HUNGERFORDTOWNCOUNCIL

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Draft MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport** Committee meeting held on Monday 28th September 2026 at 7.00 pm in the Library, Church Street, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Fyfe, Hudson, Cole, Armstrong, Keates & Terry.
Also in attendance: Deputy Town Clerk (DTC), Stuart Gourley (West Berks Executive Member for Highways), Gareth Dowding and Andy Alty from West Berkshire Council (WBC) Highways Department and four members of the public.

The Chair welcomed all those present at the meeting and thanked the representatives from WBC Highways Department and members of the public for attending.

HT20260051. Apologies for absence - Cllrs Reeves, Day, Hall, Carlson & Mulholland

HT20260052. Declarations of interest - none

HT20260053. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27th July 2026

Proposed: Cllr Keates
Seconded: Cllr Edington
Resolution: Minutes agreed as a true representation of the meeting held on 27th July 2026. AIF

HT20260054. Update on actions from previous meetings

ACTION 1: Cllr Keates wrote to Kofi at West Berkshire Council (WBC) regarding Station Road Car Park. He confirmed that a team is currently on site cutting back foliage and that three CCTV cameras had been installed at the recycling centre. The remaining works, including painting the streetlamps and railings and repairing the walls, would be undertaken once the foliage had been cleared. Stuart Gourley confirmed that the works were expected to be completed by the end of the week and asked HTC to notify him if this was not the case.

ACTION 2: Cllr Keates contacted WBC, who confirmed that Volker was no longer the roads contractor. There was currently a pause in activity while the transition to the new contractor was completed. Volker remained responsible for lampposts and would undertake the outstanding work on those at Marsh Lane.

ACTION 3: CCTV – SMART had been appointed, and the new link has been installed.

ACTION 4: Jadecliff had been appointed as the supplier of the Christmas trees. HTC to measure the trees on delivery to ensure they are the correct size.

ACTION 5: OUTSTANDING ACTION: The lack of transport from Lambourn to Hungerford and its impact on JOG School would be added to the next H&T agenda, as no District Councillors had been present to discuss the concerns raised by the Headteacher.

ACTION 6: Lack of waste bins for canal users – Cllr Keates confirmed that he had spoken to Saxon Industries, but they were unwilling to take any action. He had subsequently contacted the Canal & River Trust, highlighting that waste bins were provided at Kintbury and Bedwyn but not at Hungerford, despite Hungerford being a larger location. Rubbish was being deposited at the Hungerford recycling centre, which will be dealt with by WBC. The installation of CCTV would also help identify potential fly-tippers.

The Canal & River Trust had also removed the reference to 'Rubbish Tip' at the recycling centre from its website in relation to Hungerford.

Cllr Keates confirmed that glass recycling was not available at the recycling centre, as WBC provides a kerbside collection service. Kofi will investigate how this issue could be resolved for canal users. WBC had contacted the Canal & River Trust, requesting that waste bins be provided for canal users at St Lawrence's and near Tesco. Cllr Keates confirmed that photographic evidence of the issues would be helpful in enabling Kofi to take further action.

ACTION 7: The Town Hall has been booked for HTC's Christmas Lights Switch-On on 29 November 2026 and 20 November 2027. It was noted that holding the event a week earlier and, on a Saturday, would provide increased opportunities for local businesses to benefit from additional footfall and sales.

OUTSTANDING ACTION: **Winter Service Plan** - The Clerk to confirm whether bus routes would be gritted, with particular reference to Church Way.

Tractors speeding along the High Street had been reported to the police.

Issues relating to slam reports were discussed. It was confirmed that these were civil matters rather than police matters. Stuart (WBC) advised that photographic evidence should be included when submitting reports via WBC's 'Report a Problem' page to help ensure that issues were addressed. It was also confirmed that the Enforcement Officer for Tilehurst covered Hungerford and would target identified hotspots.

Parking in disabled bays by non-disabled drivers was discussed. It was noted that incidents needed to be reported to the police while they were taking place, rather than after vehicles had been parked. Live footage from dashcams would be useful in providing evidence to support prosecutions.

Atherton Hill: Stuart confirmed that the double yellow lines were due to be extended. Some work had already been completed, but further work was required. Councillors expressed their appreciation for the installation of yellow lines along Charnham Park.

