

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

TRANSPORT & COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting held in Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood on
Wednesday 27 September 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr P Kaza (Chair)
Cllr A Collins (Vice-Chair)
Cllr D Ozarow
YC N Cohen

In Attendance: T Malton (Acting Town Clerk)

Members of Public: 5 Members of Public
Cllr N Oakley (HBC)
Cllr A Kaza (HBC)

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from: Cllr R Butler (other business), Cllr G Alexander (other business), Cllr S Parnell (other business), A Chillingsworth – Great Northern Railway, (other business), D Sullivan – Sullivan Buses (other business) and R Jarvis– Neighbourhood Watch (other business).

24. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

25. FORUM MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that:

the Minutes of the Transport and Community Safety Forum held on 5 July 2023 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chair.

It was noted that Cllr N Oakley (HBC Portfolio Holder for Transport) had attended the meeting on 5 July 2023 and had updated the members on two items with no reference to that being made in the minutes. The items in question were regarding the 306 route in danger of being withdrawn or going hourly, and issues regarding the presentation from A Chillingsworth – Great Northern Railway in connection to the Ticket Office. This is to be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

It was noted that the Transport Forum agenda date had been changed from 20 to 27 September. Member of Public (1) commented that they had not been informed that

the meeting date schedule had been changed and had arrived on 20 September 23. Town Clerk apologised for the miscommunication as all correct procedure had been followed.

Cllr Kaza commented that the schedule is updated from time to time due to meeting date clashes with HBC. Members of public (1 and 2) raised concerns regarding the date clashes.

Town Clerk T Malton advised Cllr Kaza (Chair) that members of public would have the opportunity to raise their concerns during the open session time and that the agenda should be followed.

26. BUS SERVICES IN ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD

There were no representatives present.

Email update (APPENDIX A)

Concerns were raised regarding:

- Delays in 1hr and 20-minute gap between the morning Watford service.

Town Clerk T Malton Raised concerns regarding interruptions from members of public after each agenda item reminding Chair Cllr P Kaza that the public have an opportunity to raise their concerns during the open public question time.

Chair Cllr P Kaza felt that the public should be given the opportunity to talk after each agenda item.

Cllr D Ozarow remarked that his understanding was to get through the agenda within reasonable time without interruption.

Cllr N Oakley felt that as the HBC Portfolio Holder for Transport her presence at the meeting was to update on slightly more truthful versions on public transport issues and felt she could not sit through the entire meeting and give her report at public question time.

Cllr D Ozarow agreed that as Cllr N Oakley had been invited to speak the opportunity should be given at the appropriate time.

Cllr N Oakley raised her concerns regarding:

- 306 links from Borehamwood to Watford being under threat due to lack of drivers despite a recruitment campaign.
- Withdrawal of the 306 service altogether.
- Peak time being hourly on the 306 routes.
- Unhappy residents due to peak time service buses being cancelled
- Residents unable to make their return journey.
- Poor usage on the B3 route – a contract route funded by County Council.
- Shortened journey on the 107 routes.

It was noted that TFL are increasing the frequency of the 107 routes.

27. TRAIN SERVICES

There were no representatives present.

Email update (APPENDIX B)

Members and Residents were given a copy of the above appendices A and B, as not available at time of agenda dispatch.

Concerns raised were:

- Closure of ticket booking offices.
- Station area customer service.
- GTR performance through Elstree and Borehamwood station.
- Online ticket purchase.
- Older residents without online access unable to check journey times or Cancellations.
- Train service performance.
- Rail replacement services.

Cllr D Ozarow reported that the Town Council had fed into the national consultation expressing its views on why the ticket offices at Elstree and Borehamwood station should remain open citing many reasons particularly that many people of the older generation do not have mobile phones, access to the internet, or understand apps, difficulty in using the machines for the visually impaired and those with disabilities. Also, for women travelling late at night not feeling safe with no staff presence at the station, including anti-social behaviour. Cllr D Ozarow further reported that given that there was a climate crisis the categories of those mentioned would be put off using public transport. There had been over half a million replies with a significant number responding locally. He pointed out that there had been a lot of effort put into encouraging residents to respond to the consultation. It was noted that correspondence had been made to the Ministry of Transport by him, Cllr R Butler and Cllr P Kaza, nor response had been received saying it was not very encouraging with no acknowledgement of the concerns raised and that the response had been published on social media.

