

MINUTES OF THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

**26 January 2011 at 7.30pm
The Harlington**

Councillors

R. Appleton (Chair), R. Schofield, D Pierce, S. Fisher, S. Forster, A. Macallan.

Also Present

Cllr George Woods

Cllr Sharyn Wheale

Cllr David Healey

4 members of the public

Shar Roselman – Clerk

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Appleton declared a personal interest in Item 12, rail fares.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 4: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Highways and Transportation Committee meeting held on the 22 December 2010, with an amendment showing Cllr Wood's attendance at that meeting.

Prop: BS Sec: GW

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

The following questions were raised:

A member of the public indicated that she lived in King's Road. Her concern was that the removal of parking to accommodate the cycle lane would make it difficult for residents to maintain services who needed to park in the street, and for home owners with additional vehicles. A further concern was raised that traffic speeds would increase when parked cars were removed, and that parking was being removed from businesses in Pondtail. If the cycle path went ahead other roads would become blocked, particularly with the increase in vehicles and HGV's for Pyestock. The number of cyclists using the road was questioned, and other options were raised for spending the funding such as speed humps or widened pavements.

The chair replied that the interests of the public at large had to be balanced against the interests of residents, and that cycle tracks had been shown to have a psychological affect on motorists in slowing down speeding. However, Fleet Town Council also had concerns

about the proposed cycle track and would be responding to Hampshire County Council in a letter about these concerns.

It was explained that if the route is advisory (dotted line) this does not prevent people from parking.

The next question from a member of the public endorsed the previous speakers concerns, with particular reference to the threat to the Pondtail stores if parking was removed. As a cyclist himself, the speaker stated that he would never use King's Road to cycle down as it was too dangerous, even with cycle tracks.

Cllr Healey supported the previous views, and felt that numbers of cyclist using the road should be assessed. A further concern was that there was a small no-parking area in Guildford in a dangerous area. Cllr Healey requested information on the cost of the proposed cycle track.

Action: Cllr Wheale will provide a response to this question.

A further member of the public supported the view that removing the parking from Pondtail stores would create a threat to the ongoing existence of the stores.

Cllr Wheale replied to several of these questions, indicating that the route was of strategic importance, in that it will help people get to the station, as well as all the way up to Farnborough by cycle. Cllr Wheale explained that developer funding is available for this cycle track at present, but this it will run out in March 2011 and cannot be transferred to any other scheme. It was explained that the only way to fund the Fleet Town Access Plan, which is a strategic plan for getting people onto cycles and off the road, was through developer funding. The Kings Road route was outlined, showing that, from Avondale Road down to the station it is off road on the pavement, and that on King's Road, near the bridge over the canal the track will again go off road to the Norris Hill Bridge into Farnborough. Cllr Wheale further explained that when the cycle track had gone to original consultation, it had included every possible eventuality for making the track as clear as possible for cyclists, but the purpose of the consultation was to take into account public opinion, to make adjustments to the plan. Cllr Wheale agreed that it was cheaper to fund the proposal of dotted lines on the road than to make a cycle track on the pavement, but she explained that if the track was to move onto the pavement, the road width would be too narrow to accommodate two rows of cars at points where cars needed to turn right. Cllr Wheale supported the view that parking should be retained outside of the shops in Pondtail.

Concerns were raised by members that the letter that had been sent to the public made reference to a previous consultation which was not widely know about, and that detailed consultation had been left too late if the funding was running out in March. Members also considered that it was necessary to maintain the parking for the shops at the bottom of King's Road.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 5: FTAP CYCLE TRACK KINGS ROAD

Resolved to provide a response to the Hampshire County Council FTAP consultation on the King's Road cycle track as follows:

Prop: BS Sec: DP

Proposed Kings Road Cycle Route

Fleet Town Council (FTC) welcomes the provision of a cycle route along Kings Road. Encouraging cycling in Fleet is an excellent idea, especially when it is combined with safer practices.

FTC strongly consider that the consultation period for these proposals has been too short and rushed, and expects that in future HCC will be more proactive about developing plans well before deadlines for the use of s106 monies.

