

Thanet Local Board

Tuesday, 29 January 2013

The Charles Dickens School, Broadstairs,

Present: Bill Hayton (Chairman), Robert Bayford, Robert Burgess, Elizabeth Green, Charles Hibberd, Michael Jarvis, John Kirby, Chris Wells

Apologies:

KCC Officers: Anne Charman (Community Engagement Officer), James Harman, (Community Engagement Officer)

1.	Welcome to the meeting – Mr Bill Hayton, Chairman
	<p>Mr Hayton welcomed everyone to the meeting</p> <p>The members of the board introduced themselves. Robert Burgess would arrive later due to a School Governor meeting.</p> <p>John Pritchard, President of the Wantsum Savers had sent his apologies due to illness and would be attending the next Thanet Local Board meeting in March.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
2.	Notes of Local Board meeting held on 16 October 2012 and progress on any actions agreed
	The notes were agreed as a true record.
3.	Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) / Thanet Youth Council (TYC), Cameron Taylor, Megan Wallace and Sadie Williams
	<p>Cameron is a member of KYCC, TYC and Co-Chair of the Youth Advisory Group in Thanet and provided an update on the latest activities he is involved with. In particular the All About Youth project where a panel of young people are given a budget, through a grant provided by Robert Burgess, to award funding to other young people's projects in Thanet.</p> <p>KYCC membership is increasing and young people meet at the Quarterdeck every fortnight, supported by a KYCC Youth Participation Officer, Sadie Williams.</p> <p>Sadie Williams spoke briefly about KYCC which is an elected body of young people. Last November 60 new members were elected representing a broad range of backgrounds from young carers to young parents. Across Kent, KYCC is working on three main campaigns; employment, transport and anti-bullying.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employment. KYCC members having been looking at how they can support better employment opportunities for young people and in particular bridging the gap between school and young and employers so that young people are better prepared for the world of work. It has put together a voluntary code for employers listing the things young people would like offered, including an under 16s minimum wage. KYCC is aware that young people also have to offer the right skills to employers and members have been working on a video 'Employment Top Tips' which is available on the KYCC website. KYCC is also looking at how it can work better with schools to prepare young people for work. 2. Transport. Megan provided an update on the work KYCC has been doing with KCC's Transport Unit, particularly the report it recently submitted to the National Scrutiny Committee on bus transport in Kent. The aim is to make buses more frequent in rural areas and improve disability and it will continue to work on making transport for young people more affordable and accessible.

	<p>3. Anti-bullying. Cameron spoke of KYCC's new mission statement 'to work throughout 2013 to equip schools and other youth organisations with an anti-bullying policy they can enforce and which supports them'. A model anti-bullying policy will be developed by the end of 2013 in consultation with young people, schools, colleges and national charities including the NSPCC.</p> <p>Q. (Michael Jarvis) You mentioned the anti-bullying campaign is focussed around schools and colleges. Have you approached transport companies, for example buses and trains as a lot of bullying takes place on the way to and from school?</p> <p>R. The main aim at first is to tackle bullying in schools and businesses with a launch event in May 2013. At this launch we will invite businesses and we will also include transport companies.</p> <p>Q. Which employers are you working with re employment opportunities? Have you asked employers themselves to give you a list of things they want from young people?</p> <p>R. Yes, working collaboratively with young people and employers. Over a 1000 young people will be working on this. Draft copies of the Code have been shown to employers and Café Nero and McDonalds have already signed up. McDonalds are offering already very good support and training to young people and KYCC is developing a website that will list those employers who are signed up to this code, with three categories of bronze, silver and gold. Employers also contributed to the top tips video.</p> <p>Q. Do you have links with the Princes Trust for young people who wish to set up their own business?</p> <p>R. Currently no, but this has been suggested, particularly as some of the big employers are working with Princes Trust, and this is an avenue that we are hoping to explore.</p> <p>Q. Are you speaking with young people who have disabilities?</p> <p>R. Yes, absolutely and many of our members have disabilities and when working with schools and other young projects, we work to ensure that we have as much representation as possible.</p> <p>Q. What sort of level would you expect the minimum wage to be set at?</p> <p>R. As part of the survey this was looked at and it came about at @£2.60. In fact many employers are already offering more than this and it is comparatively low.</p>
4.	Rebecca Roche, KCC Projects Manager Thanet
	Unfortunately Rebecca's car broke down on the way to the meeting and was unable to attend. Rebecca will be presenting at the next Thanet Local Board meeting in March.
5.	Paul Valek, KCC Highways District Manager, Thanet and Ryan Shiel, KCC Highways Transportation Engineer.
	<p>Paul Valek works with a small team immediately in the area, comprising a Highways Engineer and three Highways Stewards. Highways Stewards deals with enquiries that are logged via the Contact Centre from members of the public, parish councils, etc. Paul stressed that he and his team are very hands on and are always happy to meet people in the street to discuss any issues they may have.</p> <p>Paul's immediate team deal with maintenance issues on the existing highway, for example potholes and small footway repairs. Other teams deal with other issues, for example an statutory inspections, street lighting, major road resurfacing, drainage and major road schemes, for example the East Kent Access Rd. As District Manager Paul keeps a watching brief over all of this work.</p>