Cllr Keates confirmed that he undertook a monthly inspection of the paths and foliage between the Bear Hotel and Salisbury Road to identify any maintenance issues and determine what action was required.

Proposed: Cllr Keates
Seconded: Cllr Edington
Resolution: Actions agreed as a true representation of the meeting held on 27th July 2026. AIF

HT20260055. Outcome of speed limit survey – refer to report

A detailed report summarising the online survey from the public about 20 mph options was produced by Cllr Hudson. Cllr Keates read out the key points from Cllr Reeves' email regarding the speeding survey as he was unable to attend Cllr Hudson thanked Cllr Keates for the comments from Cllr Reeves, whilst confirming he considered there was evidence that supported having a 20 mph speed limit. Cllr Hudson summarised the surveys:

Overall support: Of 404 respondents (approximately 7% of Hungerford's population), 75% supported introducing a 20mph speed limit in Hungerford.

Specific areas: Of the 404 responses relating to individual locations, support varied:

- Outside the Primary School - 80%
- Outside John O'Gaunt Secondary School - 79%
- High Street and Bridge Street - 65%
- Croft - 64%
- Church Street and part of Smitham Bridge Road - 45%
- Residential areas, including Priory Road and Fairview Road - 43%
- Extension along Salisbury Road to approximately Priory Road - 30%

Overall finding: Support was highest near the schools and lowest for extending the limit along Salisbury Road. There was strong support from residents who lived in the areas, such as the Croft, High Street and Church Street.

There was discussion about the survey results.

20mph proposals:

ACTION 1:
Proposed: Cllr Hudson
Seconded: Cllr Keates

Resolution: Propose HTC presses forward to obtaining a 20 mph speed limit by the primary school and secondary school.

Traffic surveys: Councillors requested from WBC evidence of speeding, including surveys outside normal hours. WBC confirmed that surveys would take place in the next financial year, from April 2027. WBC would use radar, vehicle sat-nav data and video evidence to assess traffic speeds.

Traffic-calming measures on Salisbury Rd between Priory Rd and Atherton Rd: Cllr Keates suggested SID at the Salisbury Road entrance to the town which HTC are planning to introduce, while highlighting the potential benefits of additional traffic calming. Cllr Hudson to progress and discuss with Steve Westif WBC.

Cllr Hudson referred to the note produced with proposals to slow traffic. He had suggested that the Pelican crossing is replaced with a Zebra crossing to reduce delays to drivers. However, WBC officers were not in agreement with this approach. They were also not keen on having speed cushions, mainly due to the noise it can make to local residents. Cllr mentioned that a solid while line along the kerb edge could be affective and low cost. WBC officers suggested that this would be considered.

Speed enforcement: WBC discussed the approach taken in Theale, where speeds would be monitored before, during and after traffic-calming measures. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) could be added if speeds did not fall.

Safety on the Common: Cllr Fyfe raised concerns about speeding vehicles and cattle on the Common, particularly in darkness, and requested a 7–14-day radar survey.

ACTION 2: WBC will undertake traffic surveys, with the results intended to inform a detailed plan covering the areas of concern. (next financial Year)
ACTION 3: WBC to review ways to slow traffic on Salisbury Rd between Priory Rd and Atherton Rd. (Next financial year)

HT20260056. Receive feedback from Stuart Gourley, West Berks Council on suggested scheme for improvement of safety in the high street – refer to report

High St / Park St Junction

Cllr Keates raised concerns about large HGVs, particularly Home Bargains delivery lorries travelling to and from Saxon Industries, negotiating the roundabout at The Plume/Park Street. Several incidents have occurred, including one where a lorry narrowly avoided crashing into The Plume pub. A temporary traffic order restricting left turns was suggested to improve safety.

Councillors discussed relocating the roundabout, although its effectiveness remains uncertain. WBC agreed to add the junction to its list for further consideration. It also noted that rising fuel costs were making the use of larger delivery vehicles more economically viable for distributors.

Oxford St Parking
Cllr Keates asked if there were any more questions and Julie Lloyd mentioned Oxford Street. As Chair of the Laurels Residents' Association, Julie Lloyd proposed resident parking permits on one side of the road and double yellow lines on the other. WBC suggested conducting a survey to assess the situation

Residents of The Laurels raised concerns about parking on Oxford Street, highlighting difficulties for emergency service vehicles, particularly fire engines, and waste collection lorries accessing the street. Pavement parking and increasingly larger vehicles have also forced pedestrians to walk in the road, raising safety concerns.

