

TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISIONS made by the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor M Lock, on 5 December 2005 at County Hall, Lewes.

Councillor Barnes spoke on item 4 (see minute 46 below)
Councillor St. Pierre spoke on item 5 (see minute 47 below)
Councillor Murphy spoke on items 6 and 9 (see minutes 48 and 51 below)
Councillor Daniel spoke on item 8 (see minute 50 below)
Councillor Bentley spoke on item 10 (see minute 52 below)

43. MINUTES

43.1 Councillor Lock approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2005.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

44.1 Councillor Bentley declared, in relation to item 10, that he was a Member of Hailsham Town Council, but was satisfied that this did not represent a prejudicial interest.

45. REPORTS

45.1 Copies of the reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

46. PETITION REQUESTING A LOWER SPEED LIMIT ON THE A265 BURWASH TO BURWASH WEALD

46.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. Mrs L Baverstock addressed the Lead Member on behalf of the petitioners and presented photographs and cards with additional signatories to the petition.

DECISIONS

46.2 To (1) advise the petitioners that the stretch of road between Burwash and Burwash Weald does not meet the County Council's current policy for the implementation of a speed limit, but that the implementation of a limit will be re-considered when the County Council's policy on the setting of speed limits is reviewed;

(2) request the Director of Transport and Environment to write to the East Sussex MPs asking them to (a) raise the issue of the delay in publication of the revised national guidelines for the setting of local speed limits; and (b) lobby for legislation requiring Insurance Companies to report accidents to highway authorities; and

(3) request the Director of Transport and Environment, in the interim, to investigate the possibility of introducing enhanced signage to help slow down traffic on the blind bend on this stretch of road.

Reasons

46.3 This stretch of road does not satisfy the County Council's current policy for the implementation of a speed limit between Burwash and Burwash Weald/Common. However, with the anticipated publication of new guidelines, this matter will be reviewed once the County Council has had the opportunity to consider any appropriate changes to its policy on the setting of speed limits.

47. PETITION REQUESTING PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS ON MALLING STREET, LEWES

47.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. Mrs H Black addressed the Lead Member on behalf of the petitioners.

DECISION

47.2 To advise the petitioners that this location meets the County Council's criterion for further investigation and that the priority for the provision of a crossing will be considered by the Lead Member at the April 2006 meeting.

Reason

47.3 The site meets the initial qualification criterion for the provision of a pedestrian facility and, therefore, further detailed investigations will be required to determine the relative priority of this request when compared to others in East Sussex.

48. PETITION REQUESTING THE CLOSURE OF PART OF A TWITTEN ADJACENT TO MILLDOWN ROAD, SEAFORD

48.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. Mr M Green addressed the Lead Member on behalf of the petitioners and displayed photographs and maps.

DECISION

48.2 To defer consideration of this request pending (a) a site visit by the Lead Member, Police and Transport and Environment officers; and (b) a more detailed report from the Director of Transport and Environment including more detail on the legal issues involved and the views of the police on the extent of criminal activity at this site.

Reason

48.3 Legislation does not allow the County Council to address the problem of crime by closing paths unless there are extreme circumstances. In this instance the Lead Member considered that he could not make a decision without making a site visit, hearing the views of the police as to the extent of criminal activity at this site and receiving more detail on the legal issues involved.

49. PETITION REQUESTING PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES ACROSS SEASIDE TO THE EAST OF WHITLEY ROAD, EASTBOURNE

49.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. An amended plan was circulated at the meeting.

49.2 Councillor Lock explained that Councillor Tutt was unable to be present, but had notified him of the points he would have wished to make in support of the petition.

DECISION

49.3 To advise the petitioners that the County Council is unable to meet their request for a pedestrian crossing across Seaside to the east of Whitley Road at this time, although safety improvements will be made to this junction as part of the implementation of the quality bus corridor scheme anticipated in the next financial year. The scheme will be reviewed nine months after implementation and this request can be looked again at that time.

Reason

49.4 The Director of Transport and Environment considers that the changes being brought forward in the context of the Seaside Quality Bus Corridor scheme will significantly improve the facilities for pedestrians, allowing them to cross three of the four arms of this junction. Although the addition of a crossing on the fourth arm would further improve pedestrian amenity, it would increase congestion and could create additional safety problems, and therefore, on balance, could not be justified at this time, but will be looked at again when the Bus Corridor Scheme is reviewed.

50. PETITION REQUESTING THE REPAIR OF STEPS ADJOINING PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT ST MARY'S TERRACE, HASTINGS

50.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. Mrs J Dewsbury addressed the Lead Member on behalf of the petitioners.

DECISION

50.2 To advise the petitioners that the necessary repairs will be undertaken as soon as possible in the first quarter of the new financial year.

Reasons

50.3 It is necessary that both the County Council and the Borough Council act carefully in determining matters such as this, which can potentially create precedents for future cases with significant cost implications. The complication of both Councils having been involved in differing capacities, and the further confusion as to the ownership of the wall, have led to an unfortunate delay in re-opening the path. This has clearly resulted in the understandable frustration of the residents.

50.4 The landowner has made it clear that he does not intend to meet or contribute to the cost of the works. It would therefore be necessary for the County Council to meet those costs initially regardless of whether it seeks to retrieve them subsequently.