A copy of all the major Highways schemes planned in Thanet was made available at the meeting and Paul encouraged everyone to use the Contact Centre or website to register any problems they had.

Q. (Bill Hayton). Please could you explain new policy on lane rental?

R. The Kent Lane rental scheme has been developed by KCC and is being piloted in Kent. If anyone wants to work on highways and they are busy roads, main trunk roads, etc they are restricted to a working window. For example at Broadway in Broadstairs the restricted period would be from 7am to 7pm, but if a company needed to work within this restricted period they will have to pay and these costs are to encourage them to undertake repairs quickly.

Q. After repairs have been undertaken you often see one of two things; either cones are still in place and nobody's working, or the cones are not removed when the workmen have departed. Is that still counted in this scheme?

R. When the workmen have finished, the cones should be removed. However if there is still traffic management on the site there is something called a Section 74 notice under which utility companies can be penalised if they don't finish within the agreed timeframe. For a major road this could be up to £1,000 per day.

Q. (David Green). The East Kent Access Road seems to have had a section coned off ever since it was built. What is the problem?

R. There are two problems in this part of the road at the moment. Firstly the section from Cottington Bridge (which is the new bridge over Richborough Way) running towards Richborough. When finished, this section of the road had a settlement problem as it sank more than it should have done. Upon investigation it was found that water was being held between layers of the road which was unable to get out so recently works have been undertaken to provide extra drainage to remedy this problem. Currently we are monitoring the situation to see if settlement stops, and if it has the road will be resurfaced and opened. Secondly, the A256 and the old A299 through to Cliffsend re traffic calming. Highways is aware that what's in place is not working as well as it could and the existing traffic management traffic calming is being highlighted with some extra temporary cones and signs. John Farmer KCC Highways Major Schemes Project Manager has recently written a report that will be going to the next Joint Transportation Board outlining what is proposed for these traffic calming sites and there will be adjustments.

Q. Regarding drainage, it is noticeable that many drains and gullies are completely silted over causing flooding and water to spread across the road. Michael Jarvis has been contacted regarding a particular problem a resident had with water in her basement. (Mr Jarvis was thanked as he acted quickly and within 48 hours the problem had been addressed with compensation paid by KCC). But is there a mechanism where operates that can look and if necessary clean those drains in high risk areas to prevent this from happening?

R. With regard to problem drains being identified inspectors have a statutory duty to carry out regular checks. In previous years Highways attended to block gullies on a reactive basis but this was not an efficient method as it was time consuming travelling across the district in an uncoordinated way. In place now is a schedule of gully cleaning which goes across the island which means that some gullies silted up may wait until they are next due on the schedule. But that is only if that gully is not going to flood and cause a threat to property or life as these will be attended more urgently.

Q. Last year potholes were reported and fixed within three weeks and this is an excellent service. However the week before Christmas a wall in Westbrook Avenue was knocked down for the fourth time in five years and I would like to know what precautionary measures you can put in place to prevent this happening again.

