

CDEDG Meeting

14th November 2018

Minutes

In Attendance

Carole Barron, University of Kent
Heather Cobb, University of Kent
Ruth Goudie, Canterbury City Council
Matthew Arnold, Stagecoach
Jon Butt, Fire Protection Online
Tom Mellish, HBCCT

Debra Green, Chives Catering
Tony Line, Kent Recruitment Bureau Ltd.
Sandra Heyworth, Canterbury Cathedral Lodge
Pat Mills, Clague Architects

1. Welcome (CB)

Introductions given from all

2. Apologies: Nick Churchill (CCC. Ruth Goudie attending in place); Peter Hawkes (Furley Page); Jo Rossi (Locate in Kent); Simon Chambers (New Leaf Tech Solutions); Jacqui Offen (JJ Systems Ltd); Kerry Moroney (Right Guard Security); Paul Gardiner (BSF Construction) Lisa Carlson (BID).

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minor changes needed:

- Names and companies did not line up in the top section (*HC has now amended*)
- Roundtable, MA Section: Bus painted silver on **outside**, not inside (*HC has now amended*)

4. Actions of the last meeting

- Presentation from Ruth happening at this meeting, so probably no need to arrange a further opportunity for this via MA.
- CB to check she has put LC in touch with Chamber regarding supply chain and tourism effect as a result of Brexit
- Locate In Kent Presentation tentatively booked for January meeting (*following a later conversation, this is now due to take place at the June 2019 meeting*)
- Tourism queries that were brought up with NC might be answered when Natalia from CCC attends a future meeting. These are now less pressing as SH has met with CCC regarding this recently

5. Local Transport Information/Update (RG)

Slides are attached along with these minutes.

RG gave a presentation regarding current and upcoming transportation projects which the City Council is involved in. An overview of this is noted below:

Slide 2 showed the 8 areas covered by team

- KCC has overall responsibility for transport in the district but CCC assists from a local strategy, parking and sustainable transport point of view

Slide 3 showed a map to demonstrate large highway schemes in pipeline (coloured in pink)

Slide 4 showed the hierarchy of transport modes to demonstrate what the transport strategy is based upon

Slide 5 pictures the Sturry relief road

- RG explained more about this:
 - The road will be partially funded by a LEP bid (£5.9mil currently given with a further £5mil [estimate] requested) and the remainder of the funding coming from housing developments in Sturry and Hersden
 - Link road has to serve the housing developments at Sturry, as well as its strategic need, so the road has to be of an appropriate design for this dual function.
 - Within a section 106 Agreement, which sets out the planning obligations of a development site-triggers are set which require funds or infrastructure improvements to come forward at the right time.
 - Delay in house building could put the LEP funding at risk
 - Until some of the housing is in place, the road is unable to be built, as the housing funds the infrastructure
 - The housing being built has to include a percentage of affordable housing
 - The target across the district is to build 800 houses a year

Slide 6 is Wincheap improvements

- RG explained:
 - Green is a slip road: which is new and to be funded from the Thanington Park development. This goes through the current Park and Ride site.
 - The P&R site will move round the back of B&M; Staples etc.
 - CCC funding and a development contribution will pay for these changes.
 - The rest of the map alterations (roads in grey and red sections) will be paid for by the Cockering Farm development: this will be improvements to The Boundary; new road construction on the former railway embankment, one way road system to utilise current roads and reconstruction of Simmonds Road.
 - There will also be an addition of 400 houses in local areas (Cockering Farm) and 750 houses at Thanington Park.
 - Timescale for this could be quick as the developer is keen to begin construction Additional funding for the traffic management scheme in Wincheap has been submitted to the LEP
 - The plan for railway bridge backed up traffic is as follows: the creation of a gyratory utilising Wincheap and Simmonds Road will mean that traffic flows more smoothly than at present with fewer interruptions from side roads. This will result in less queuing traffic backing up onto Wincheap roundabout.
 - The plan includes a contraflow bus lane city bound on Wincheap with the possibility of adding a city bound bus lane on Simmonds Road as part of the regeneration of the retail estate.
 - The bus lane would take the traffic away from the listed properties, as this is an air quality management area
 - Extra spaces will be added to the new park and ride car park when it is moved giving a total of 850 spaces with direct access off the A2.

Slide 7 showed the Howe Barracks development site including the link road from A257 to Chaucer Road. This development for 500 houses has planning consent, and the road is to be provided prior to the occupation of 250 houses.

- Sweechbridge Road development at Hillborough was mentioned and RG clarified that this is not in the immediate pipeline

Slide 8 presented Department for Transport website data showing the traffic growth 'flat-line' on the main roads into the City, for 2000 to 2016.

