

BROMLEY BOROUGH ROAD SAFETY CONSULTATIVE PANEL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 March 2011
at the Civic Centre, Bromley starting at 7.30pm**

Present:

Tony Exeter	KM: Keston Mark Residents Assoc. (Acting Chairman)
David Haslam	BH: Biggin Hill & District Residents Association
Peter Duncan	CC: Copers Cope Residents Association
Tony McClarty	CS: Chislehurst Society
David Witherspoon	DR: Downe Residents Association
Tony Bradley	GS: Green Street Green Village Society
Beryl Grimani- Harrold	HV: Hayes Village Association
Peter Skipp	LE: Links Estate Residents Association
Keith Heffer	OH: Old Hill & Cudham Lane North Residents Association
Peter Daintree	PA: Park Avenue Residents Association
Graham Pyefinch	PL: Park Langley Residents Association
John Pattenden	PW: Petts Wood Residents Association
Brian Dunk	SR: Shortlands Residents Association
Mike East	WW: West Wickham Residents Association
Keith King	SPC: Old St Pauls Cray and St. Pauls Cray East RA
Derrick Holmes	DH: LBB Road Safety Officer
Farzaneh Ziarati	FZ: LBB Traffic Engineer

1. Apologies for absence

John Harvey Palace Estate RA (Chairman), Shirley Homewood Penge Forum, Derek Cookson Sundridge RA, Lisa Allen LBB Traffic Engineer.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 January 2011 were approved and signed, subject to the following amendments:

Item 9 **SR:** to add 'He also expressed concern over the significant increase in parking in Park Hill Road, Shortlands.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

DR: the press release referred to under Item 9 had also included a report that LBB intended to apply parking charges in country parks. This had been an error as no charges were planned.

4. Accident statistics

The latest statistics circulated with the agenda were noted.

Concern was expressed about the high level of accidents at the main junction in High Street, Penge. Also potentially dangerous obstructions caused by the siting of bus stops close to road traffic islands which encouraged motorists to go 'offside'. It was noted these problems were the responsibility of TfL and not LBB. It was hoped that a meeting could be arranged with TfL.

5. Police Officer's Report

There was no report.

6. Road Safety Officer's Report

Road Safety Education Team

Child Car Seat Checks – Are to be carried out at Highfield Infant School tomorrow afternoon (16th March) Also at Sainsbury's West Wickham on 22nd March. This is where we offer to check children's seats to see if they are fitted correctly and suitable for the car.

School Crossing Patrol Service

The proposal is not to cease the service altogether, but to look at alternative ways of providing a service or new facilities to help unaccompanied primary school children cross safely, where needed near schools. This process will involve reviewing pedestrian movements outside of schools and then engaging schools over coming months, in order to agree appropriate measures. Consultation is ongoing and the proposed change to the service is not planned this year.

Locations for School Crossing Patrols are not selected on accident grounds, but on the basis of the nature of the traffic on a road, alongside the demand from children wishing to cross there. The Borough has an excellent road safety service, providing targeted road safety education in schools, alongside regular analysis of crashes occurring on the Borough's roads. Particular regard is given to roads near schools and there is a focus on the sites of serious accidents. Remedial action is taken at identified accident hotspots. This process has proved successful in that Bromley has seen a record low number of serious and fatal road casualties in each of the past few years. In any changes made to the Crossing Patrol service, safety will be considered of paramount importance.

7. Engineers' Report

FZ said that the LBB traffic engineering programme was currently under review. In the meantime work on existing projects already sanctioned was being completed. It was hoped more information would be available at the next meeting.

8. Chairman's Report in absentia

John Harvey had provided the Vice. Chairman with the following notes:

School Crossing Patrols

As part of the expenditure reductions, Bromley will be completely phasing out funding for school crossing patrols as from 2012. This has raised much concern with parents and schools and has been the subject of much discussion with the Borough and in the media.

It is understood that each crossing will be reviewed on a case by case basis and those with the most serious safety issues prioritised for special attention.

Physical measures, such as new zebra crossings, may be a possible solution at certain locations and these will be considered where appropriate.

