

## MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006  
At Quay Arts Centre, Newport

**PRESENT:** Steve Porter – Chairman  
Kevin Bolan – Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust  
David Bottom – Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce  
Ashley Curzon – Isle of Wight Council  
Tony Kelly – Isle of Wight Older Voices  
Laurence Keynes – Isle of Wight Council  
Rachel Mills – Isle of Wight Council  
Marc Morgan Huws – Southern Vectis  
Andy Naylor – Island Line  
Clive Page – Isle of Wight Older Voices  
Graham Pearce – Federation of Small Business  
Janice Rounsevell – Isle of Wight Taxi Proprietors Association  
Malcolm Smith – Isle of Wight Council  
Don Vincent – Isle of Wight Bus Users Group  
Steve Wade – Island Line  
Hugh Walding – Isle of Wight Friends of the Earth  
Chris Wells – Isle of Wight Council  
Charlotte Westwood – Isle of Wight Council

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Brown – Isle of Wight Council  
Trish Collins – British Horse Society  
Kevin Hatt – Red Funnel  
Sue Marshall – Isle of Wight Council  
Andy Morris – Isle of Wight Council  
Ian Schaff – Isle of Wight Council  
Ron Wallis – Isle of Wight Motorcycle Training Scheme  
Cllr Ward – Isle of Wight Council  
Brenda Wilkins – Isle of Wight Group of Advanced Motorists

### 2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2005)**

The minutes from the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 were agreed.

Laurence Keynes (LK) was able to inform the group that the free bus fare scheme for people over the age of 60 and the disabled had been extended to also cover Island train travel. LK also confirmed that Wight Wheels had received the much needed support and would be re-launched in the near future.

Chris Wells (CW) thanked the group for their contributions to the Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2) which was submitted in March 2006. Copies of the plan were available on the internet and on a CD from Engineering Services. Hard copies of the plan would be circulated in the near future.

### 3. **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE**

Steve Porter (SP) marked the death of David Woracker, Transport 2000 representative. Dave would be greatly missed, particularly for his ability to interpret statistics and his unique character. SP also said a sad farewell to Steve Wade (SW) who, with his family, would be emigrating to New Zealand. SP thanked SW for his support and contribution to both the QTP and CRP and welcomed Andy Naylor who would be replacing SW. SP also wished Rachel Mills (RM) and her husband all the best for the forthcoming birth of their daughter.

LK informed the group that in March 2006 the Department for Transport announced that Island Line would be designated as a Community Rail Line. SW explained that this meant that certain aspects of the line could be maintained to a lower standard. The new designation would also allow the local management to rise or lower ticket prices and introduce special officers.

### 4. **SOUTHERN VECTIS, NEW NETWORK**

Marc Morgan Huws (MMH) gave a presentation on the new network being operated by Southern Vectis (copies can be obtained from the QTP Secretary).

SP thanked MMH for his presentation and stated that he felt that Southern Vectis should be applauded for their efforts in creating a real alternative to the private car. MMH said that he felt that bus and train travel should compliment one another, as buses can not compete with the speed of the railway or the pier head journey. He also informed the group that he hoped to remarket the Roverticket with an optional rail add-on.

Clive Page (CP) expressed himself to be disappointed that the Southern Vectis timetable no longer included information from other providers. It was also suggested that it might be useful for passengers, if routes where wheelchair accessible buses were in operation were marked on the timetable. MMH explained that all buses must be wheelchair accessible by 2017, and at present when replacing vehicles low floor buses are purchased, but that raised kerbs assist with all vehicles.

#### 5. **PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) FOR HIGHWAYS**

Malcolm Smith (MS) gave a presentation on the proposed PFI for Highways (handouts were circulated at the meeting however additional copies can be obtained from the QTP Secretary).

MS explained that the funds generated through the LTP process were split into two streams, one which was for maintenance and the other for integrated transport. The maintenance stream of funding would be directed into the PFI however, the integrated transport fund would remain with Engineering Service. Some concerns were raised regarding the process and in particular the future borrowing and repayments required.

Recognised as the only funding solution MS informed the group that the PFI scheme had received strong political support and that great care was being taken to ensure that the right contract was secured for the Island. Once the contract was awarded the contractor would only be paid if their work reached the required standards and meet certain targets, such as skid resistance.

#### 6. **ISLAND'S COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

CW introduced the Community Strategy and explained that he would have liked to have seen references made to LTP2 within the strategy. It was felt that a stronger emphasis should be given to transport throughout the document and particularly in the Thriving Island section. David Bottom (DB) supported CW comments and added that transport was a fundamental part for the economic well being of the Island. It was felt that the strategy read very much like a Council document and should have its own identity and not be 'badged' as a Council plan.

#### 7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Don Vincent (DV) informed the group that he was saddened by the loss of the traditional Southern Vectis timetable which incorporated the timetables of all public transport operators too and on the Island. He suggested that the formation of a sub-group to discuss a means of resolving the loss of the all inclusive publication.

**Post Meeting Note:** Questionnaire circulated by QTP Secretary, to all members to seek support for formulation of topic based sub groups.

Janice Rounsevell (JR) informed the group that she felt that four weeks, including Easter, was an insufficient amount of time for consultation on the new Hackney Carriages regulations. SP informed the group that he would be grateful if a member could volunteer to complete a questionnaire on the new Hackney Carriages regulations on behalf of the QTP

**Action:** Tony Kelly to complete questionnaire on the new Hackney Carriages regulations.

As a means of ensuring that the QTP remains a strategic group it was felt that members with personal concerns or minor issues should contact the QTP Secretary directly.

#### 8. **DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at 14:00 in the Seminar Room, Quay Arts Centre.