- R.** The Member Highway Fund scheme has put some curbing and a chevron but unfortunately that didn't stop the car before Christmas. In this particular instance nothing would have stopped this car as the driver skidded in very wet road conditions but Highways recognise that a single curb and chevron is perhaps not the answer and will look at this again.
- Q.** How do you justify a 50mph speed limit on a new dual carriageway when the national limit on a small country lane is 60mph?
- R.** Assume you are referring to the East Kent Access Rd. At this particular point it is because of the previously mentioned irregularity in settlement at Cottington Bridge. It was 70mph but I felt uncomfortable about traffic hitting the ramp where the settlement issues are and instructed it to be reduced to 50mph until it is repaired.
- S.** Actually referring to the A256 road from Richborough to Pfizer and when this was questioned in a letter to KCC a couple of years ago the reply was because of the junctions and nothing could be done.
- R.** It is probably because there are several entrances and junctions and no slip roads. Country roads are 60mph because they are derestricted.
- Q.** Can I raise a concern on behalf of a number of Ramsgate residents associations over the traffic flow and smoothness around Lord of the Manor roundabout – are you looking at how this roundabout may be improved as it carries an ever increasing amount of important traffic?
- R.** This has been looked at quite closely since the East Kent Access Road opened and there is some tweaking and adjustments needed as we are aware that lane positioning can be difficult when approaching this roundabout.
- Q.** In Thanet we call it the 'Squareabout' where an old road has been incorporated as part of the East Kent Access Rd scheme. Cars just sit at the traffic lights for long periods and navigation to Ramsgate and Broadstairs is complicated with cars switching lanes. Foreign lorry drivers particularly cause chaos.
- R.** Traffic light control is necessary on roundabouts and we are unaware of significant congestion compared to the situation before. There is little or no crash data recorded here but accept that it may need some fine tweaks.
- Comment.** Would like compliment Highways because a short while ago a local resident reported a tree was blown over and left in a dangerous position and Highways cleared it within two hours – thank you.
- Q.** Is there any money available in the 2013/14 budget to remove or plant trees in residential roads? You manage to put some in the new road schemes.
- R.** It is unlikely there is any remaining budget in 2012/13 for this work. Trees are usually planted between Nov-Feb. Unlikely there is as much funding to replace the number of trees we take out but don't have exact figures. In new road schemes the trees are very small saplings but we can find out some more information for you. MHF is one method of financing tree planting if you speak to your local member. **Update since meeting.** *We are removing more trees than we are able to replant at present to limited funds. Trees are removed for a number of reasons such as the tree is dead, dying or diseased. The tree is causing damage or other health and safety issues including trip hazards or reducing the width of footways. We are very reluctant to remove trees and only do so if they create a danger or there is no engineering solution to remedy any problems being caused. We are replanting trees that are in conservation areas and have preservation orders on them. We are renewing the footways in Goodwin and Minster Road Ramsgate which includes the removal of several trees but with a replant policy in place for the site. Paul Valek has contacted the member of public who raised this issue at the Local Board and is addressing some issues in the vicinity of their home.*

- Q.** Why has a section of lighting not worked along the dual carriageway from the Holiday Inn to the Monkton roundabout since the road was opened?
- R.** Aware that this area has had some problems, but I will take this back and find out more detailed information for you. **Update since meeting.** *Our Street lighting team have advised that there is a fault with the power supply at the site. We will be looking to repair the fault during our High Speed Road programme in the near future.*

- Q.** Why is there a footway or cycle path being put along the Thanet Way?
- R.** The cycle way being installed from St Nicholas through to Brook Lane and back down to Reculver is the missing link in the Viking Coastal Trail. The funding has been made available through the Sustrans Group – a safer option for cyclists.

- Q.** The road down from the Lord of the Manor roundabout towards Pfizer in the summer is a beautiful picture of poppies, were these planted?

R. No, completely accidental.

- Q.** As a pedestrian at Westwood Cross navigating the area safely is very difficult. We need painted footprints to show how to negotiate the car parks. Perhaps a group could be set up to work with local shops/businesses to organise this?

R. Westwood Cross car parks are private areas. However the footpaths and junctions are Highways – perhaps we could look at this. **Update since meeting.** *Our Strategic Transport and Development Planner has been advised of this issue and will consider the options available to improve the situation.*

Ryan Shiel provided an update on the Member Highway Fund scheme for the Thanet members. The scheme was introduced in 2009 as a year long pilot and was such a success it has been continued ever since. Every county councillor has annual allocation of £21,250 for highway improvements in their division. Applications for 2012/13 had to be submitted by 14 December 2012 to ensure that projects could be completed within the necessary financial timeframe which is end March. New applications will be received after the May elections in 2013.

Ryan then gave details of some of the schemes that have been supported by Thanet members and his presentation can be viewed at: www.kent.gov.uk/communityengagement

- Q.** When is KCC going to do something about the junctions at Birchington Station and Rosetti Road – I've nearly had three accidents there because people come straight out of Rosetti as they think they have right of way.

R. A site that we are aware of and continue to monitor as it is a very narrow bridge. There has been nothing in terms of crash statistics recently and there are no current plans except to make drivers more aware of pedestrians.

- Q.** The crossing outside Dane School is horrendous and also with buses stopping after school is causing congestion.

R. This has been mentioned to me by one of the Broadstairs councillors and we are looking at proposals for infrastructure signs to make drivers aware that there are students crossing.

Comment: Chris Wells it wasn't until the members had delegated budgets that they were able to respond to make a response to local residents' concerns. If you have local issue, contact your local county councillor.