- Considering the growth of the universities and expansion to the Marlowe theatre etc. this does not seem to have affected the use of the roads, suggesting people are finding different ways to travel into the City
- Growth of bus travel has doubled, as has the use Canterbury West station, which would support the above statement and help account for this flat-line

Slide 9 showed recent improvements to the road surface on The Friars/Orange Street. RG explained

- Parking prices increased around 3 years ago to build funds on public realm schemes, including repaving schemes in the City
- The area in front of the Westgate Towers, and The Friars, Orange Street done already
- St Margaret's Street will be next using funding from the redevelopment of the hotel and it is hoped that it will be possible to pedestrianise.
- St George's Street will be done after the others above

Slide 10 shared and RG spoke about cycle routes

- Currently working on Riverside: extending along river to Vauxhall Ave, Vauxhall Road and eventually Herne Bay
- Crab & Winkle at Whitstable to be extended along railway embankment, that is happening this year
- Every housing developer has to install cycle routes to make their developments accessible. Some of the new ones are listed in grey on slide 10
- A "Green corridor" is being created from south of the city into the centre as part of the Mountfield Park development

Slide 11 showed all the current and future cycle routes: pink off road; blue on road; the dotted lines show future paths to be created (solid already exist)

Slide 12 was about public transport

- Ashford to CBW line improvements have been completed, which reduces travel time by 2 minutes (though this cannot be implemented quite yet due to timetabling)
- MA explained the quality bus partnership with Stagecoach
 - Stagecoach currently operating eco-friendly buses, which clean the air as they go. It was mentioned that this could be advertised better as most do not know about this
 - Stagecoach have seen 100% growth over the past 10 years and a 70-80% fleet increase & staff increase
 - Trigger points for developments are frustrating for Stagecoach (e.g. housing developments built at different times) as they make it challenging to work out journey routes through multiple new developments
 - The biggest obstacle to running buses is congestion: 5%-10% extra fleet are used on routes to combat this, which costs more per year, hence enthusiasm to encourage bus lanes and road improvements so that additional buses are not needed. This also makes the journey more attractive

Questions/Follow up conversation with MA

- There was a question as to whether there are bus apps. MA explained there are, including prices, routes, real time journeys and you can pay online or contactless on the bus
- **MA to talk at a future meeting at the Herne Bay depot bus station: give a tour and host a 'myth buster' session – This is now booked for 2nd April 2019**

- It was mentioned that the Deal to Canterbury journey is long and therefore unappealing – this area is lacking public transport (both bus and train)

Slide 13 (RG) listed some miscellaneous updates

- There are additional Park & Ride spaces in pipeline
- The Park & Pedal scheme had suffered some vandalism but this is now hopefully sorted. With this scheme, you park for free if you take the bike into the city.
- There are 28 Park & Pedal spaces and about 40 people have signed up, these are people who would have otherwise driven in to the city
- Subway improvements have been carried out at St Georges & Riding Gate are now underway at Wincheap, including tiled approaches; and the interior of the tunnel to be wrapped in vinyl with iconic images of Canterbury
- There are just a few months to go to finalise the automatic number plate recognition car park enforcement at most of the district car parks (excepting a few locations which are not suitable).
- A question regarding the disabled bays was raised, as these should be free but currently cost. RG was not sure Post meeting note: there is an online form on CCC website for disabled drivers to apply for 3 hours' free parking in ANPR car parks.
- Docked rental bikes (like Boris bikes) are being considered at the moment, and these are being worked on alongside Teresa Curtis at UoK
- SRW multi story enabling works started this week: the sewer needs moving out and into highway before the works can be started. It will be a 10 week project to move the sewer, then the car park will take about 9 months to build, starting Jan/Feb 2019
- The Community Infrastructure Levy, for development where there is no direct need infrastructure to be provided in mitigation was explained. An amount per square metre of a development will go into a council pot. CCC then work down a list of improvements to spend the money on. The amount to be charged to developers is yet to be decided and will differ per town (Canterbury, Whitstable, Herne Bay) and development type (commercial; housing etc.) Most district councils don't have transport in their remit (only parking, if at all) so Canterbury is unusual in this, but CCC kept it as it was important to the city.
- A question was raised regarding thoughts on scooters, rather than rental bikes. These are motorised, but smaller than bikes, with smaller docking stations. You can leave them at many docking stations, just like with the bikes. They are electric so charge at the stations, but are quite slow, so should not cause accidents. They have been trialled at the QE Olympic park, but not yet on public roads - Canterbury could adopt early and be a starter! RG will take this query back as it is unknown whether this could potentially be an option.

