

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

WILMINGTON LOCAL MEETING

MINUTES of a meeting of the Wilmington Local Meeting held in the Joydens Wood Junior School, Birchwood Drive, Wilmington, DA2 7NE on Wednesday, 16 March 2011.

PRESENT: Mrs A D Allen (Chair), Mrs P T Cole, Mr R J Lees Mr A Sandhu, MBE

ALSO PRESENT: Matthew Arnold (KHS), Daniel Washington (KHS), Nigel Whitburn (Arriva), Austin Blackburn (Go Travel)

IN ATTENDANCE: Kayley Phillips, Linda Fourie

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Introductions and Apologies

(Item 1)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(Item 2)

The Minutes of the previous Local Board were read and approved.

3. Wilmington Parish Council - Local Successes by Wilmington PC and Young People Involved in the Playbuilders Initiative

(Item 3)

Wilmington Parish Council introduced their Playbuilders Scheme. The Parish Council have been advised by the children of the area that they are bored with the park. The aim of the Playbuilders Scheme is to provide funding for play equipment which will be relevant for 8 – 13 year olds.

Funding for the construction of the new play area has been secured through the Playbuilder Scheme and Kent County Council. Members of St Michael's Youth and pupils of Oakwood Primary School have been involved from inception of the project to the Tendering process.

A family fun day was organised and a survey undertaken by persons attending regarding this project as well as a working group who were supported by Dartford Borough Council. Ideas were drawn up for the requirements of the play area and it was expected that a meeting will take place during the following week to choose which contractor's Tender will be accepted.

A brief overview of the Wilmington Heritage Trail was given. Attached to these minutes is a scanned information paper about this project.

4. Kent Highway Services - Rural Transport Update by Daniel Washington - Public Transport Planner

(Item 4)

Daniel Washington advised that from 04 September 2011 Griffin Buses will run a service Monday to Friday to Darent Valley Hospital.

From 04 April 2011 Kent Highway Services will be administering the National Concessionary Travel Scheme.

As from September 2011 the price of the Kent Freedom Pass has increase from £50 to £100. The cost to children who are entitled to free school meals will remain at £50.

Ann Allen advised that the subsidy from County and District for Concessionary bus passes to travel prior to 9.00am will be withdrawn. Now working with the hospital so that later appointments can be allocated to persons who are eligible for concessionary travel.

**5. ARRIVA - Your Local Services by Matthew Arnold - Commercial Manager/
Austin Blackburn - Go Travel**
(Item 5)

Daniel Washington confirmed that the 423 Bus service will, after 01 April 2011, start making a loss. Notice has been given to traffic regulators that this service will discontinue on 07 May 2011.

D.W further confirmed that KCC unfortunately does not have the budget to fund this service unless the cost is reduced considerably.

Austin Blackburn from Go Travel gave an overview of current services available and confirmed that they would be able to assist in covering this service. It was confirmed that Go Travel would be a cheaper service to fund compared to Arriva and KHS would consider funding the later services if provided by Go Travel and integrated with the 421 service.

Go Travel is a small company and are good at recognising their communities. Have increased their passengers by 10% and expect to give a reliable service.

There will be a clock face timetable:
Every Hour Monday to Saturday to Swanley
Two Hourly to Sevenoaks
Services on Saturdays will be 2 hourly.

There will be an Early Bird scheme for pass holders and this will cost £1 before 9.30am.

Daniel Washington advised that the 419 (Griffin Buses) run Monday to Friday to Darent Valley Hospital and KHS will not pick this up.

The National Concessionary Travel Scheme – KHS administering from 04 April 2011

Kent Freedom Pass – has increased from £50 to £100 with effect from 01 September 2011. If students are having free school meals, the cost will remain at £50.

Mrs Allen advised that the subsidy from County and District for concessionary passes to travel before 9.00am has been withdrawn. However, working with the hospital to arrange later appointments so that they can travel later.

6. Action with Communities in Kent - Rural Transport Opportunities by Nigel Whitburn - Community Development Manager

(Item 6)

Nigel Whitburn showed a presentation from Action with Communities in Rural Kent. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes.

7. Questions from the Public

(Item 7)

Q. School times – a long wait between buses?

A. Schools do not start and finish together. Cant please everyone. Unable to run earlier.

Q. Removed 476. Can get to Dartford and then take another bus to the hospital or Bluewater. No direct service.

A. Not viable to run direct buses.

Q. Can we not customise using Council Tax?

A. A meeting to be held on 28 March at the Civic Centre in Bexley. The issue is being recognised.

Q. Reimbursement being reduced from KHS. Will this have an effect of the Freedom Pass?

A. Kent Freedom Pass is a different scheme and is not affected.

Q. The B12 Sunday Service – have sent a petition to Maurice Johnson. What is being done about it?

A. Do not have funding to cover this from KCC. Sunday service is lowest priority.

Mrs Allen commented that Councillors have problems with buses in their areas. This is being worked on and wont let it go.

Mr Lees stated that it isn't for us to use our tax monies to pay London Bus service rates.

8. Any Other Business

(Item 8)

Mrs Allen thanked all speakers for their input at requested the public to take a look at the displays.