

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

TRANSPORT FORUM

MINUTES of a Special meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Elstree Way Borehamwood on Wednesday 7th **December 2011** at 8.00pm

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 R Butler
Cllr Mrs P Strack
Cllr Mrs F Turner
Cllr C Kelly (Deputy Mayor)

In total there were 40 attendees. Those signing the attendance record included:

P Bradley (Transport for London)
M McHugh (Transport for London)
J Cartledge (London Travelwatch)
R Goodall (Resident)
L Stack (Sullivan Buses)
Mrs G Teacher (Resident)
S Teacher (Resident)
H Blake (Resident)
C Blake (Resident)
C Barker (Resident)
R Turner (Resident)
E Kemsley (Peacock & Smith)
A Tuncel (Morrisons)
C Davies (BDIA)
P Drackett (BDIA)
C Lesser (BDIA)
S Alford (Resident)
J Rapacioli (Resident)
E Butchins (Resident)
HBC Cllr Mrs H David
HBC Cllr M Bright (Leader of Council)
HBC Cllr Mrs J Heywood
HCC Cllr C Clapper (HCC)
B Thain (Borehamwood Times)
H Jones (Town Clerk)

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr G Franklin (Other Business) and Cllr Ms K Prince (Other Business).

18. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

19. TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT STIRLING CORNER (BY MORRISONS)

The Chairman welcomed all those who attended the public meeting hosted by the Town Council. The meeting represented an opportunity for Councillors, Members of the Public and other interested parties (such as the Morrisons store) to raise their concerns about the traffic issues at Stirling Corner to representatives from Transport for London (TfL). It was noted that the meeting was a special one, not originally listed in the Town Council's Schedule of Meetings. The next ordinary meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 1 March 2012.

The Chairman began by highlighting the concerns raised anecdotally about the hazardous nature of this traffic location by reading a letter to the Forum from a concerned local resident, dated 4 December 2011. It was recognised that examples of "near miss" accidents were very common in being reported to the Forum. The Chairman went on to read a letter from the Head of Surface Transport Communications & Engagement (TfL), dated 6 December 2011. It was noted that the trial switch off took place from 21 March 2011 for a period of three months which was extended for a further three months following stakeholder feedback. The conclusion was for the signals to be operated on a part-time basis (weekdays 3.30 pm – 6.30 pm). Information was provided on personal injury collisions (26 in 36 months). In conclusion, the letter indicated that TfL intended to complete and install carriageway markings following some resurfacing work. In terms of the traffic lights, it was stated that the situation would be monitored once the initial changes had been put into place before carrying out any further investigation. In addition, the Chairman notified attendees that copies were available to collect after the meeting of the BBC Fatal Accidents Map applicable for the area together with relevant correspondence from TfL of January and February 2008 and December 2011.

The summary presented by the Chairman of the review of proposals for improving the safety of the junction was followed by a question and answer session. The strength of feeling about the topic was expressed quite clearly by those campaigning for increased safety at Stirling Corner. Residents called for more traffic lights and improved safety for motorist and pedestrians. There were also calls from those present at the meeting for traffic lights to be operating continuously at Stirling Corner, lights to be erected at other locations and improved road markings on the roundabout. Some residents could not understand why the lights operated on a 24 hour basis at Apex Corner but not so at

Stirling Corner. Representatives of Morrisons noted that customers had complained about access to and egress from the store being a safety concern. The store served 20,000 customers per week.

P Bradley from TfL indicated that the intention was for him to listen to people's concerns and take back with him any issues arising. He stated that TfL would aim to report back in February 2012 on how it planned to move forward. In addition, TfL announced that the roundabout would be resurfaced, new road markings laid and better signage put up around the roundabout in January/February 2012. In response to queries as to why the lights could not be returned to continual use, Mr Bradley stated that this would cause more congestion and make matters worse and that further studies were required (in particular in view of the Morrisons store having been built). Mr Bradley received the Petition of over 4,000 signatures (started in July 2011 by representatives of the BDIA), supporting calling for the following 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.

On behalf of the Forum, the Chairman thanked all those for attending (especially the TfL representatives) and stated that whilst there was much strength of feeling expressed, the meeting had been useful in clarifying a number of issues and in providing TfL with further information about the problem. The Town Council looked forward to TfL responding to the issues raised.

20. CLOSURE

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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