00 will run over the normal line of route and serve all bus stops as will all buses on Saturday 22nd July. School route 823 is not affected.

Normal service will be restored once both Studio Way and Denham Way are fully open to traffic. We will keep passengers up to date on Twitter @ Sullivanbuses or phone 01707 646803."

Metroline

Members received a written report from Metroline Travel (read by the Chairman):

"We are responsible for the local operation of London Buses route 107 that passes through Elstree.

We have serious concerns that there is a significant pothole/depression in Station Road, Borehamwood, directly at the exit to the Railway Station. This has been reported over several months and no action appears to have been taken. The nature of the depression is that it causes buses to be grounded if there is any other vehicle alongside and this grounding is believed to be the principal cause of damage to gearboxes recently. We are liable to consider making a claim against the County Council if there is no immediate improvement for substantial damages caused.

Route 107 Operation.

This route operates on a On Time basis as do most bus services in the area. This is quite challenging as there are multiple pressure points that affect the route, among them A41/Canons Corner within Barnet Borough, the junction of A1 at Stirling Corner, repeated works and restrictions in the area near Arkley P.H. due to new housing development, revision to junction at Wellhouse Lane near Barnet Hospital, and several critical road works and Burst Water Mains at the base of Barnet Hill.

Despite these, the route continues to perform above the target level set by London Buses and the margin of improvement usually means that Edgware is the best performing garage within London Buses for Low Frequency Operation.

Within the limitations, there has been focus in recent months to ensuring that there are fewer gaps in service affecting the area near Centennial Park but inevitably there will be times buses are running late due to other congestions.

In recent weeks, the major Burst Water Main on A41 Watford Way, north of Elstree area, had a major detriment on the morning of 8th June. There was also a recent programme of resurfacing in Allum Lane which meant buses had to omit Elstree completely and be diverted via A41 and A1 after RNOH - before regaining at Elstree and Borehamwood Station - about 6 miles for 1.8 miles of route. This diversion was planned because Barnet Lane is not considered suitable for double deck vehicles due to multiple instances of overhanging trees.

There are some mornings which may relate to other traffic issues creating increased flows of traffic when the approach from Allum Lane into Elstree is thoroughly congested through to the traffic signals at Barnet Lane and delays to services can exceed 15 minutes. In general terms the amount of these instances has declined."

It was AGREED that:

Metroline be thanked for providing the update report and Hertfordshire County Council be notified of the concerns raised.

05. TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY REPORT: HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY

There was no report, PCSO 6344 Hainsworth having already submitted his apologies.

06. TRAIN SERVICES

The Forum received a report from L Heyman (GTR) (copy of slides attached at **APPENDIX A**).

Matters raised in response to the report included:

- Notification of timetable availability on the GTR website from December 2018 (with improvements at Elstree and Borehamwood railway station noted in peak and off peak times);
- The challenge of funding station improvements by March 2019 (with the possibility of seeking contributions from CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy monies) from Hertsmere Borough Council and/or Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council);
- The automatic acknowledgement facility on the customer services facility; and
- The difficulty in obtaining discounted tickets for holders of HCC concessionary fare passes at times when the booking office was unstaffed, as users are unaware

that they should purchase child tickets (which are sold at the same 50% discount) from ticket machines instead.

07. 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 minute above].

Parking (Hillside Ward)

The Chairman read an update report from Cllr A Plancey (Hertfordshire County Council) in connection with the parking difficulties aired at previous meetings of the Forum:

'The issues of over parking due to college students, school parents, office workers, gym users and flat occupants are still present and there have been many meetings with different departments at the council and meetings have also taken place at the 2 schools, Monksmead and Yavneh. There is also another meeting next week with senior officials and highways so more information will follow. The issues of the road condition is still being reviewed and the road is due to be resurfaced next year. In the meantime any potholes that are arise should be reported and will hopefully be fixed in the interim period.'

08. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 25 October 2017 at 7.00pm at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT.

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