

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the Transport and Road Safety Forum – 25th November 2008

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

PRESENT:	Councillors:	K Bright (Chairman)	
		E Butler	
		J Brown	Borehamwood Pensioners' Rights
		J Cartledge	London Travel Watch
		M Finn	University Buses
		J Metcalf	County Councillor
	In attendance:	J Charin	Town Clerk

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr.s P Hedges, J Heywood, M Heywood and P Strack; and from Peter Bradley of TfL and PC Tony Welsh of Herts. Police.

PC Tony Welsh has replaced PC Alan Cox; he sent two documents outlining the role of Herts. Traffic Management Officers and copies were distributed to those present.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th February 2008 were approved and signed as a true record.

With reference to item 4, Mr Cartledge reported that he had alerted First Connect that the recently painted white stripes at the station entrance had already deteriorated. Also, the railings at the crossing are badly bent and he has asked for these to be fixed.

3 Bus stops and shelters

Cllr. Butler is disappointed that there is no bus shelter at Stanborough Ave., Borehamwood, which is well used by elderly residents. Mr Cartledge suggested that a shelter on the 655 route on Cowley Hill could be moved at less cost than the cost of a new shelter.

Cllr. Metcalf suggested that a review of bus shelter locations could be undertaken and a bid for funding made.

Mr Brown said that money had been spent raising kerbs, but buses often do not pull up at the right place; an example being the stop outside Abbey Bank. Also, cars parking illegally for short periods often obstruct the raised kerbs. Routes B1, B2, 107 and 292 were affected, amongst others.

Mr Finn said this was a training issue which needs raising and drew attention to the certificate of professional training available to bus drivers, which is flexible in content and could include customer care for elderly and disabled passengers.

Cllr. Metcalf has put in a request for a new bus stop opposite the new children's centre and requested the support of the Forum, which was given.

Cllr. Butler reported that there is no indication in Manor Way as to where the bus stops have been temporarily moved to whilst Manor Way is closed for works. Also, in Tennison Ave., where a bus stop was damaged in a traffic accident some time ago, there is still only a temporary bus stop in place. Cllr. Butler is to e-mail Cllr. Metcalf with details for him to take up these two issues.

Cllr. Metcalf informed the Forum that Interlink are organising a Scrutiny Committee meeting as part of the Hertsmere review of bus services, to which all are welcome. This will be at 19:30 hours, 9th December 2008 in rooms A and B of the Civic Offices.

4 Review of Bus Services

Mr Cartledge highlighted the conclusions of Hertsmere Borough Council's Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee's review of bus services, as approved by that council's Executive on 14 May 2008. These are:

- Officers be involved in the decision-making and route planning process relating to subsidised bus routes operating within Hertsmere;
- Officers be instructed to monitor progress made by Hertfordshire Highways in implementing Automatic Vehicle Location technology, over the agreed period of 2 years, on subsidised bus services, to provide real-time arrival and departure information at major transport interchanges;
- Hertsmere Borough Council's logo and the words 'working in partnership with' be displayed on those bus services that are subsidised by Hertsmere;
- Prior to contract negotiations for the 2009/10 financial year taking place, Hertfordshire County Council to ensure the introduction of a system on subsidised routes to enable Hertsmere in order to obtain accurate passenger usage information to ascertain whether value for money is being achieved for the subsidy provided;
- Hertfordshire County Council, in partnership with the bus operators and Connexions Hertfordshire, to investigate making buses more accessible to young people not in mainstream education, specifically with regard to travel warrants;
- Hertfordshire County Council, in partnership with the bus operators, to investigate the introduction of a cheap flat rate fare for evening journeys to promote usage;
- Through the Local Area Agreement, Hertsmere Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Constabulary and local bus operators, to work in partnership to establish a revenue protection policy to be enforced throughout Hertfordshire, with an associated penalty fare scheme; and
- Hertfordshire County Council officers confirm the reliability of bus companies tendering for a route and that this issue should be a key factor when awarding a contract.

The County Council was to respond within three months from last May but has yet to do so.

Action point: EBTC to write to Hertsmere asking to be informed of the response.

Mr Brown stated that a number of these points had first been raised by this Forum.

Also, Mr Brown had received two complaints from passengers who had had their bus passes refused. Additionally, he was concerned about passengers talking to drivers, which is distracting and therefore dangerous. Mr Cartledge and Mr Finn explained that this was a criminal offence, could invalidate the bus insurance in the case of an accident and that the onus was on the driver.

The Forum was given time to read the papers submitted by PC Tony Welsh (attached). Cllr. Butler suggested that Inspector Robb be invited to brief the Forum.

Action point: EBTC to write to Police to invite to brief Transport Forum.

Cllr. Butler enquired as to what is planned in the way of a crossing opposite Elstree Studios and for the redesign of the roundabout.

5 Railways

Railways were added to the agenda with the agreement of all present and Mr Cartledge outlined some improvements to Elstree and Borehamwood station, to begin next year, including extending the platforms to accommodate 12 carriages, as has already happened at Mill Hill.

John Cartledge enquired as to the extent of EBTC involvement in the redevelopment of the station as a 'gateway' to the town's film and TV heritage, which has great potential for cultural tourism.

6 CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 19:55 hours.

Chairman:

Date: