

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the Transport and Road Safety Forum – 4th February 2009

Held at Civic Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood at 18:30 hours.

PRESENT: Councillors: K Bright (Chairman)
E Butler; F Turner

J Brown Borehamwood Pensioners' Rights
J Cartledge London Travel Watch
M Finn University Buses
Larry Heyman First Capital Connect

Sajida Bijle Hertsmere Borough Council
Hilary Shade Hertsmere Borough Council

M Bright Leader, Borough Councillor

J Metcalf County Councillor

K White Herts County Council

Members of the public

In attendance: J Charin Town Clerk

1 Presentation by Larry Heyman, Integration and Partnership Manager, First Capital Connect

Larry Heyman gave a presentation covering the current performance of First Capital Connect and outlined plans under the £5.5 billion Thameslink Programme, including improvements to Elstree and Borehamwood station and upgrading of trains.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr.s P Hedges, J Heywood, M Heywood and P Strack.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th November 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.

4 Update from London TravelWatch.

J Cartledge provided copies of the London TravelWatch annual report to all present.

5 Review of Bus Services

Cllr. E Butler suggested that Sullivan Buses be invited to attend the Transport Forum in future.

Cllr. E Butler stated that buses were prevented from drawing into bus stops by cars parking on bus stops. Also, the timetables displayed on bus stops for some routes had not changed since 2005, notably for routes B1 and B2. Some buses experience difficulties accessing the station and to get buses in and out of the station quicker, Cllr. Butler wondered if traffic lights are needed.

Cllr. Metcalfe said that the Elstree Corridor Study will be looking at all junctions and roundabouts over the next year. There is no proposal for a station roundabout.

With regard to bad parking, K White responded that much depends on the enforcement regime. The yellow lines are worn and are due to be re-lined and re-signed to give powers to enforce clearways. Also, the junction of the forecourt with Shenley Rd needs reviewing, not just the forecourt itself. Cllr. Metcalfe said he will ask the Borough Council to enforce parking restrictions.

J Brown said that buses are often unable to pull into the new kerbs because of bad parking by other vehicles, eg outside the Abbey National.

K White asked the Town Council to consider joint funding of new bus shelters, in preference to the relocation of existing shelters. Herts. County Council gives grants of 50% of the cost of shelters, amounting to £3-4k each from the County and Town Councils. Maintenance then becomes the full responsibility of the Town Council.

6 Bus services in Elstree and Borehamwood

J Cartledge said the County Council appears to have been “relatively dismissive” of the Borough Council’s proposals and proposed a motion.

Motion proposed by Mr John Cartledge :

“That the Transport & Road Safety Forum :

(a) notes the recent exchange of correspondence between Hertsmere Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council regarding the recommendations arising from Hertsmere’s recent review of bus services in its area;

(b) regrets that the constructive intention behind Hertsmere’s recommendations does not appear to have been fully reflected in the County Council’s response;

(c) believes that bus services play a vital part in promoting social inclusion, access to educational and economic opportunities, travel safety, congestion reduction, and environmental protection;

(d) strongly supports Hertsmere’s continuing contribution to the funding of non-commercial bus routes throughout its area;

(e) urges Hertsmere to engage actively with the County Council in seeking a resolution of these issues; and

(f) will be pleased to contribute to future discussions with both authorities in the light of its members’ awareness of issues affecting bus users in Elstree and Borehamwood.”

Cllr. M Bright reported that on a point of fact, the County Council had taken back funding responsibilities for 2009/10 amounting to £179-£180k, equivalent to 3% on the council tax. Hertsmere Borough Council’s funding at this stage technically does not exist, so Cllr. M. Bright suggested amending point (d) above to reflect ‘support’ rather than funding.

In response J Cartledge proposed amending (d) to read “*would be deeply concerned if funding constraints on behalf of either authority were to result in significant loss of services in the locality.*”

The amended motion was passed with none opposed.

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It was **agreed** to forward this motion to the relevant people in both the county and borough authorities.

K White explained that £1m was given by all districts to the county council last year. Hertsmere's spend in 2009/10 will be less than in 08/09. Changes to bus services have been made, particularly to the B3 route and details of the changes have been made available to Hertsmere BC by the county council, though 75% of services will continue unaffected.

Cllr. M Bright stated that Hertsmere BC did not withdraw from the funding of local bus services. . The Forum was assured by Cllr Bright that the Borough would work with the County to ensure services would be maintained and would consider financial contributions towards that cost where necessary.

Concessionary bus passes - some discussion took place regarding the time taken to process applications for concessionary bus passes. Applications made within Hertsmere BC currently take approximately ten days to process; K White explained that applications had to be sent to specialists out of the area for processing and so cannot be issued on the spot.

Cllr. M Bright endorsed the idea that applicants should be able to submit their applications in advance of their eligibility date and that this facility should be made clear in the relevant public information.

Note: the day following this meeting, Sajida Bijle informed the Chairman that she had obtained assurance that "new applicants can submit their application two weeks prior to their sixtieth birthday, but effective only from their sixtieth birthday", on submission of the appropriate forms of identification; and, that an article to this affect will appear in Hertsmere News.

7 Update from Police on Transport and Road Safety Issues

There was no update from the Police.

It was **agreed** to delete the word 'Police' from the title of this agenda item in future and rename the item 'Road Safety'.

Cllr. Metcalfe reported that he is pushing for a 20mph speed limit in residential areas and that a cycling strategy is due within two months.

CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 20:55 hours.

Chairman:

Date: