



Minutes of the meeting of the SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY FORUM held on MONDAY 31 MARCH 2008 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Williams (Chair)

Forum Representatives

A Dnes (Stony Stratford Town Council)
 E Dodsworth (Hanslope Parish Council)
 C Ennew (Campbell Park Parish Council)
 M Fagan (Haversham and Little Linford Parish Council)
 A Francis (New Bradwell Parish Council)
 M Galloway (Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council)
 M Geddes (Woburn Sands Town Council)
 R Gibbard (Woughton Parish Council)
 P Hughes (West Bletchley Council)
 J Jeffreys (Woburn Sands Town Council)
 S Kennedy (Stantonbury Parish Council)
 K Leeming (Bow Brickhill Parish Council)
 A Malleson (Bedford to Bletchley Rail Users Association)
 C Mottram (Shenley Church End Parish Council)
 I Nicol (Shenley Church End Parish Council)
 N Richards (Moulsoe Parish Council)
 J Smith (Newport Pagnell Town Council)
 D Stabler (Great Linford Parish Council)
 G Stimpson (Haversham and Little Linford Parish Council)
 C Wylde (Emberton Parish Council)

Officers: T Dove (Traffic and Transport Manager), S Hunt (Group Manager, Planning and Transport), B Matthews (Transport Programme Manager) and K O'Callaghan (Committee Manager)

Apologies: N Biggs (Thames Valley Police), J Brown (Central Milton Keynes Women's Institute) and B Drury (Arriva)

14.0 MINUTES

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Transport and Road Safety Forum held on 23 October 2007, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- (a) Minute 9.0(c) Paragraph 3 being amended to read "M Conroy (MK Metro) reported that Bus Route 6 had been changed to

improve punctuality and Bus Route 23 was no longer running to Stony Stratford. Milton Keynes Council had been consulted and given the opportunity to comment on these changes.”

- (b) Minute 9.0(c) Paragraph 7 being amended to read “Councillor Jeffreys (Woburn Sands Town Council) reported that the No 8 bus to Woburn Sands was numbered correctly but the final destination for the bus that ran in between that service was not clearly identified”.
- (c) Minute 11.0 Paragraph 2 being amended to read “Councillor A Francis (New Bradwell Parish Council) asked if the proposed strategy would address the lorry problem on Newport Road, New Bradwell. He felt that the road was acting as a bypass for the H3 grid road.”

15.0

MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Representative on the Forum from Thames Valley Police

The Forum commented that the representative on the Forum from Thames Valley Police had submitted his apologies for the last two meetings of the Forum. The Chair was asked to write to Thames Valley Police and request that a substitute be provided if the nominated representative was not able to attend future meetings of the Forum.

- (b) Minute 8.0(e)

Councillor A Francis (New Bradwell Parish Council) reported that the Bus Strategy had not been considered by the Cabinet on 4 March 2008 and asked when the strategy would now be considered.

The Chair reported that the Transport Management Plan which included the Bus Strategy had been considered by the Environment Policy Development Committee which decided to arrange a number of meetings to discuss the Plan. The Forum and the Parish Councils would have the opportunity to comment on the Plan when the Policy Development Committee had completed its work.

- (c) Minute 9.0(d)

Councillor Williams reported that he had a meeting with the Chair of Development Control Committee to discuss the relationship between the Council’s Adopted Parking Standards, Planning Policy H10 and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HiMOS).

Councillor Williams stated that the Parking Policy in Milton Keynes was in the process of being revised and the Forum, Parish Councils, Developers, Thames Valley Police and the Fire Authority would be consulted. The Policy would be sent

out for public consultation prior to the Local Elections on 1 May 2008.

(d) Minute 10.0 Paragraph 3

Councillor A Francis (New Bradwell Parish Council) asked if financial resources would be made available for the completion of several highway schemes outstanding in New Bradwell.

The Traffic and Transport Manager responded that three schemes were being looked at by Consultants at present and he would provide Councillor Francis with an update on the schemes.

(e) Minute 11.0 Paragraph 4

Councillor Gibbard (Woughton Parish Council) reported that delivery vehicles were still parking in front of the shops in Beanhill without using the loading bays provided at the rear.

The Traffic and Transport Manager reported that he would contact the shop proprietors and request that delivery vehicles use the loading bays provided.

16.0

ISSUES RAISED BY PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

(a) Given the results of the survey published in Milton Keynes Council magazine "Live MK" October 2007, why is the Council set upon decreasing the grid road network against the survey's overwhelming support of the network? (L Stapleton [Woburn Sands Town Council])

Councillor J Jeffreys (Woburn Sands Town Council) expressed her concern that the Council appeared to be decreasing the grid road network in the city and in particular the V4 grid road.

Councillor D Stabler (Great Linford Parish Council) asked why the Council was not enhancing the grid road system by way of dualling grid roads in the City.