Cllr A Collins felt that as Elstree and Borehamwood were just outside London residents should be privy to a freedom pass.

28. POLICING

There were no representatives present.

It was noted that Hertsmere Borough Council receive update reports from the police.

It was further noted that R Jarvis of Neighbourhood Watch had approached the station police sergeant offering to present a report on their behalf, but his offer had been turned down.

29. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr R Jarvis, the facilities co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch Hertsmere, gave a verbal report that:

- There were 179,332 households registered with Neighbourhood Watch across Hertfordshire.
- Hertsmere have 46% coverage.

It was noted that the benefits of registering with Neighbourhood Watch included alerts by police of increased burglaries and incidents in specific areas.

Mr Jarvis remarked that he would like to see the figure in Hertsmere reach 50% and is working closely with the police to drive this forward.

Mr Jarvis further reported that he delivers DVD presentations on rogue traders and distraction burglaries at various sites and homes covering an area from North Watford to Whetstone. The DVD is aimed mostly at elderly and vulnerable people as they are the main targets. The police have reported to Mr Jarvis following the coverage of the showing of the DVD there have not been any distraction burglaries in Hertfordshire in the last three months.

It was noted that Mr Jarvis could be contacted regarding the showing of the DVD to specific groups.

30. HERTS FIRE AND RESCUE

There were no representatives present.

31 COUNCIL REPORT

Following a request from a member of public during the meeting in May regarding the placement of a noticeboard outside 96 Shenley Road Cllr R Butler reported he had approached Officers at the Borough Council asking if it would be possible for the Town Council to erect a noticeboard with the funds being drawn from CIL fund. Cllr Butler is waiting for a response and will report back at the next meeting.

32. PUBLICITY/ADVERTISING

It was noted that the Meeting of the Transport and Community Safety Forum was well publicised with correspondence to all schools, Faith Groups, Police, Fire and Rescue. Leaflets were also placed in all EBTC notice boards as well as handed out personally by Cllr P Kaza in all shops/businesses and to residents alike, with a very poor turn out.

Cllr D Ozarow responded by remarking that as there were a lot of agenda items to get through at each meeting. As such, it could be more productive to thematise each meeting. As an example, one meeting being solely regarding children's safety. Schools may be more inclined to attend as this would be of more of a focal point to them. Significantly targeting certain groups may be the way forward to ensure more attendance and interest.

33. OPEN SESSION

During the open session a proposal was put forward that schools be contacted regarding holding some of the forum meetings on school premises. It was felt that due to the lack of school staff interest or representation at meetings the proposal would encourage attendance. The meetings could be on a rota basis between schools wishing to take part.

Following feedback (if any) from schools the proposal would be presented at a Full Council meeting.

Cllr A Collins reported that anti-social behaviour in Hillside Ward had significantly improved since the May elections extending his thanks to Cllr A Kaza (HBC) and Cllr T Kumar for working tirelessly with him to make it happen.

Cllr D Ozarow reported on a few County Council issues that he had been working on with Cllr R Butler and highlighted examples of improvements that had been made.

Improvements:

1. Resurfacing outside Lidl in the Boulevard shopping park.
2. Resurfacing outside Kenilworth School.
3. Improvement to the long delay of traffic lights timer outside Sky Studios.
4. Pilot scheme to reduce speed of traffic down to 20 miles per hour in Elstree Village has now gone out for consultation. County Council are planning to introduce the scheme in other areas depending on results of consultation.

Concerns raised were:

- No update report from Sullivan Buses regarding the B3 route.
- Damage to pavement in Shenley Road.
- Inadequate street lighting.
- Safety when walking alone at night (due to street lighting).
- Lack of information from HBC regarding safety for women.
- Delay in production of issues raised at meetings be resolved.

- Not having access to a local police station in an emergency having to be directed to Hatfield police station not acceptable.
- Morrisons Defibrillator out of order due to flat batteries.

It was RESOLVED that:

D Sullivan of Sullivan Buses be contacted for an update regarding the B3 bus service route.

34. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday 6 December 2023 at 7.00pm in Fairway Hall.**

Date:..... CHAIR.....