51. SEAFORD LOCAL AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY

51.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

51.2 To (1) approve the Local Area Transport Strategy (LATS) for Seaford, subject to those amendments proposed in Appendix A to the report; and

(2) note that the LATS will automatically become a daughter document to the Local Transport Plan (LTP), and will be used to inform allocations of funding that reflect a prioritised package of local integrated transport schemes and to provide a framework to assess planning proposals to ensure that they complement LTP objectives.

Reason

51.3 The implementation of the Seaford LATS will improve travel choice and safety and encourage people to make more of their journeys on foot, by bicycles and on public transport.

52. HAILSHAM LOCAL AREA TRANSPORT STRATEGY

52.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

52.2 Councillor Lock was advised that confirmation of Wealden District Council's endorsement of the Hailsham Local Area Transport Strategy (LATS) had now been received. In addition, Hailsham Town Council had (a) passed the following resolution:-

“Hailsham Town Council resolves to endorse the Draft Hailsham LATS document in the interim pending the implementation of the proposed residential and retail development in and around Hailsham, subject to the Town Council's comments being considered and included by East Sussex County Council's Lead Member for Transport and Environment and Hailsham Town Council being consulted at every stage of the strategy process.”

and (b) asked for two amendments to be made to the comments set out in the appendix to the report:-

- Section 4.4 – Hailsham Town Council request that it be included as a partner on the Quality Bus Partnership; and
- Section 5.3 – short term measures should be changed to “within two years”.

DECISIONS

52.3 To (1) approve the Local Area Transport Strategy (LATS) for Hailsham, subject to the amendments proposed in Appendix A of the report; and

(2) note that the LATS will automatically become a daughter document to the Local Transport Plan (LTP), and will be used to inform allocations of funding that reflect a prioritised package of local integrated transport schemes and to provide a framework to assess planning proposals to ensure that they complement LTP objectives.

Reason

52.4 The adoption of the Hailsham LATS will help inform investment choices which improve travel choice and safety and encourage more people to make more of their journeys on foot, by bicycles and on public transport.

53. LEWES : PHOENIX CAUSEWAY ROUNDABOUT

53.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

53.2 To (1) defer work on the design and subsequent construction of a roundabout on Phoenix Causeway pending the outcome of proposals to redevelop the Phoenix Quarter; and

(2) request the Director of Transport and Environment to keep the Lead Member informed of potential traffic flows as a result of the redevelopment proposals.

Reasons

53.3 Formal authority is not normally sought to make minor amendments to the detailed programme of schemes which is approved annually. However, in this case given the local profile of this scheme and its influence on the development strategy the Director of Transport and Environment feels it appropriate to recommend a formal deferral of the programmed work.

53.4 The Director of Transport and Environment considers that, on balance, the potential benefits of being able to integrate the design of the transport infrastructure with the design of the major new development and inform the local strategy through a local transport model, justify the risk that the efforts in that direction might prove to be abortive

and the implementation of a free-standing roundabout would be delayed if the development does not come to fruition.

54. PASSENGER SERVICE REQUIREMENT CONSULTATION

54.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

54.2 To (1) inform the Department for Transport (DfT) that East Sussex County Council:

- (a) objects to the late consultation on the PSR;
- (b) urges the DfT to reconsider the PSR to include additional stops at Winchelsea, Three Oaks and Doleham railway stations which provide for local school, shopping and social needs;
- (c) welcomes the provision of additional services to Ore; and

(2) authorise the Director of Transport and Environment to add further representations relating to matters of detail contained in the draft PSR.

Reason

54.3 The County Council regrets the late consultation on the PSR and feels that it is a matter which should have been undertaken earlier to allow it to inform the development of the new timetable. It is unfortunate that the Council has to deal with a consultation on the PSR so near to implementation of the new rail timetable. The County Council supports the introduction of the new express service from Ashford to Hastings, but not at the expense of service to the smaller stations between these main line stops. For these reasons the Director of Transport and Environment recommends that the DfT reconsiders the PSR to include additional stops at Winchelsea, Three Oaks and Doleham railway stations which provide for local school, shopping and social needs. The County Council has commissioned consultants Owen Williams to undertake this schedule of more detailed comments. The Director of Transport and Environment is therefore authorised to add further representations relating to matters of detail contained in the draft PSR.

55. MINERALS AND WASTE ANNUAL MONITORING

55.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment. He noted that the date in paragraph 1.1 should be December 2005 rather than 2006.

DECISION

55.2 To endorse the submission of the Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) subject to his clearance of the final draft document.

Reason

55.3 As a Planning Authority the Council has to meet the new statutory requirement to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) about its waste and minerals planning policy documents. A draft AMR has been prepared, which has to be submitted via the Government Office by the end of December.

56. CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

56.1 Councillor Lock considered a report by the Director of Transport and Environment.

DECISIONS

56.2 To (1) note the nature of the representations made on the draft East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Construction and Demolition Waste Supplementary Planning Document and associated draft Sustainability Appraisal and agree responses to them as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report;

(2) approve amendments to the Supplementary Planning Document and Sustainability Appraisal, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2, and adoption of the amended document as a Supplementary Planning Document, subject to any minor non-material alterations that may be made by the Director of Transport and Environment in consultation with the Lead Member for Transport and Environment and Brighton & Hove City Council; and

(3) adopt the Construction and Demolition Waste Supplementary Planning Document.

Reason

56.3 Comments were received on the draft Supplementary Planning Document. These have been considered and modifications are proposed in the light of those comments. Once adopted, the Supplementary Planning Document will reduce the environmental impacts of construction and demolition waste which arise in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, and support policies in the Development Plan, including the Waste Local Plan.