

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

TRANSPORT FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting held in Committee Room A Civic Offices, Elstree Way Borehamwood on Thursday **21st July 2011** at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr C Butchins (Chairman in the Chair)
Cllr S Rubner (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr E Butler
Cllr Ms S Maughan
Cllr Mrs S Parnell (Mayor)

In attendance: Cllr Mrs F Turner
M Silverman (Hertsmere Borough Council)
PC1383 Chalkley (Hertfordshire Police)
S Simmonds, Sullivan Buses
J Cartledge (London Travel Watch)
S Davies (BDIA)
C Lesser (BDIA)
Mrs E Butchins (Local Resident)
A Scott Norman (Local Resident)
Ms S Alford (Local Resident)
H Jones – Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr J Usher (Hertfordshire County Council), Cllr S Quilty (Hertfordshire County Council), Cllr Ms C Clapper (Hertfordshire County Council), R Thacker (Hertfordshire County Council) Peter Bradley (TFL Surface Transport) and J Darlington (Borehamwood Times).

2. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29th APRIL 2010

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th April 2010 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Reporting on updates since the last meeting, J Cartledge notified the Forum that the new footbridge at Borehamwood Station would proceed with two lifts (to be completed within 12 months). This progress was welcomed by Members.

Responding to queries about cars parking in bus stop lay-bys it was reported by PC1383 Chalkley that this was an issue being tackled by Hertfordshire Police by Officers on patrol. In particular, it was noted that the problem was particularly acute at Cranes Way and outside Satandar Bank (presumably as vehicles were parking to use the cash machine). It was understood that representations were being made to the County Council in order to mitigate the problem.

In addition, it was agreed that representations should be made to the County Council concerning the overgrowing foliage at Furzehill/Cowley Hill as tree branches were coming into contact with Double Decker buses along this route. Similarly, at Farriers Way speed limit signs were being obscured and lighting covered at the Organ Hall Estate. It was suggested that this topic should be included on the agenda of the Joint Members' Panel.

4. HERTFORDSHIRE'S LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2011-2031:

Members of the Forum received an update report from M Silverman (Hertsmere Borough Council).

It was noted that the review of the Borehamwood and Elstree Transport Study was being undertaken by Colin Buchanan & Partners Ltd, a leading transport planning, planning, urban design and economics consultancy. Whilst it was noted that the highways remit fell to the County Council, M Silverman provided the Forum with a brief summary of the current situation. It was noted that specific questions about the plans should be directed to R Thacker (County Council). In essence, detailed modelling of the key problem areas was being undertaken with the possibility of undertaking trials (such as at Elstree Crossroads) in the following year. Problems surrounding traffic congestion at the Station Road roundabout had been included. Mr Silverman advised the Forum that Herts Highways intended to commence a review of the Borehamwood and Elstree Urban Transport Plan in the following year.

Cllr Mrs F Turner reported that the Council's Environment and Planning Committee had made representations to the County (Highways) and Borough (Planning) Councils concerning the problems associated with 'A' Boards on the High Street with a suggested recommendation for regulation to licence, limit number and size, ensure structures are safe from toppling in wind and provided a revenue stream for the relevant authority.

Members agreed to be updated from Hertfordshire County Council on Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan 2011-2031 (and Borehamwood and Elstree Transport Study).

5. TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT STIRLING CORNER (BY MORRISONS):

The Town Council had received a number of representations about the problems with the Traffic Lights at this location. Although unable to attend the meeting in person, P Bradley (TFL Surface Transport) had submitted a report to the meeting explaining the intentions of TFL (an extract from this follows):

“Transport for London (TfL) conducted a trial removal in tandem with a consultation regarding signals located at Stirling Corner (ref: 30/131) between 21st March to 21st June 2011. The signals operated part time between 3.30-6.30pm on weekdays only. The trial was part of a strategic signal removal programme/trial removal initiative to deliver the Mayor’s Smoothing Traffic Flow programme.

TfL have recently concluded their investigations and consideration of feedback with the outcome that the signals should not be removed and will therefore return to part time operation. The signals will be reactivated in 2- 3 weeks and a report on the trial will be issued in due course, with stakeholders notified as a priority.”

It was noted that a petition was being undertaken by the Borehamwood Driving Instructors Association (B.D.I.A.) to seek to ensure that the lights were reinstated on a full time basis:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/makestirlingcornersafer/>

The Forum supported this initiative and it was agreed that Members would help to achieve the desired objectives:

- 1) Lights on 24/7;**
- 2) Erect signals at Barnet Lane (Borehamwood side), A1 Southbound and exit from supermarket; and**
- 3) Improve road markings which currently do not go round the entire roundabout.**

It was suggested that Members could seek the support of Morrisons for the campaign and in allowing volunteers to collect petitions at the supermarket (car park). It was noted that the problem was aggravated by traffic coming to and from Morrisons.