The Chair responded that the Council had undertaken an exercise regarding the cost of dualling roads in the City. The cost would be prohibitive and funding would not be provided by Central Government.

The Forum heard that the highway network including grid roads would be investigated and the Cabinet would be asked to fund the cost of basic repairs over the next ten years.

The Forum suggested that in addition to looking at the highway network in the City the Council should also look at improving cross border roads.

The Chair responded that all areas would be investigated.

- (b) **In view of the amount of HGVs travelling through Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands, does Milton Keynes Council have a plan to route HGVs around the City avoiding rural communities and if so how would it be implemented? (L Stapleton [Woburn Sands Town Council]).**

This item was discussed under Item 7 on the Agenda regarding the "Lorry Management Strategy".

- (c) **Could the Council provide information on the progress of disabled access on the footbridge of the V7 between Eaglestone and Coffee Hall? (Councillor R Gibbard [Woughton Parish Council])**

The Chair responded that the Environment Policy Development Committee held on 5 March 2008 had considered a report on the results of the evaluation of safety aspects of two sections of the V7: Section 1, between Coffee Hall and Eaglestone; and Section 2, between Beanhill and Netherfield.

The Environment Policy Development Committee was invited to make recommendations, taking into account the reports assessment of potential measures to increase road safety. However the Committee felt that the options put forward were inappropriate.

The Forum heard that the Environment Policy Development Committee would be requested to review all the information provided at its meeting to be held in March 2009.

17.0

LORRY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Forum received a report on the Council's Draft Lorry Management Strategy.

The Forum noted that the Strategy outlined the Council's approach to dealing with the following issues;

- (a) lorry routing and the establishment of a formal lorry route network
- (b) managing the impact of lorries both on and off the network
- (c) managing deliveries by lorries
- (d) managing lorry parking
- (e) communications and information
- (f) partnership working

In addition the consultation strategy also contained an action plan and financial assessment.

The Forum heard that the Strategy would be sent out for consultation within the next two weeks and Members and Parish Councils would be invited to comment on the document.

The Forum made the following comments regarding the draft Strategy:

- (a) the draft Strategy did not serve the western flank of the City
- (b) the Wolverton area was not served by major routes
- (c) some urban areas were not included in the draft Strategy
- (d) the Strategy should adopt a concept not to make lorry life easier in order to preserve and protect residential communities

The Forum noted the following comments from Officers:

- (a) Thames Valley Police would be consulted on the Strategy
- (b) a lot of data had been collected and would be added to the lorry map in due course
- (c) data would continue to be collected on a regular basis and the Strategy would be reviewed annually or bi-annually
- (d) the Council was not permitted to erect road signs in any other language other than English

The Forum heard that discussions had taken place with Officers from Mid Bedfordshire District Council regarding the Crawley Crossing lorry park at Junction 13 of the M1 motorway with a view to increasing the facilities currently provided.

18.0 EAST/WEST BUS AND GROWTH SCHEME PRIORITISATION

The Forum received a report on the Transport Scheme Prioritisation.

The Forum noted that the report described progress in developing prioritisation methodology suitable to apply to Milton Keynes transport schemes and in particular schemes which supported the sustainable growth of Milton Keynes.

The Forum also noted that the process developed so far was very much geared to measuring the broad impacts of schemes and would be open to challenge, review and updated (at least annually), and

therefore could be adapted to comments received from all stakeholders. The Forum was seen as a key consultee and comments received from this group would be considered in evolving and improving on the process. The prioritisation process had also been discussed at the Milton Keynes Transport Executive and the joint delivery teams operated by Milton Keynes Council/ Milton Keynes Partnership.

The Forum heard that £70m had been invested in the Scheme with £20m identified for Junction 14 of the M1 motorway.

The Forum noted that eighteen schemes had been identified as priorities and the Joint Transport Delivery Team would discuss the order in which the schemes should be undertaken.

The Department of Transport would need to be notified by the end of April 2008 regarding the priority of the schemes. There would also be an opportunity to discuss the funding streams for those schemes on the list with the Department of Transport.

19.0 MARSTON VALE COMMUNITY RAILWAY

The Forum received an update on the Marston Vale Community Railway.

The Forum was informed that Mid Bedfordshire District Council, Bedford Town Council and Milton Keynes Council were involved in the Community Rail Partnership; and that Milton Keynes Council had identified £30,000 for the scheme. Mid Bedfordshire District Council had agreed to promote the Marston Vale Community Railway between Bletchley and Bedford.

The Government had agreed to provide funding in the sum of £1m which needed to be match funded by the three local authorities involved in the community railway. In addition a business plan for the community railway would need to be produced.

20.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

That a suitable date be identified for the next meeting of the Forum following the local elections on 1 May 2008.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.41 PM