FTC consider that cyclists accessing the station would prefer a route along Fleet Road, Avondale Road, Westover Avenue, and then along Kings Road rather than climbing the hill to the lights at the Fleet Road / Kings Road junction. Since the FTAP consultation, HCC highways have proposed traffic calming measures along Avondale Road. FTC requests that this route be added to the FTAP plans at their next revision.

FTC still consider the Kings Road route to be valid for providing access to the town centre, and in the other direction, Farnborough. However, FTC consider that a more appropriate use of the s106 money from Bramshott Place would be the provision of a cycle phase at the traffic lights at the exit of the development which is also included within the FTAP proposals.

With respect to the detailed plans for Kings Road FTC considers that:

1. The route along Kings Road should be advisory (dotted line) but this should be reviewed after a six month period either with a view to making it a mandatory line or altering the route. FTC hope to be consulted in good time regarding the review outcome.
2. The pedestrian refuge at the Fleet Road / Kings Road junction is not well positioned, with little sightline to traffic coming up Fleet Road from the station and turning left. Pedestrian safety needs improving here, especially as there is no pedestrian crossing over Fleet Road nearer to the station than the town centre. FTC understand the reasons why the refuge cannot be moved, but do not accept that nothing can be done to improve pedestrian safety here. FTC would like other measures adopted here as part of this scheme, eg. A specific pedestrian phase or alternatively 'green man' signals linked into the existing light phasing indicating when it is safe to cross Kings Road at this junction.
3. FTC strongly oppose the removal of parking outside the Pondtail Stores. Since the closing of the Co-op store at the Kings Road and Aldershot Road junction, this store is the only place for Pondtail residents to obtain papers, milk and etc. The shop has already suffered by losing its Post Office. At present many of its customers are people who drive and park outside for a couple of minutes and drive off. Without this ability, the viability of the shop would be in doubt. Moving the parking to Wood Lane would not work, as it usually has vehicles parked as close to the corner as possible and back to Elms Road. The proposal shows 2 car parking spaces located on double yellow lines that protect the junction from being obstructed in busy times. Retaining the parking spaces would mean that the uncontrolled crossing would not be needed as the traffic is slowed by the parked cars - people with wheel chairs use the controlled pedestrian crossing a few yards away.
4. The car parking outside the church between Clarence Road and Connaught is very popular with the worshippers, and having to park further away may handicap older people. Parking should be permitted there on Sundays. A yellow line should be placed opposite the church.
5. FTC approve of the concept of a Toucan Crossing at the junction of Aldershot Road / Kings Road and Pondtail Road. However, care must be exercised in the exact location of the crossing so that the top of the bridge does not interfere with the sight line to the crossing. The timings of the toucan crossing must be synchronised with traffic lights or congestion will take place when traffic backs up over the junction.
6. Updating the traffic lights at the junction of Kings Road should include the sequencing to maximise the traffic flow and enable safe pedestrian crossing. FTC consider that better sequencing for traffic turning left off Fleet Road into Kings Road would reduce the rat run

along Avondale Road.

7. FTC propose that any modification to Aldershot/Kings Road should retain the ability for cars to turn left from Aldershot onto Kings Road.
8. In addition FTC would wish to retain the parking at the shops opposite Pinewood Hill. FTC would like a time restriction of 30 minutes placed on all these parking spaces.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 6: GRIT BIN POLICY

The committee received a list of proposed grit bin locations from Cllr Fisher. Cllr Fisher was thanked for her efforts in producing the list.

It was suggested that the list be revised as follows:

Table 1 to indicate where grit bins have already been placed.

Table 2 to retain the suggested locations for the bins which had been rejected by Hampshire County Council and to add Southgrove onto Forest Dean to this list. However, the comments on the Fleet Station Access Road to be removed, as it was hoped that this could be included on the road gritting schedule. A proposal was to add the steps at the station leading onto Fleet Pond.

Table 3 to comprise a list of locations where siting would be more difficult. Discussion as to why the grit bins cannot be placed in these areas and methods to resolve these problems to be addressed at the Transport and Highways Partnership. Heron and the Lake, and the Oaks to be placed on the grit bins requirements for this list

Action: Cllr Fisher will revise the lists accordingly, and draft a letter to HCC to be sent out by the office on those grit bins on table 2.