All passed on their thanks to RG for a useful presentation: both from a businesses and for personal point of view, as residents.

6. AOB – Roundtable (ALL)

Received after the meeting as written updates

Matthew Arnold, Stagecoach (Transport):

See Stagecoach Service Changes document attached alongside these minutes.

- We have been awarded a two year extension to our Park & Ride contract with the city council; as a result, the Park & Ride buses are being repainted. The first is already out, in plain white, awaiting application of vinyls.

- There is much talk of electric buses; we are actively looking at this in conjunction with CCC and KCC and have a scheme ready to submit for the national "Green Bus Fund" if a new funding round becomes available - this helps to bridge the c100% difference in cost between a conventional diesel and an equivalent electric bus. The biggest hurdle by far to overcome is the availability of a power supply to charge electric buses - this is not the same as charging an electric car.
- We are in discussion over the diversion of buses to serve the new Sainsbury's store at Altira Park, Herne Bay.
- **April 2nd 2019 meeting to be held at the Stagecoach Depot in Herne Bay – including guided tour**

Sandra Heyworth – Canterbury Cathedral Lodge (Tourism):

No specific updates, but in discussion with Lisa Carlson from the BID, please see below information:

Canterbury Connected BID partnered with Visit Canterbury to fund this new DMP for our city, and the consultation was overseen by Visit Kent. If you would like to find out more, the full DMP is available from our website. The highlights can be found in this leaflet from the BID website, available here: <https://www.canterburybid.co.uk/destination-management-plan-dmp/>

LC also wanted to share that there are photographs on the BID's Flickr account, which are also available for anyone to use.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/136663008@N08/albums>

Debra Green, Chives Catering (Hospitality)

We are getting significant corporate enquiries for 2019, but although we are getting wedding bookings number of guests are lower, I wonder if this is a sign of the digital age, all saying they don't have many friends, so mainly family whereas the trend has always been the other way around.

We have started to work with a college as guest lecturers with the hope of motivating young chefs to stay in the industry and stay local!

Christmas party bookings though are much lower with venues cancelling nights through lack of sales, is this companies cutting back or too many offers out there, I feel the former. We are trying to encourage groups of friends to book tables rather than companies but there hasn't been much of an uptake. So a slower December than anticipated!

Pat Mills, Clague Architects (Construction):

There was not much to update strategically since the last report, things tend not to move too quickly in planning and construction! From a personal level, Clague are still seeing healthy enquiries for new work but we are like most still wary of what direct Brexit might take and are looking forward to an agreement being reached as it is felt that Brexit is delaying investment and decisions to commence or move forward with sites, both strategically for larger house builders but also for smaller developers who do not wish to commit to new site purchases or construction starts until confidence in the shorter term housing market is known.

Brexit does impact upon our own view of the future, whereby previously we could view the current market quite positively and look to expand and invest, the potential for change in the very near future prevents us from developing those plans with any great motivation

Once a Brexit deal is reached (providing it is a reasonable one from a business perspective), it is expected that the markets could expand again quite quickly as those investors that are currently holding back look to press on and avoid further delay and damage to their businesses and that

industry need to be prepared for this potential up turn as well as the more widely distributed threat of a down turn.

Tom Mellish, HBCCT (Community):

The Herne Bay Coastal Community Trust, working with Canterbury City Council, have just received the ok from the DHCLG to apply for the second round of the Coastal Regeneration Fund. If agreed £124,000 grant will be part of £1m plus project. This will be a more detailed bid by the Trust for funding to create a business hub in Herne Bay located in the town library, supporting over twenty new local businesses or start-ups. This will be part of a major refurbishment of the library and surrounds as part of the on-going CCC Herne Bay Gateway project.

Carole Barron, University of Kent (Education):

The higher education sector is facing challenging times due to the downturn in the number of 18 year olds coming through the HE system. In addition universities are facing increased government expectations and regulation and the unknown impact of Brexit on student recruitment.

Kent has appointed the Director of the Kent & Medway Medical School, Professor Chris Holland. Professor Holland was awarded his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery from Queen's University Belfast in 1997 and went on to gain a Master's Degree in Medical Education from the University of Warwick. He is currently completing a Doctorate in Education at King's College London. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, the Faculty of Intensive Care and the Academy of Medical Educators. He is an elected member of the National Council of the Academy of Medical Educators and leads the Academy's Equality and Diversity Group.

The University submitted two applications to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership under the LGF3b call. One is to support the capital costs of the Kent & Medway Medical School; the second is to establish iceLab – an innovative and creative environment to support businesses in accessing and understanding the business impact of Artificial Intelligence.