WBC representatives noted from the photographs they were shown that some vehicles appeared to be parked illegally and advised residents to report pavement obstructions to the police, as these could result in parking fines. However, residents questioned where they were expected to park if restrictions were introduced.

A one-way system was also discussed, but councillors expressed concerns that it could encourage speeding

ACTION 4: WBC to review options with the parking restriction team and seek to identify how to protect these sensitive areas.

Cllr Keates thanks the representatives from The Laurels and Oxford St for their input and patience in this matter. They left the meeting at 8.15pm.

HT20260057. Update on improvements at Station Road Car Park

Discussed under HT2026004 - update of minutes and actions

HT20260058. Consider request for parking permits at Priory Avenue – refer to email

Complaint from one resident regarding no residents parking along Priory Avenue rather than paying for the station car park, causing significant impact on residents especially those with young children, elderly etc. Request made for residents parking to be implemented to help reduce issues caused. Cllrs have reviewed the situation and concluded through their observations that this is probably not caused by people parking to avoid car park charges at the station due to the location being a fair distance from the station. They felt if they were trying to avoid charges they would just park in Fairview Road, Bulpit Lane car park amongst other areas, concluding that more evidence was needed before they could support parking permits at Priory Avenue.
ACTION 5: HTC Office to thank residents for their email requesting parking permits and Cllr Hudson will provide the wording.

HT20260059. Update on EV Charger new locations – refer to report

Cllr Keates confirmed he would have appreciated a consultation period prior to EV charger locations being agreed. WBC confirmed that Dist. Cllr Gaines, Kofi and Andy Alty both of WBC alongside HTC Town Clerk, Cllr

Mulholland & John Downe of HEAT, had been part of the conversations and had been supportive of the locations chosen.

- Concerns were raised about underused EV chargers in Hungerford; parking being occupied by non-EV vehicles and the lack of a coherent plan for charger locations.
- WBC acknowledged that some locations were not ideal, but site selection was constrained by lighting columns, earthing requirements and power availability.
- The three proposed High Street sites beneath the railway bridge are proceeding and cannot now be changed or converted to dedicated parking bays.
- WBC will monitor usage for at least a year before considering dedicated EV parking bays. Initially, it would consider providing bays for approximately half the number of chargers, subject to consultation. The final decision will rest with WBC.
- WBC plans to trial Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for dedicated EV parking in autumn 2026. Andy Alty will provide the Clerk with details of the proposed locations in Hungerford.
- The remaining EV chargers form part of a four-year installation programme, which WBC hopes to complete within three years.
- The meeting discussed household charging arrangements, including cross-kerb licences, the midnight start of the economical tariff and insurance implications of sharing chargers with neighbours. Overnight dedicated parking for residents may be considered on a site-by-site basis.
- Cllrs flet HTC should take a more active role in responding to EV charging proposals, working alongside HEAT and its specialist advisers.
- HTC received notification on 18 August 2026 of the planned installation of two EV chargers (four sockets) in Priory Avenue, with work scheduled for September to October 2026 under the LEVI programme.
- It was noted that payments would be made via an app, which also allows users to identify available chargers. The use of appropriate signage to highlight EV charging locations was discussed.
- WBC advised that it was reviewing the relevant legislation and the financial viability of EV charging and parking arrangements.

ACTION 6: Andy Alty to investigate suitable EV parking signage, noting that only approved signs can be used.

Cllr Keates asked resident Mr Doyle if he would like to talk about the 3 concerns he has raised:

1. Aldi development – concerns raised regarding the whether a crossing would be put in place. Cllr Fyfe was able to reassure him that Aldi had resubmitted a design to include a crossing on A4 (where the island is)
2. Roundabout at the junction of the Bear Hotel and Bridge st is very faded. WBC confirmed action will be taken when they can.
3. Mini BMW garage and inappropriate parking of their display vehicles & customer parking on the A4 which is causing a narrowing of the road and causing issues for Bearwater residents (he had been told that they were occasionally parking there as well as potentially causing obstructions once the Aldi development commences.

ACTION 7: Cllr Keates agreed to talk to the Manager of Mini BMW regarding the matter.

