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## HASTINGS AND ROTHER TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

15 AUGUST 2018

Councillor Ian Hollidge (In the Chair), Rother Council, Ian Sier, Hastings Transport Group, Andrew Keer, ESCC, Cllr Kim Forward (Until 11:00am), HBC, Katy Wiseman, HBC, Bev Marks, Rother Transport Rep

### 8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Chowney, Hastings Borough Council, Kerry Culbert, Hastings Borough Council, Rupert Clubb, ESCC, Tim Hickling, Rother Council.

### 9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 10. ESCC UPDATE

Andrew Keer, Transport Planning Manager, Strategic Economic Infrastructure, presented a summary of current projects at East Sussex County Council, and the current stance.

He stated that there was diminishing direct capital funding from central government allocated to transport schemes, which meant that there was a focus on developing pipeline projects so that the Authority is best placed to bid for new funding opportunities, (such as through the future Major Road Network funding). It was noted that there are often short timespans for bidding for these funding opportunities.

### 11. PIPELINE OF PROJECTS TO MATCH FUTURE FUNDING

Andrew Keer gave an update on the pipeline of projects to match future funding.

One such project was to make the Polegate Railway station more accessible. This would be beneficial, allowing more to travel to and from there by railway.

Furthermore, improvements to The Ridge in Hastings will be considered in the future. This was considered by the group to be beneficial, as the traffic on The Ridge has knock-on effects on traffic through to places in Rother such as Battle. However, the group noted that currently, The Ridge was not eligible for funding from the Major Road Network scheme (MRN), however Andrew Keer agreed to seek clarity from County Council.

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The group asked for an update on the Queensway Gateway, and what the effect of its opening will be with the traffic on The Ridge. Andrew Keer said that he would go to colleagues and provide a statement to the group on this.

Post-meeting update from Andrew Keer: ESCC have been reviewing traffic levels on The Ridge pre and post the opening of the Bexhill and Hastings Link Road and will continue to do so post opening of the Queensway Gateway Road (QGR). It is also important to note that the introduction of QGR will mean the closure of the junction of Junction Road and The Ridge (and will alleviate one of the key bottlenecks on the road) as well as restricting access from the A28 onto Maplehurst Road.

### **12. HASTINGS AND BEXHILL - WALKING CYCLING SELEP UPDATE**

Andrew Keer provided an update on the Hastings and Bexhill, Walking/Cycling/SELEP schemes and plans. It was stated that there had not been any significant change since the update provided at the last HARTAG meeting in Bexhill.

It is understood that there has been direct contact from the Hastings Greenway Group with SELEP in respect of the Hastings and Bexhill Movement and Access Programme (BHMAP) funding, but it is not yet known what SELEP's response was.

A question was raised by the group on whether there would be any new routes for cycling or walking in Hastings, or whether there would be funding for such a plan. It was stated that whilst there was no new dedicated funding, the £9 million funding for BHMAP was being used for sustainable transport schemes in Hastings and Bexhill.

It was confirmed that the proposed cycling route through Alexandra Park was approved to be developed to detailed design and construction by the Lead Member for Transport & Environment at ESCC earlier this year, and as recommended by Planning and Conservation at HBC, will avoid the café in the park, with a scheduled start in late Spring 2019.

It was stated that the Hastings western cycle design is nearing completion, with the next step being public and stakeholder consultation in Autumn.

The group discussed the importance of pedestrian crossings and their placement. An issue was raised in regards to the effect of new street-level crossings on those who were visually impaired. Concerns were that they were finding themselves confused, not being able to find the kerb on the other side of the street, which could be potentially very dangerous.

It was stated that a station to seafront cycle and walking route would be a good thing for Hastings. There were some concerns that some would be deterred from walking if there were shared spaces.

#### **12.1 England NMU fund & Major Road Network Update + Consultation Update**

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Andrew Keer reported that the MRA consultation is now complete, and we await the consultation outcome and final MRN proposals from DfT in Autumn. Potential funding for MRN will be available from early 2020 via National Road Fund.

### **13. BUS PRIORITY MEASURES A259 BEXHILL ROAD**

Andrew Keer updated the group on the Bus Priority Measures on the A259 Bexhill Road. It was stated that Phase 1 of the works were underway to and would be fully complete in next few weeks. A few concerns over confusion on the positioning of bus stops were raised, however, it was assured that the new positioning would cause no issue. Phase 2 (Glyne Gap end) is anticipated to be constructed in spring 2019, and Phase 3 (Filsham Rd end) in Autumn 2019.

### **14. HIGHWAYS ENGLAND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

The group discussed possible Highways England funding opportunities. One such opportunity was that of increasing economic connectivity via transport. We are awaiting the HE's Road Investment Strategy 2 which we expect in Summer 2019. The A27 and A21 (Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst; Flimwell to Hurst Green; and the southern section) improvements are being promoted by the County Council.

### **15. TRANSPORT FOR THE SOUTH EAST (**

The public consultation on the draft Transport Strategy is scheduled to take place in September 2019 when there will be the opportunity for HARTAG to formally comment on the draft.

### **16. HIGH SPEED RAIL**

Andrew Keer gave a brief update on the High Speed Rail scheme. The County Council is currently seeking an update from Network Rail on the latest position on the project and to seek confirmation of timescales.

### **17. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN - WEBSITE UPDATE**

Bev Marks, Rother Transport Group representative Battle Town Councillor presented a layout for the HARTAG website that would provide information on rail-road and roadside travel. Eventually, more subjects would be added, such as "active travel" which would include walking and cycling. As agreed by the group, both of these were

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considered important to HARTAG. Having this information would encourage people to look in to the work that HARTAG was doing.

It was agreed that Bev Marks and Councillor Ian Hollidge would look in to the possibilities for the website. Further to this, it was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, and would be posted to the HARTAG website.

## 18. RAIL ACTION GROUP UPDATE

An update was give to the HARTAG on the Rail Action Group. It was stated that there had been a meeting to be arranged, that there were many train cancellations after the timetable changes across the south-east as there were no drivers to run the trains.

There was some discussion on the possibility of four carriage trains, and that the marsh-link train timetables had been changed again. Furthermore, it was announced that there would be a new rail ticketing system. Bev Marks agreed to formulate a response on behalf of HARTAG to the consultation to this new ticketing system.

Ian Sier agreed to contact Southern Rail and South-Eastern rail on cooperating on timetables between Hastings and Bexhill, which were considered to be confusing for passengers and travellers.

## 19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## 20. INTELLIGENT CAR PARK SIGNAGE

The future of intelligent car park signage was discussed by the group, with possible car park signage in partnership with HBC on behalf of ESCC. There was a positive outlook on this type of signage, with it being synergised with new navigation systems in cars, as well as navigation devices.

It was said that it could help with the levels of parking congestion across both Hastings and Rother.

## 21. PROVISIONAL DATES FOR NEXT MEETING

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:50pm)