It was also felt that statistical data on accident numbers at this site, if available, would be helpful in forwarding the initiative.

6. ITEMS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION BY THE FORUM

J Cartledge undertook to provide a note for Members summarising the main changes to local bus services which came into effect at the end of March 2011, as a consequence of economies in the County Council's funding of passenger transport (attached at **APPENDIX A**).

PC1383 Chalkley alerted Members to the ongoing problem of ticket toutting at the Railway Station. Individuals were being approached (sometimes in an overbearing manner) to offer their used travel cards to ticket touts who would then resell on to potential users. It was understood that this practice could be intimidating for the more vulnerable section of the Community using the rail service. The Hertfordshire Constabulary were investigating the reported incidents and seeking to ensure that the practice was actively prevented.

S Simmonds asked the Council to take into account the fact that Sullivan Buses operated a series of outings for families and older persons during the course of the year and for the timings of the Council's Bus Trips for the over 60s to be better co-ordinated so as to avoid clashes in scheduling.

The following items were considered for possible discussion at future meetings:

- St Albans "quality bus network" project (Speaker to be sought by J Cartledge);
- Update on Stirling Corner Petition;
- Local Bus Services (including shelters);
- MetroLink and other train services; and
- Parking issues (including need for emergency service access).

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 27th October 2011 at 7.00 pm, Hertsmere Civic Offices. It was anticipated that a larger Committee Room or the Council Chamber would be required to accommodate those present.

8. CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

APPENDIX A

Bus service alterations

The former route W7, operated by Arriva in the daytime on weekdays from Borehamwood town centre to Watford town centre, has been renumbered 550 and now continues to Hemel Hempstead. The basic frequency (two buses per hour) is unaltered, but all buses now run via Little Bushey and north Bushey rather than direct via Bushey High Street. Buses on this route no longer divert into the station forecourt at Elstree & Borehamwood, or to Bushey station on journeys from Watford. Three afternoon departures are numbered 500 because they follow a different routeing through Kings Langley.

The former route W9, previously operated by Arriva, has been taken over by Sullivan Buses and renumbered 551. It runs hourly on weekday evenings and all day on Sunday between Watford town centre and Borehamwood, where it continues to serve the estates at the extremities of the town (Stanborough Avenue, Farriers Way) at times when the B1/B2 weekday daytime services do not operate. The Allerton Road loop is now omitted.

Route 398 is operated by Sullivan Buses and runs hourly during the daytime on weekdays between Borehamwood and Potters Bar. It previously terminated at Hertswood School and served Hartforde Road and Stratfield Road en route to the town centre, but it now terminates at the station and this section is omitted. The result is that for the first time in 30-odd years, Stratfield Road has no direct bus service.

Route 356 formerly provided an infrequent (2-hourly) link from Borehamwood to Shenley and Radlett, continuing to St Albans, on weekday evenings and on Sundays. This service has been wholly discontinued, so at these times there is no longer any direct public transport link between Borehamwood and Shenley - for the first time in more than 70 years.

There were also some adjustments to the B route network provided by Sullivan Buses, so that (e.g.) the B3 service from Well End now terminates at the station and the link via Theobald Street to Organ Hall has been taken over by routes B1/B2.

As reported at the meeting, some further changes to Sullivan's services are planned for September, and the company will be able to let you have precise details of these.

I am attaching as a PDF file a map showing the town's network following the recent alterations..

Sources of service information

The chair asked about sources of bus service information. As reported at the meeting, another casualty of the county council's budget reductions was the area timetable

booklets which it had previously published and which were available free from the library, civic centre reception, etc, although it continues to provide timetables at most stops.

Timetables and maps for all public transport services in Hertfordshire are on the Intalink website - those for Borehamwood are in Area 3 (<http://www.intalink.org.uk/default.asp?contentID=608>). A similar facility for the whole of Britain is provided by the Traveline website (<http://traveline.info/>).

But prospective passengers who do not enjoy the challenge of decoding routes and times presented in traditional formats may find it easier to go to the Transport Direct website (<http://www.transportdirect.info/Web2/Home.aspx?&repeatingloop=Y>) which offers an automated door-to-door journey planning facility for the whole of England, Scotland and Wales.