- Q.** Re pedestrian safety in Ramsgate; there are concerns about the corner turning from Queens Street and Leopold Road and a natural pedestrian movement combined with a tight corner. Could you look seriously at making that part of the road slower and improve its pedestrianisation.

	<p>R. Happy to look at this in conjunction with the Ramsgate county councillors.</p> <p>Q. The lay-by outside St Mark's Church, Ramsgate –since Tesco have been in place there have been problems. Could this area be given preference?</p> <p>R. There is a scheme to provide a whole new lay-by with lockable bollards that the church and emergency services will have keys for in or to maintain access for wedding and funeral services, etc.</p> <p>Q. The Holy Trinity School around Dumpton Park area needs traffic calming measures. A letter was written to Highways about this but the school is on the border of Broadstairs and Ramsgate and it is felt Highways should have addressed the issue from the Ramsgate side, not the Broadstairs. A child has been injured here.</p> <p>R. If there have been injuries then this is one of our main criteria – we may need to look at a separate scheme and speak to our safety officer.</p>
6.	<p>Thanet Local Board grant recommendations for 2012/13, Anne Charman, Community Engagement Officer for Thanet</p> <p>Anne Charman announced the Thanet Local Board Local Schemes Grant Tranche 2 recommendations. Small Community Capital Projects and Local Schemes Grant Tranche 1 recommendations were made before Christmas and summary details of all projects were made available and can be found on the Thanet Community Engagement web pages. All recommendations for Tranche 2 would go forward for Cabinet approval by Mike Hill.</p> <p>Simon Abra was invited to talk about the Broadstairs Water Gala. This event was first established in 1888 and is well over a100 years old. Traditionally the event has been held on a Wednesday because of half day trading to support local traders. One of the highlights of the Water Gala was the Red Arrows who put on a display a few years ago with credit given to a committee of local people that Mauve Sanders was a part of for organising this.</p> <p>The gala is run by a small committee who work very hard for the benefit of Broadstairs and its residents but recently the event has suffered for a number of reasons, not least lack of funding, volunteers and increased costs, for example Health & Safety requirements, particularly when you consider that approximately 10-20,000 people attend.</p> <p>However, 2012 proved a turning point for the committee because of a successful bid to the Thanet Local Board for funding to help pay for a quality event, plus help from Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council and through other fundraising. It was a wonderful day blessed with good weather, with water-based and beach activities, children's entertainment and the highlight of the day which was an air show. The day finished with a jazz band and brilliant firework display. There wasn't a single issue regarding anti-social behaviour and there has been very positive feedback both from the public and businesses, particularly accommodation providers.</p> <p>Preparations for 2013 have begun and the programme of events will include more seashore activities and a limited air display, maybe a Sea King Helicopter, because it is felt the area will be well served by the air show planned at Manston which promises to be quite spectacular.</p> <p>The event is on Wednesday, 21 August 2013 and the team is actively encouraging local community groups to get involved.</p> <p>Media coverage includes the Isle Magazine, Thanet Gazette and Academy FM but an area that does require further investment is the online development and the committee is hoping to develop its website and social media activity to reach out to more people.</p> <p>For more information please visit: www.broadstairswatergala.co.uk</p>

