

**Notes of Chessington Industrial Estate Business Travel Working Group meeting,  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2008, 8-10am, UniChem canteen, Cox Lane,  
Chessington**

[www.kingston.gov.uk/ltpg](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/ltpg)

**Present:** Sammy Akbar (Anglo Accessories), Ellis Christian (Beck Interiors), Roger Bishop (Bishops Move), Kevin Crilly (CC Scaffolding), Dave Heffernan (Chubb Security), Jeremy Arliss (Clyde Energy Solutions), Gerry Manning (Fine Art Solutions), Colin Weeden (John Artis), Colin Gutsell (Lakey and Co), PS Gabriel Cameron (Metropolitan Police – Tolworth Safer Neighbourhoods Team), PC Joe Da Costa (Met Police), PCSO Swan (Met Police), Mike Pragnell (Mollart Engineering), Damian Price (Mott MacDonald), Karen Furminger (New England Seafood International), Jonny Grove (Oliver Bonas), Rose Herridge (Prochem Europe), Debbie Green (Rosenstiel's), Louisa Gent (Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Road Safety & Travel Awareness), Majeed Neki (RBK Road Safety & Travel Awareness), Paul Dearman (RBK Highways and Transportation), John Mumford (RBK Economic Regeneration / Business Support), Chris Traverso (Solar Century), Alan Fowler (Society of London Manufacturers, SOLOMAN), John Moore (Thales), Marie Nevin (UniChem)

Arrivals from 7.45am for informal networking.

**1. Introductions around the table**

**2. Breakfast!**

**3. Transport issues**

- a. Pool cycles – several businesses have raised the possibility of having a shared stock of cycles at train stations for short trips to and from the industrial estate, and attendees gave their views. RBK is talking to South West Trains regarding obtaining the necessary space at the stations. The need to administrate the scheme and ensure the security of the bikes was pointed out. Ideas included registering users' details and taking credit card imprints. There was some interest in possible use.

Damian mentioned an alternative idea whereby businesses purchase cycles collectively or individually, and loan them to employees.

- b. Bus improvements – RBK is in touch with Transport for London (TfL) on this issue after businesses raised concerns. General agreement that a TfL Buses representative should be invited to the next meeting.

- c. Roadworks – Rose noted the problems caused by roadworks in the area, particularly the recent works on Leatherhead Road which were due to an emergency gas main repair. Other businesses have raised similar concerns.

There are planned works at Chessington Garden Centre to widen the road to provide a right turn lane at the entrance. This is scheduled to be completed by 29<sup>th</sup> December. TfL does not expect any disruption at peak periods. There are also planned maintenance works in Leatherhead Road between Bridge Road and Merritt Gardens. The works should not disrupt peak hour traffic, as the carriageway resurfacing will be taking place only at night. Paul (RBK) noted that RBK is usually informed of planned works on the A243, but that TfL is the highway authority in this instance. RBK will try to provide businesses with regular updates.

- d. Liftshare scheme – RBK is currently negotiating with TfL and Liftshare as to how an area-wide scheme is funded. Effective promotion within businesses is key to success. Karen praised car sharing as a way to solve parking problems and noted that distribution of standard posters would be helpful. She intends to target known drivers first.
- e. Area-based map and signage – after support for the idea at the last meeting, RBK has produced a draft map for comments. (**Note:** there will be several days after the minutes are sent out for businesses to comment on all maps and plans. Copies will be made available for download at [www.kingston.gov.uk/ltpg](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/ltpg) .)
  - i. **Note:** The Liftshare scheme, area-based map, freight map, information on engineering schemes and any other useful information will be integrated into a Chessington Industrial Estate website for businesses and visitors to use. This is pending negotiations with Liftshare regarding setting up a branded website. Any suggestions for items to include on the website would be excellent.
  - ii. *Colin Gutsell asked about the possibility of integrating the freight map, or elements of it, with the walking and public transport leaflet. Majeed (RBK) replied that it might be worth identifying a few key features to include, but that the main way of cross-referencing the two publications would be through a panel on the general leaflet advertising the freight map.*
  - iii. Debbie raised the possibility of a map showing locations of companies to be made available online. This was felt to be an excellent and viable idea to be followed up when the website is developed. A list of companies by street would be a useful interim measure.
  - iv. *Colin Weeden asked about indicating walking times and the roundabout nature of some bus services – this is being looked into by RBK’s designer and any ideas on how best to indicate times would be useful.*
  - v. **Note:** the layout shown is in the form of a ‘Z-card’ fold-up map which can also be made available as a PDF file on the web. Views on the format as well as the content would be welcomed.
- f. Freight map version 2 – Paul introduced the second version and invited comments. The map would be made available on the website, but a run of paper copies would also be produced for distribution to suppliers. The aim is to make deliveries more efficient, help drivers and reduce intrusion of HGVs into residential areas. Comments

have been taken into account from the first draft, and the second draft is hopefully clearer to read and easier to use.

