

**Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
Board Meeting – 22 April 2020**

The following public questions for the EDC Board and the responses can also be found on the Corporation's website at www.ebbsfleetdc.org.uk

Question 1

It appears that Highways England, without awaiting the Secretary of State's decision and publication of the Inspectors Report, have decided to start "Environmental" and "Enabling Works" on the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet – junction improvements on Monday 20 April 2020. What contact has EDC had with DfT or HE about this?

Response

The EDC has had no contact with the Department for Transport regarding this scheme. Highways England informed the EDC by letter on 9 April that they are intending to start enabling works on 20 April 2020.

Question 2

Will the Board consider improving the way it deals with questions, guided by the daily Government briefings where questions are put, answers given, and questioners given the opportunity to immediately 'come-back'?

Response

The Board has previously reviewed how we respond to questions from the public and put in place the current system to address previous, less effective procedures. We welcome any questions and always provide a response to each one, and remain of the view that the current procedure provides the right balance between openness and transparency, on the one hand, and also efficiency and effectiveness.

Question 3

Can you provide an update on the Bean Triangle Environmental Improvement Strategy? Action on several 'unapproved' activities is slow?

Response

The Business Case for the highway infrastructure elements for the Bean Triangle was approved by the EDC Board in December 2019. £1.213m was approved to improve the overall street scape for all users especially non-motorised users on Watling Street. This will be delivered in liaison with Highways England and Kent County Council, following the Secretary of State decision on the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet Junction.

We are continuing to liaise with the primary landowner at Bean Triangle with regards to the remaining unauthorised activities. Planning enforcement cases typically do take some time to resolve and we hope to make progress in the coming months.

Question 4

The EDC online Register of Interests is shown as updated to 31-March-2020. Can you clarify the entries for CEO/Board Member that says “*Director, EP (LP) Ltd*”? If EP is an abbreviation for English Partnerships, didn’t the duties of EP pass to HCA on 1-Dec-2008 and EP wound up on 31-Mar-2009?

Response

EP (LP) Ltd does relate to English Partnerships (LP) Ltd. Ian Piper served as a director on the board of English Partnerships (LP) Ltd as part of wider duties relating to his senior management role within the Homes and Communities Agency. The Homes and Communities Agency now operates under the name and branding of Homes England.

English Partnerships (LP) Ltd is an active company and is wholly owned and operated by Homes England. Details of English Partnerships (LP) Ltd can be found on Companies House under the company number 04256161.

Ian Piper agreed to continue acting as a director of English Partnerships (LP) Ltd until Homes England identified and appointed a replacement director. On 10 March 2020 Homes England appointed a replacement director and accepted Ian Piper’s resignation as a director of English Partnerships (LP) Ltd. The EDC’s Register of Interests has now been updated to reflect this recent change to Ian’s interests.

Question 5

The Planning Committee did not meet in Public in March and does not seem to intend to meet in April 2020. What new procedures are in place; for example, Delegated Powers, Teleconferences and Examination in Public?

Response

The changes which have been made to the operation of the Planning Committee are outlined in the Planning and Housing Delivery Board Part I paper this month (published online at the EDC’s website). We will be holding a virtual Planning Committee in April. There have been no changes to delegated powers. No Examinations in Public are planned. Planning pre-application discussions and meetings of the Design Forum are taking place remotely.

Question 6

When is the design submission for the Hedge Place/Bluewater roundabout expected? It is missing from Alkerden and Ashmere applications.

Response

Indicative plans have been provided and discussions have been undertaken with Kent Highways and the landowner. Plans are being updated at the moment in anticipation of a submission within the next few weeks. No commencement of any housing will be permitted in Ashmere until these details have been formally agreed.

Question 7

The Jan-20 Transparency Data had a payment of £7,100,000 to Highways England for “A2 Road Junctions project”. Was this to get closer to EDC budget or was it to support HE A2BE “Environmental” and “Enabling Works”?

Response

The payment to Highways England for the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet Junction is in line with the legal agreement with Highways England.