7.	<p>Opportunity to ask questions about local public services</p> <p>Q. Has there been any movement on the closure of Richborough?</p> <p>R. (John Kirby). Last week Paul Carter visited the site and drove between Richborough, Margate and Deal and went away better aware of the conditions faced if Richborough shuts. The hope is that this decision will be reversed and as soon as anything is known, it will be made public.</p> <p>Q. Why are people between Ramsgate and Sandwich (Cliffsend) so limited in their bus services compared to the rest of Thanet? The Thanet Loop runs every eight minutes but bus services in my area only run every one and half hours. Can someone investigate a fairer way to operate bus services in Thanet? The bus services in question are the 87 and 88 (Stagecoach) going down to Dover.</p> <p>R. (Ryan Shiel). KCC has a dedicated officer that liaises with bus companies and I will take this query back to our Transportation Team who can perhaps talk to the bus companies.</p> <p>R. (Robert Burgess). As Chair of the Joint Transportation Board I am aware of the issues. Bus companies cannot use the profit it makes from one route to subsidise another route so if it runs a service at a loss it needs funding from KCC. This is why rural services suffer and why some MHF is used to subsidise routes.</p> <p>R. (Bill Hayton) – perhaps we will try to get a representative from Stagecoach to attend one of the Board's meetings.</p> <p>Q. (David Green). There is concern about the future provision of Library Services. Can you comment on this?</p> <p>R. (Bill Hayton) A group of Thanet county councillors will be visiting the five smaller libraries shortly and, if the situation should arise where any changes are proposed, then obviously the public will be consulted.</p> <p>Q. Streets in the Ramsgate area are becoming more of an embarrassment because of litter. Obviously people need to be educated re litter dropping, but there do seem to be a lack of street cleaners in residential areas, particularly Grange Rd and near the railway area and this could be one of the reasons why drains become clogged up. It gives a very poor impression of Ramsgate to visitors.</p> <p>R. (Bill Hayton) Street cleaners are evident in Broadstairs and Ramsgate in the early morning and late afternoon in town centres.</p> <p>R. (Liz Green). TDC has a new strategy for street cleaning because of this problem and teams of cleaners are now in operation. If you have a specific area, please let me know and I will look into this as a district councillor.</p> <p>Q. Ramsgate Station; the area behind the bus stops is filthy and looks a health hazard and gives a terrible impression to visitors to the town.</p> <p>Q. Concerned on behalf of Ramsgate residents that there is nowhere to place plastic bags. Could the TLB look into this please?</p> <p>R. (Audience) Supermarkets collect plastic bags and charity shops always welcome them.</p> <p>Q. For people turning right out of Ramsgate Station the visibility is very poor.</p> <p>R. There is a major upgrade of Ramsgate Station planned in the near future.</p> <p>Q. In light of the recent transformation of youth services, please could more councillors get involved and improve relationships with young people.</p> <p>R. (Liz Green) Unfortunately meetings do clash but every effort has and will be made to retain a good youth service in Thanet. In areas of high deprivation such as Thanet, more provision should be made for young people.</p> <p>R. (Robert Burgess). There is less money to go around and top slicing is not the answer. Tough decisions have to be made and a different approach taken; but exciting new</p>
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	<p>services, such as the Westgate Youth Project have come out of this commissioning process. Quarterdeck is the main KCC centre with Concorde and Westgate operating through the commissioning process. It is also hoped that Artwise will be run by a Community Interest Company. As a result, there is now considerable provision for young people in the area.</p> <p>R. I would also encourage Cameron and his friends to consider the uniformed groups, such as the scouts and air and sea cadets who offer fantastic experiences. Such groups are actively supported by the Thanet Local Board.</p> <p>Q. (Tom King) Can the Board give assurances that there will no plans to shut Westgate Library or make any changes/charges to the concessionary bus passes? Also, could we invite Network Rail along to one of our meetings please?</p> <p>R. (Bill Hayton). We will look into whether we can get Network Rail along to speak at one of these meetings.</p> <p>R. (Robert Burgess). There are no plans to shut Westgate Library; the review is about best value how services can be delivered better in libraries across Kent. Re bus passes, the only issue was a change of time from 9.00 to 9.30. New bus passes will be issued three week's before the expiry of your old one and if you don't receive one and you are eligible, then contact KCC.</p> <p>Q. (Tom Brown) KCC is funding Housing Intervention in Margate and Cliftonville. A couple of projects are already earmarked, particularly the Hotels Leslie and Embassy. Could we have more consultation with local residents please so that they can have an input into the regeneration process? Regarding the Hotel Leslie, people may be unaware of its history and therefore more consultation with local residents is needed, particularly when £23m of public money is being invested. The quality of housing that goes in its place has to be good and not replicate what was there before.</p> <p>R. (Chris Wells). Consultation was undertaken and there are regulations concerning the size and type of properties that go into Cliftonville. However, Margate Housing Intervention comprises three different funding streams, and each has its own remit re the type of housing it provides. But with regard to these two properties, it is important for the council to demonstrate that it is serious about addressing the housing problems in the area, particularly as local people continually stress the need for action.</p> <p>Q. What is the council's position on Health & Safety on building sites? If the site endangers the local community and numerous people have contacted the council and left the same message without response, who is ultimately responsible?</p> <p>R. (Paul Valek) If there is a particular issue with a construction site that is off highway but perhaps adjacent to the Highway then the Kent Highways team may get involved. But if completely off the highway then I would recommend that you contact TDC Building Control.</p> <p>S. Have contacted TDC and KFR about a particular site but neither were able to help. If there is an accident, who is accountable?</p> <p>R. It may be worth speaking to the county councillors after the meeting as the situation appears complicated and needs more detailed investigation.</p>
8.	Any Other Business notified to the Chairman prior to the meeting.
	None
9.	Close
	Mr Hayton thanked all the speakers for their presentations and the public for attending and closed the meeting.