

ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL (EBTC)

TRANSPORT & COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting held in Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood on
Wednesday 24 May 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr P Kaza (Chair)
Cllr R Butler
Cllr G Alexander
A Chillingsworth (Great Northern Railway)
R Redman (First Impressions)
T Malton (Acting Town Clerk)

In Attendance: Cllr T Kumar (EBTC)
Cllr A Kaza (HBC)
YC L Arazi
3 Residents in attendance

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from: Cllr A B Collins, Cllr S Parnell, Cllr P Richards (Deputy HBC Leader), D Sullivan (Sullivan Buses), R Jarvis (Neighbourhood Watch), Sgt M Cann (Hertfordshire Constabulary) and, Z Crossman (Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue).

02. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were none.

03. FORUM MINUTES

It was RESOLVED that:

the Minutes of the Transport and Community Safety Forum held on 7 December 2023 were approved and duly signed as a true record by the Chair.

04. BUS SERVICES IN ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD

A report from D Sullivan of Sullivan Buses was received and read out By Acting Clerk T Malton. (APPENDIX A).

05. TRAIN SERVICES

Andrew Chillingsworth Community Engagement Officer – Thameslink / Great Northern Railway presented the Forum with a verbal update on Train Services. He began by congratulating newly elected members.

Mr Chillingworth reported that usage of travel by train was not back to pre-covid level. Five day working week is no longer the norm due to hybrid working, but as PR is encouraging increased train travel. It was noted that leisure usage needs to increase. AS such, Thameslink are considering a loyalty scheme giving points for miles travelled.

There were concerns raise regarding:

- Trains being turned back at Kentish Town.
- Trains arriving on unadvertised stations.
- Not enough information on notice boards for passengers waiting for train arrivals.

Reliability – Public Performance Measure (arrival within 5 minutes of timetable) 89% (4% above target), 68% arrive within one minute. Big improvement.

Cancellations – Mostly sickness and leave. Highest in autumn, improves in the summer.

Industrial Action – next date is Wednesday 31 May 2023, has an effect on 1 & 2 June (disruption in evenings and early mornings) Volunteer staff step up to help with platform control etc.

Bob Redman asked about information boards at the front of the station showing events (Dan Salter). The Youth Council have put up posters. They have been planting on the forecourt. He asked that the Barbara Windsor area be cleared. He was asked about cleanliness of the plaques – those under trees need cleaning pointing out that N Robinson (EBTC) does a good job. Cllr Butler said there was money available in the locality budget from HCC and offered to give the link. Lawrence Stack said a noticeboard was needed in Shenley Road near 96.

Cllr P Kaza asked for a cover over the footbridge. AC said this was responsibility of Network Rail (infrastructure). Cllr Butler suggested a campaign – may not give immediate result but would be considered if funds became available in the future.

06. POLICING

There was no report.

07. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There was no report.

08. HERTS FIRE AND RESCUE

There was no report.

09. COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Butler informed members his group are pushing for a scrutiny panel for the County saying he would like to increase attendance at the Transport and Community Safety Forum' by merging with the 'Sustainable Transport Sub Committee' to include Youth Councillors. Data on usage of Beryl Bikes has been requested.

10. OPEN SESSION

L Stack (resident) raised concerns regarding the report from D Sullivan of (Sullivan Buses) remarking that the 84 Bus route from Potters Bar to Barnet was no longer in use making it difficult for non-car users to attend appointments at Barnet General Hospital, and the loss of the 398 route now stops at Potters Bar instead of going on to Watford, remarking that it was worrying that the 306 and B3 were now under threat. Cllr Butler remarked that that this would also be something that could be taken up with the scrutiny review panel.

L Stack also asked about the freedom pass being extended from London to Hertsmere as this would give passengers more opportunity for travel. Cllr Butler reported that that this was being considered.

L Strack also commented on:

- Pothole repair
- Damage to pavement in Shenley Road.

Cllr butler responded saying recourses were limited and had to be prioritised on areas with most usage such as school crossings. Bollards in the above area could be an option, but now he is prioritising the pavement outside All Saints – the subject of most complaints and accidents.

It was noted Cllr Butler left the meeting at 7.55pm due to commitment at another meeting.

Y Levenson (resident) commented on:

- Inadequate street lighting.
- Safety when walking alone at night (due to street lighting).
- Lack of information from HBC regarding safety for women.
- Not having access to a local police station in an emergency having to be directed to Hatfield police station not acceptable.

11. CLOSURE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday 5 July 2023 at 7.00pm in Fairway Hall.**

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