Action: The clerk to put the revised Table 3 onto the agenda for the next Partnership Meeting.

There was no support for the proposal by the clerk for an adopt a grit bin policy.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 7: TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The committee received a copy of the minutes of the Transport and Highways Partnership Meeting held on 18th January 2011. The following changes were noted for these minutes:

On item 3 paragraph 4 should read....regarding the extension of the route into Broadacre to the entrance to Tavistock Infant School.

On item 6 paragraph 1 should read... to the verges outside the Heron and the end of Stockton Road.

The chair requested a specific response on the items under item 5, the s273 works at Hitches Lane.

The clerk will email Hampshire County Council requesting a specific response to the three elements concerning drainage, the sightline from the footpath, and the radius of the bend opposite Calthorpe Park School, and copy in Councillor Wheale.

On the issue of speeding the Partnership has been focussing on overall policy. It was recognised as important that Fleet Town Council has access to Hampshire County Council during these meetings to discuss engineering design to reduce speeding. There was a need for Hampshire County Council to include speeding in the LTP 3 and Transport Improvement List. On a point of order, it was established that Fleet Town Council had not as yet had access to the Transport Improvement List, so therefore this could not be effectively discussed at the meeting.

Councillor Wheale explained that HCC were currently investigating ways of being able to meet the demands from parishes for partnership meetings.

Action: Cllr Wheale will report back on developments after the above meeting.

The committee asked that James Holt be congratulated for the feedback he had provided during the partnership meeting, and for his prompt responses after it.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 8: SPEEDING THROUGH FLEET

The committee agreed that setting up a working group to resolve this should wait until the above feedback is received from Cllr Wheale.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 9: SI06 FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Resolved to investigate whether putting in pedestrian phase lights on Fleet Road, at the Waterfront Business Park exit on Bramshot Park would fall within the available amount of money.

Action: The clerk will write to Chris Murray at Hampshire County Council with a copy to Cllr Wheale.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 10: FLEET LINK

Cllr Fisher had made contact with several members of the public with regard to their use of the Fleet Link.

Action: Cllr Fisher will contact a teacher at Farnborough Sixth Form College to investigate whether there is a possibility of a student writing a journalistic human interest story on the Fleet Link.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 11: ANCELLS FARM BUS LAY-BYE.

Cllr Schofield will contact Cllr Collett to establish the forward action that will be taken on this issue.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 12: RAIL FARES

Resolved to write to South West Trains about the increase in rail fares about the 8.6% increase which is higher than the national increase of 6.5% increase. The letter will also point out that the new layout of the station is dangerous, that the bridge over Fleet Pond for access needs completion and that the steps up to Fleet Road require gritting during snow.

Prop: SF Sec: DP

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 13: REPRESENTATIVE AT THE RUSHMORR AND HART PASSENGER TRANSPORT FORUM.

Resolved that Cllr Schofield would represent the council at this forum.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 14: PARKING MATTERS

Minutes from the meeting held with Hart District Council on parking were received by the committee. It was highlighted that there were no concessions on parking forthcoming from HDC. However, parking charges had now been clarified, and users of the Harlington would be advised of the cheaper rates in the staff car park. Hart District Council had been made aware of how the SMART card charges were unfair. An offer was on the table for the Harlington to act as an agency to sell SMART cards.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 15: FLIGHTS OVER FLEET

Cllr Forster had completed an assessment of the problems of flights over Fleet and had established that the main source of flights was helicopters flying out from Blackbush. A note had been written to the airfield manager, but had received a mediocre response. Cllr Forster was thanked for his efforts.

Resolved that the Fleet Town Council write to Blackbush indicating the concerns of the committee.

Action: Cllr Forster will draft a letter to be sent out by the clerk.

H&T JAN 2011 ITEM 16: CANAL BRIDGE

The committee receive a plan of the dangerous curb at Canal Bridge.

Action: Cllr Macallan will draft a response to Hampshire County Council explaining the problem at the bridge, and the clerk will send this and the plans onto James Holt and Andrew Kettlewell at Hampshire County Council.

Please note that, in accordance with the decision to hold these meetings bi-monthly the next meeting will be held on 23rd March 2011 at 7.30 at the Harlington.

Signed.....

Date:.....