



Minutes of the meeting of the SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY FORUM held on MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2008 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor D McCall (Chair)
Councillors Bint and Bristow

Forum Representatives

C Allum (Great Linford Parish Council)
A Dnes (Stony Stratford Town Council)
M Fagan (Haversham and Little Linford Parish Council)
A Francis (New Bradwell Parish Council)
M Geddes (Woburn Sands Town Council)
R Hatton (North Crawley Parish Council)
S Kennedy (Stantonbury Parish Council)
I Nicol (Shenley Church End Parish Council)
S Rolfe (Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council)
D Rumens (Olney Town Council)
G Stimpson (Haversham and Little Linford Parish Council)
J Smith (Newport Pagnell Town Council)

Officers: P Bhamber (Chief Highways and Transport Engineer), T Dove (Traffic and Transport Manager), S Hunt (Group Manger [Planning and Transport]), B Sandom (Corporate Director Environment) and K O'Callaghan (Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillors Hopkins and Miles, and N Biggs (Thames Valley Police)

Apologies: Councillor D Stabler (Great Linford Parish Council) and Councillor C Wylde (Emberton Parish Council)

1.0 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair stated that, for future Sustainable Transport and Road Safety Forum meetings, only strategic items would be submitted. Any operational matters which Parish Councils wished to raise should be directed to the appropriate officer for action, and not be brought forward to be placed on the Agenda for consideration by the Forum.

2.0 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Transport and Road Safety Forum held on 31 March 2008, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

'Minute 19, Paragraph 3, being amended to read: "The Government had agreed to provide funding in the sum of £1m for the East West Rail Link. The Forum noted that a business plan for the community railway would need to be produced".'

3.0 ISSUE RAISED BY LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

"Can the Council clarify the position regarding the following:

- (a) drop kerbs in relation to disabled bay;
- (b) unsuitability of the location of the disabled bay at Queensway, Bletchley; and
- (c) unsuitability of ramps in the City Centre."

The Traffic and Transport Manager responded that he would contact Councillor Philips in due course regarding the issues raised.

4.0 ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

The Forum received a presentation from the Traffic and Transport Manager on the Road Safety Strategy.

The Forum noted the following:

- (a) The figures contained in the Strategy do not take into account the growth of Milton Keynes.
- (b) The Council was to hold discussions with satellite navigation companies and lorry companies regarding encouraging routing lorries onto major roads instead of using minor roads.
- (c) Rural areas and villages would be included in the Strategy as part of the review process.
- (d) The issue of high vegetation on roundabouts/ parking areas could be raised with the Landscape Department. However, the only criteria at roundabouts related to the drivers view of traffic approaching from the right.
- (e) Concern was expressed regarding cars meeting at junctions and traffic getting out of grid squares onto roads.
- (f) Milton Keynes had twice the number of road fatalities compared to Reading and Slough and excessive speed on the grid roads could be cited as a contributing factor.

- (g) Some speed management would be undertaken in Drayton Road, Bletchley.
- (h) The number of serious accidents involving cars pulling out and turning right onto grid roads was higher than other areas in Thames valley. This may be attributable to speeds on the grid road network. Motorists should be encouraged to use the next roundabout and double-back and exit left which would reduce the possibility of accidents occurring.
- (i) It was difficult for motorists to turn onto a single or dual carriageway.

5.0

LORRY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Forum received an update on the Lorry Management Strategy.

The Traffic and Transport Manager reported that a consultation on the Strategy had been undertaken during June/ July 2008, and that twenty five detailed responses had been received. A report and detailed Action Plan would be submitted to the Cabinet meeting to be held on 16 December 2008, for its consideration.

Councillor Rumens (Olney Town Council) stated that the four minutes speaking time allowed at the Cabinet meeting was insufficient to put forward its case regarding the Strategy. He requested that the Council contact the satellite navigation companies regarding vehicles heading north on the A509 on route to the A45 and M1 and requested that they no longer use the A509, as it was not included as part of the Strategy.

In response to a question regarding the erection of road signs in other languages, the Traffic and Transport Manager stated that English law did not permit road signs in other languages.

Councillor Hatton (North Crawley Parish Council) stated that lorries damage trees and road signs, and asked what could be done if the company name and vehicle registration number could be provided.

The Traffic and Transport Manager responded that, it may be possible to pursue however where foreign vehicles were involved, it would be difficult to pursue them.

6.0

TRANSPORT / PARKING AND BUS STRATEGY UPDATE

The Forum received a presentation from the Group Manager (Planning and Transport) on the Transport/ Parking and Bus Strategy.

The Forum noted the following:

- (a) Councillor Dnes (Stony Stratford Town Council) felt that bus services did not start early enough in the mornings and stopped running at 6.00 pm, which was too early.

- (b) The proposed growth in bus services was not reflected in the Strategy.
- (c) The reduction in premium car parking spaces was making it impossible for people travelling to Milton Keynes from rural areas to use core services.

The Chair stated that The Centre:MK has asked that the policy regarding the premium bays be looked at, in order to increase turnover and create business viability.

- (d) There was a lack of security for people using underpasses.
- (e) There was not enough disabled parking bays provided for people with disabilities and some members of the public were abusing the facility.

The Chair stated that the Council was working in partnership with ARRIVA by investing money to improve and increase bus services in Milton Keynes.

He thanked the officers for the presentation.

7.0

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Forum is to be held on 26 January 2009.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.40 PM