However, schools and parents are currently being approached to find ways of providing or funding crossing patrols themselves, possibly with rotas of trained parents. It has been indicated that the Borough will provide any necessary training and equipment.

One benefit suggested for parent rotas is that continuity would be more assured in cases of absence, for example if at present a patrol person is off sick, then the service is not provided.

A further source of funding being investigated is commercial sponsorship, for example where a crossing is near to a supermarket or business premises and possibly with an advertising link "sponsored by".

Young drivers, speed and seat belts

A high proportion of serious road accidents continue to involve young drivers, particularly male, and in a large number of fatal and serious accidents seat belts have not been worn. Excess speed is also very often involved.

On several occasions we have as a Panel discussed possible measures which could be taken to address these problems and It is good to note that the Met and Road Safety team have increasingly been targeting excess speeds and drivers not wearing safety belts. Now more speed guns are available within the Borough, greater numbers of speed checks will be possible and we must encourage any measure which persuades drivers to belt up at all times and to modify their speeds.

One factor with seat belts is that some young men consider it "uncool" for them or their passengers to wear belts, implying that it questions their driving skills.

To support the Road Safety Team it may be helpful if Panel members could think over these problems, especially any innovative ideas to get the message over to

young drivers. At a later meeting we can then collate any new ideas and put them forward for consideration.

9. Matters raised by members

CC: expressed concern about the lack of response from Traffic Engineer's Dept. Information had been promised about progress on several road schemes and this was still awaited. The items were: Blakeney Road – amendments to parking layout; Kinghall Road – progress on installation of chicanes; Copers Cope Parking Zone – progress on installation of double yellow lines in Aldersmead Road.

Also on behalf of West Beckenham Residents: traffic congestion being caused by parking of three cars on east side of South Eden Park Road. Can there be no parking at all on the east side?

CS: requested report by next meeting on progress of the speed survey in Red Hill and road works in Elmstead Lane.

PL: at the last meeting it was reported that the phasing of red traffic lights at two junctions was causing problems. Had there been any progress in resolving this? In discussion it was noted that the issue was complicated by responsibility resting with TfL and not LBB.

BH: there were still problems at Roundways Shopping Centre caused by vehicles offloading. Could yellow lines be put in place on Nor Heads Lane at exit to roundabout to prevent this?

SR: residents in Park Hill Road were concern about the increase in commuter parking. There was a phasing problem with the traffic lights by Shortlands Station. It was noted that this was a matter for TfL and not LBB.

DR: asked whether it would be possible to move the 30mph sign further out of the village to improve safety, many residents would welcome this. It was thought there would be legal reasons affecting such a move. There was some controversy concerning the LBB CCTV car parking outside schools. It was suggested that someone from the team should be invited to the next meeting.

PA: reported (1) that the speed check on Sevenoaks Road at Orpington War Memorial was not working and (2) the combination of a bus stop sited near a road island in Orpington High Street was causing obstruction to traffic flow.

SP: expressed concern about the planned closure of the bridge in Chislehurst Road for eighteen months starting in October 2011. Traffic diversions will have significant effect on local residents. TfL are reviewing this with local councillors and it was proposed that James Cleverly should be contacted and involved in the discussions.

Other matters: in Sandy Lane goods lorries were unloading on yellow lines. Traffic lights by Grays Farm School were now being obscured by tree growth. Visibility of traffic signs needed to be improved by cleaning and replacement of painting. **SP** asked for information on LBB policy in this respect to be made freely available under the FOI Act and wished to formally lodge that request at the meeting. The Vice Chairman informed him that any request under the FOI Act should be made formally to the LBB Chief Executive.

KM: said it would be helpful if the pedestrian crossing in Oakley Road could be fitted with fluorescent strips to improve visibility. Also concerned about safety issues arising from activity of Dominos' Pizza promotional staff seen on the roundabout in Orpington High Street.

10 Matters for the attention of the Portfolio Holder

There were no matters to be referred.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17 May at 7.30

Meeting closed at 21.25.