

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

TRANSPORT FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting held in Committee Rooms A & B, Civic Offices, Elstree Way Borehamwood on Thursday 19th July 2012 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr C Butchins (Chairman in the Chair)
Cllr S Rubner (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr E Butler
Cllr S Dobin

In attendance: Cllr Mrs S Parnell

In total there were 15 attendees. Those signing the attendance record included:

HCC Cllr A Plancey
J Cartledge (London Travelwatch)
S Churchard (Senior Planning Officer – HBC)
M Harvey and colleague (Herts Constabulary)
PC R Gadd (Herts Traffic Police)
A Tuncel (Morrisons)
S Alford (Resident)
A Scott-Norman (Resident)
H Jones (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms S Maughan (Other Business), J Brown (Pensioners' Rights), Mr and Mrs C Blake and HBC Cllr Mrs H David.

2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

3. TRANSPORT FORUM MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 1st March 2012 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Bus Route Map at Borehamwood Train Station

Cllr Plancey kindly agreed to raise the issue of the outdated map with County Officers.

4. WHITE PAPER: GREEN LIGHT FOR BETTER BUSES

The Forum considered the implications for Elstree and Borehamwood on the Department for Transport White Paper 'Green Light for Better Buses'. During the discussion of this item, it was also noted that Bus Operators should ensure that their staff recognised the senior citizens' designated bus passes as there were anecdotal reports that this was not always occurring.

It was AGREED that:

The Transport Forum's response to the White Paper 'Green Light for Better Buses' be submitted to Hertfordshire County Council and note:

- **"Better Bus Areas" (BBAs):** County Council to be encouraged to bid for grants to fund the set up of BBAs where plans have been developed in partnership with bus companies for improving services in the area (including better bus stops, stations, ticketing and systems to avoid traffic jams); and
- **Multi Operator Tickets:** County Council be asked to assist in seeking to merge Travelcard (sponsored by TfL) with PlusBus as the choice of passengers was being restricted by the parallel existence of these schemes.

5. TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT STIRLING CORNER (BY MORRISONS)

Members received an update report from the Chairman on the issue and it was noted that there had been no significant developments. However, the Forum did welcome the completion of the work to improve the road markings at Stirling Corner Roundabout. Some Members felt that the Forum could seek to progress the matter with the new London Assembly Member.

In addition, although it was noted that there was a charge for Lorry Drivers to use the South Mimms facilities on the M25/A1 junction, by enforcing parking fines at the entrance to Morrisons, the problem of articulated vehicles using mobile fast food outlets could be reduced.

6. URBAN TRANSPORT PLAN

The Forum received reports prepared by I Thompson (Programmes and Strategies Manager – Hertfordshire Highways) in relation to the Urban Transport Plan.

The Forum unanimously supported the suggestion that cycle routes in Elstree and Borehamwood should be improved and that the 'Green Ways Strategy' (introduced in

2000) had not been completed. As such, reports that improvements were scheduled were welcomed by Forum Members.

It was noted with interest that the Town Council had scheduled to install cycle parking facilities at its Offices in Brook Close.

It was AGREED that:

the timescales for the implementation of the Urban Transport Plan be sought.

[Post Meeting Note: County Officers have confirmed that the intention is for the Plan to be completed by the end of March 2013 with measures being implemented after this date with identified highest priority schemes to be considered first.]

7. OPEN SESSION

Streetscape Manual

S Churchard (Senior Planning Officer – HBC) reported that the Streetscape Manual prepared by Hertsmere Borough Council had been adopted on 5 July 2012. The Town Council's Environment and Planning Committee had provided a number of recommendations on its content whilst acting as a consultative body.

Bus Route Changes and Publicity for Users

The Forum agreed that the public could be better notified of the bus route changes. It was noted that details of the route changes were available at the following web link:

- www.intalink.org.uk

It was AGREED that:

The Town Council would seek to assist in alerting the General Public to the Bus Route changes by advertising:

- on all Elstree and Borehamwood Notice Boards;
- in the next edition of the Town Crier Magazine;
- on the Town Council Website (www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk); and
- at the Reception Desk of the Town Council Offices.

First Capital Station Announcements

Responding to a concern raised by a local resident, **it was AGREED that:**

First Capital Direct be contacted in order to establish whether it was a possibility for announcements to be made on its trains for passengers to alert them to the next station.

Bus Driver Concerns

Following concerns raised by Bus Drivers, the Forum was asked to make representations to the Highways Authority concerning a number of hazards on the roads.

It was AGREED that:

Hertfordshire County Council Highways Department be asked to take note of and to seek to resolve the following hazards that had been highlighted to the Transport Forum by Bus Drivers:

- **Cars parking by entrance of Vauxhall Garage (Manor Way towards Elstree) making it difficult to pass; and**
- **Chicanes in Gateshead Road obstructing vision (especially because of tree foliage).**

Furzehill Road - Road works

It was noted that the current Road works in Furzehill Road had caused some difficulty to road users. Some Forum Members could not understand the necessity of closing the entire road and queried the use or lack of use of diversion signs. Whilst it was recognised that these activities might not be practicable, concerns were also raised that the closure might potentially restrict access by Emergency Services vehicles.

Elstree Crossroads Update

It was reported that the proposed works to ban the right turn from Elstree Hill South in to Barnet Lane (to increase capacity through the junction) would not, as previously envisaged, be carried out in the Summer of 2012.

Irregular Parking Update

PC Gadd provided a summary of Police Powers in connection with irregular and/or illegal parking. The Police were able to remove cars if there was, in their opinion, an element of danger involved in the way in which a vehicle was parked. He took note also of the concerns raised concerning incidents of irregular parking on double yellow lines at corners around the junctions of Chandos Road and Whitehouse Avenue with Shenley Road.

8. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 1st November 2012 at 7.00 pm, Hertsmere Civic Offices.

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