It was noted that it is not illegal for them to park on the A4 and should not as alleged use Bearwater property.
To unload cars, they could use the small lorry parking area opposite Herongate Leisure.

Cllr Keates thanked Mr Doyle for highlighting the concerns in the first instance and noted the positive outcome of the painting of the lines at Tesco's and Charnham Park that Mr Doyle had raised as issues.

HT20260060. Discuss option for an additional CCTV camera south facing in Salisbury Road

Dist. Cllr Gaines was not present to provide an update.

ACTION 7: Item to be put onto Full Council's Agenda with costings to be provided.

HT20260061. Consider requirement for a cycle parking facility at st Lawrence church

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe
Seconded: Cllr Keates
Resolution: HTC agreed in principle to the provision of bicycle parking at St Lawrence's Church, subject to St Lawrence's submitting a proposal, including designs and a location map, for HTC for final approval

HT20260062. Consider installing disabled parking space outside 89 High Street

Cllr Keates explained that, following a recent accident in the High Street involving a local resident, she has asked for support to complete an application for a disabled parking bay near to her home. The resident has difficulty walking and frequently experiences difficulties finding parking near her property. As she does not meet the criteria for a personal disabled parking bay, she would welcome a general disabled parking bay in the area.

WBC confirmed that the location is within a controlled parking zone and that HTC could support the resident in submitting an application. However, it was noted that the application process could take several months. WBC advised that the resident submit an application for a disabled parking bay using her Blue Badge number. If approved, the bay would be available for use by all Blue Badge holders.

ACTION 9: Cllr Keates confirmed that HTC office would support the resident to submit an application form and confirmed he will speak to the resident.

HT20260063. Hungerford Rail Station – Suggested use of land north of platform for parking

The land is north of the platform and is confirmed as being Network Rail's land. In order to improve the use of the land, the old buildings would need to be demolished which could create an additional 30 car parking spaces.

Cllr Armstrong suggested developing the area further and having a waiting area and van selling coffee.

Cllrs discussed this option but concluded it would not be applicable at this time, and they did not think Network Rail would support it and felt additional parking was a preferred option. The idea of a waiting area and coffee van could be reviewed at a later stage.

Cllrs discussed the possibility that the network could be nationalised and they were keen to increase investment to improve and encourage public use of the railway, this would be helped by additional parking and subsequent increase in revenue.

Cllr Keates suggested that Network Rail should carry out a survey on who currently uses the station and car park e.g. is it people coming from Swindon and other outlying areas due to cheaper parking and accessibility.

ACTION 9: HTC to request GWR carries out a feasibility study to see if additional parking would be viable.
HTC to obtain land owners permission due to the access road not being adopted although it was noted that the owner of the development at the canal has committed to bringing the road up to an adoptable standard and their cost.

HT20260064. Any other H&S issues of concern including but not limited to:

- **Hedge at Church Way – update –** the hedge has been surveyed and is on the list for action. The challenge for WBC is that due to the war in Iran, the increase in petrol prices on bitumen , has caused their costs to have doubled. This is impacting the amount of work that can be carried out. MP Lee Dillon will open it when it has been completed. In the meanwhile, given that it is a bus route, if the situation deteriorates, report it.

- **Oxford St, Eddington – Parking blocking access for emergency vehicles and deliveries –** residents attended to raise the issue of parking in Oxford Street; of how this was causing barriers for emergency vehicles a
- **Lack of waste bins for canal users –** Discussed under HT2026004 - update of minutes and actions

- **Damage to lamppost and street furniture from vehicle accidents –** has been reported and are on the list for action once the new contractor is in place. The damage to the wall has also been reported and HTC has been told to contact Mick Dale in his colleague's absence, and the issue could be compounded if parts of the wall / pillar are pushed.

ACTION 10: Cllr Keates to report damages to Mick Dale

- **The Plume –** Highways confirmed that a licence was issued for the street furniture to be used outside the pub but not for people to stand whilst drinking, only seated, as this is causing a barrier to vehicles and pedestrians' line of sight.

ACTION 11: Andy Alty to check the visibility of the seating and will liaise with The Plume. If the issue continues then the licence may be revoked. Highways confirmed they are writing to all establishments in the High Street re licensing.

The Chair thanked all those in attendance for their contribution and for attending.

Meeting closed at 21.07pm