- i. Colin Gutsell noted that the M4 should be taken off the map as it was unhelpful. This was agreed.
- g. Cox Lane proposals – Paul distributed plans and described the proposals. The idea involves the relocation of the Hook bound K2 bus stop in order to make way for a pedestrian refuge (halfway crossing point) in Cox Lane near the Davis Road exit junction. The bus stop would be moved just west of Roebuck Road. Another similar refuge could be introduced in Cox Lane between Lion Park Avenue and Jubilee Way. There are also proposed improvements at the entrance to Davis Road to improve the situation for pedestrians. Access for all sizes of lorry will be maintained. All businesses in the area will be consulted formally as part of the design and approval process.
- i. John Moore mentioned that lorries parked close to the Davis Road entry junction cause visibility problems. It was noted that yellow lines were in place as appropriate and that it was difficult to do more.
  - ii. *The purpose of the kerb buildout in Davis Road was questioned, and it was restated that this is a road safety measure to slow vehicles entering Davis Road and make it easier for pedestrians to cross.*
  - iii. Chris queried whether the cycle lane on Cox Lane could be protected from cars. Paul noted that this would be desirable but is likely to be controversial because of the loss of parking. This could be a long-term aim. It was observed that the minimum width of a cycle lane is 1.2 metres, but that 1.5 metres is considered highly desirable.
  - iv. *Colin Gutsell raised the possibility of narrowing the pavements in order to create some of the necessary space, and better separating the cycle lane from the road with a small kerb. It was noted that the existing footways are not very wide, so this would be detrimental to pedestrians.*
  - v. Ellis asked about the ownership of the car park on the corner of Cox Lane and Jubilee Way. It was established that this was owned by RBK and is currently being leased by Northamber until 2011, but that it is rarely full.

**Actions: RBK to pursue a, b, d. All to comment as fully as possible on maps and plans.**

#### **4. Launch of 2008/9 Kingston Business Guide and Directory**

John Mumford (RBK) introduced the business guide, produced by RBK and the Kingston Chamber of Commerce. The directory aims to connect local businesses with each other in order to boost local procurement and sales, and comes on a CD-ROM with the optional facility to update the information from the internet. The guide also contains details on opportunities for businesses to network, apply for grants, become more sustainable and take advantage of business development advice and training.

Businesses not yet included in the directory were encouraged to register their details online to increase their exposure to local trade.

**Note:** For more information, to get a copy or to register, visit [www.kingston.gov.uk/business\\_directory](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/business_directory)

**Actions: Businesses to consider registering**

## 5. Discussion on crime and antisocial behaviour

Police Sgt Cameron introduced himself and his colleagues from Tolworth Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT), PC Da Costa and PCSO Swan. They are based at Surbiton Police Station.

The boundary of Tolworth and Hook Rise ward extends down Jubilee Way and along one side of Cox Lane, incorporating Davis Road, Oakcroft Road and Hook Rise South. The other side is within the Chessington North and Hook ward. Businesses were reassured that the two teams work closely together to coordinate shifts, patrol the entire industrial estate and respond to incidents.

The latest regular patrol made by the SNT is at midnight, with occasional patrols carried out in the early hours.

Sgt Cameron explained that the team was relatively new and had had some success in cutting crime by ensuring a visible police presence in the area and working with businesses and landowners (including John Artis) to secure premises.

Various businesses gave feedback on having been the victims of various crimes, mostly vandalism of windows with bricks or air rifles. This was generally agreed to have lessened in the last 18 months after the increased police presence came into play.

Businesses backing onto the railway line reiterated that they have had trouble with stone throwing from the railway itself, usually on Sunday nights or Bank Holidays when trains were less frequent or cancelled. The matter has been referred between the local police and the British Transport Police, without being resolved, when inquiries were made. Again, this has lessened over recent months, particularly following a visit from the police helicopter in February.

Sgt Cameron responded that if incidents resume, the SNT should be contacted and given as much information as possible. They can then liaise with response teams to deploy specific patrols. The SNT would also be happy to communicate with the Transport Police on behalf of businesses if railway-based crime resumes.

Other problems raised by businesses included sellers of pirate DVDs entering workplaces, and gypsies coming to premises to ask for scrap metal and behaving intimidatingly.

The SNT distributed business cards with contact details and encouraged businesses to keep in touch and keep them informed of any problems or suspicions.

020 8721 2045

07843 291 125

[Tolworth.HookRise.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:Tolworth.HookRise.snt@met.police.uk)

**Actions: RBK to keep SNTs informed of future meetings and ongoing actions. All to keep in touch with SNT where appropriate.**

## **6. Waste issues and potential for collaboration**

Businesses reiterated issues with waste, including the expense of recycling, the difficulty of finding contractors, fly tipping and rats. (On the positive side – Marie noted that UniChem is paid for baled cardboard and plastic, which is collected from their site, and Colin Weeden has just purchased a baler for John Artis with a substantial grant from Go Green – details at [www.southlondon.biz/greening/greeningbusiness.htm](http://www.southlondon.biz/greening/greeningbusiness.htm) or contact Sunny on [sunny@southlondon.biz](mailto:sunny@southlondon.biz) ).

Majeed introduced Positive Environment Kingston (PEK), a new project run in partnership between RBK and Kingston University to help businesses improve their sustainability. Businesses agreed that this support would be helpful in researching better ways to deal with waste individually and collectively.

**Actions: RBK to pursue. Majeed to chase relevant queries (e.g. who deals with rats)**

## **7. Other business and next meeting**

Majeed mentioned the Council's new Energy Strategy for the whole borough. RBK is very keen to develop this plan for energy reduction in partnership with businesses and to hear about the support that businesses need to monitor and reduce energy consumption. Businesses should contact Shadia Rahman on 020 8547 5763 or [shadia.rahman@rbk.kingston.gov.uk](mailto:shadia.rahman@rbk.kingston.gov.uk) .

On the two-monthly schedule suggested by businesses at the first meeting (though the second meeting was delayed until after summer to ensure a good attendance), the next meeting should take place in late November / early December 2008. Suggestions for dates, times and venues are needed.

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