

Councillor Matthew Balfour
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1 XQ

Dear Councillor Balfour

RE: Tunbridge Wells Joint Transportation Board

Following receipt of your letter dated 04 October 2016, concerning the proposed pedestrian crossing at Major York's Road in Tunbridge Wells, this was duly circulated to the JTB for consideration at the Board meeting held on 17 October 2016.

Following a discussion about your response, I was mandated to say that the Board were not satisfied that your reply fully addressed the issues. The essence of their concern is as follows:

1. How can a project for which the funding has been agreed and the approval for implementation granted in an agreed time scale, suddenly have the funding withdrawn without any consultation or proper explanation? The previous KCC officer who was handling this project at no time mentioned that the approval was provisional, pending further consideration. It was only when his replacement attended that we became aware of the change of mind and he was unable to explain how this had come about. Did the change of personnel have any bearing on the matter?
2. Clearly, it is accepted that funding is tight and not every scheme can be approved given the competing requirements for scarce resources, but it is the manner in which this scheme was approved and then approval rescinded that Board members find difficult to accept. Consequently, we would like a full explanation of the exact sequence of events that led to this change of heart so that we can properly understand what has happened.

I am sorry to have raise this issue once more and I am sure that you would rather I hadn't. However, it is a matter of concern and the Board is anxious to seek at the very least a proper explanation and preferably a satisfactory resolution.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Peter Bulman
Chairman
Tunbridge Wells Joint Transportation Board