

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on Thursday 1st November 2007 at Quay Arts Centre, Newport

PRESENT:

Steve Porter – (Chairman)
Roger Barnard – Isle of Wight Older Voices
Kevin Bolan – Primary Care Trust
Ashley Curzon – Isle of Wight Council
Scott Headey – Isle of Wight Council
Bobby Lock – Community Rail Partnership
Marc Morgan Huws – Southern Vectis
Andy Morris – Isle of Wight Council
Margaret Steggles – Cycle Wight
John Steggles – Cycle Wight

Ian Schaff – Isle of Wight Council
Peter Taylor – Isle of Wight Council
Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
Ron Wallis – IoW Motorcycle Club Training
Chris Wells - Isle of Wight Council
Charlotte Westwood – Isle of Wight Council
Brenda Wilkins – IW Group of Advanced Motorists

1. APOLOGIES

Adrian Ash – Isle of Wight Council
Gillian Barnett – Isle of Wight Tourism
David Blake – Federation of Small Business
Patricia Collins – British Horse Society
Loretta Lale – Hovertravel Ltd
Valerie Lawson – Cycle Wight

Cllr Hunter-Henderson – Isle of Wight Council
Wendy Perera – Isle of Wight Council
Andy Naylor – Island Line
Steve Sansom – P.D. Port Services

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the 5th July 2007 were agreed.

Item 8, concerns that Southern Vectis were planning to operate the Road Train along the Shanklin to Sandown Revetment. Marc Morgan Huws (MMH) explained that Southern Vectis had been approached by Shanklin Town Council regarding running the service, but it was recognised that the Revetment would require infrastructure improvements and there were health and safety implications on using the route.

Item 8, delayed trains into Portsmouth due to the extended signalling works. Steve Porter (SP) responded that letters had been received from Network Rail and South West Trains apologising for the delays and confirming that the works were now complete.

3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

SP does not wish to stand again as chair and would welcome nominations from within the group to sent to the Secretary by 10th December 07. SP will continue to support the group and felt that it may be appropriate in the future for more meetings to be attended by a member of the QTP Executive on behalf of the Chair.

SP explained that Nick Farthing, the newly elected chair of the Community Rail Partnership, had recently suffered a major heart attack and was awaiting surgery. The group wished Nick a speedy recovery. SP stated that Stephen Matthews had left the employment of the Isle of Wight Council, that he had always found Steve to be very fair and supportive of the QTP and wished him all the best for the future. This was supported by Brenda Wilkinson (BW).

4. STRATEGIC ROUTE MANAGEMENT

Peter Taylor (PT) gave a presentation setting out the Isle of Wight Council's duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the role of the Traffic Manager to secure the easy movement of traffic on their road network. In particular PT discussed the issue of freight moving around the Island and the present controls and advice in place. Possible ideas for the future were identified along with improvements that were underway and suggested routes that were not being used to their full potential, however it was noted that some routes might be very contentious. BW explained that residents of Whitecross Lane, Shanklin were already unhappy about the route being use by double decker buses, cement mixers and lorries delivering to the Lidl store.

With regards to deliveries SP confirmed that splitting a double deck trailer would equal 13 transit vans and questioned whether this would add to the congestion on the Island roads.

Margaret Steggles (MS) inquired as to when the Islands highway infrastructure would be improved. PT confirmed that the Isle of Wight Council had submitted a bid for a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which would address the maintenance backlog and maintain the roads over the next 25 years. The Department of Transport is expected to make an announcement as to which Authorities have been successful in the near future.

5. **PARKING SERVICES**

Scott Headey (SH) gave a presentation explaining how parking regulations had recently changed, highlighting the main aims of parking enforcement, with examples of contraventions. SH confirmed that parking services had 21 attendants compared to three Traffic Wardens. They were starting to collate detailed information on problem areas and would investigate particular locations if requested. BW stated that on auction days in Regent Street, Shanklin cars were parked everywhere, SH confirm that vehicles were allowed to stop on double yellowed lines for the purpose of loading and unloading, however if the vehicles were obstructing private drives then it was an issue for Hampshire Constabulary.

6. **ACCESS TO ST MARY'S HOSPITAL VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Don Vincent (DV) informed the group that a number of members of the Bus Users Group had expressed concerns regarding access to St Mary's Hospital by bus. In the past buses travelled direct from various towns to the Hospital however with the new network only people travelling from Cowes had a direct route and that all passengers from Newport Bus Station had to cross Parkhurst Road. He felt it would be beneficial if the bus could access the Hospital site from Daish Way and then have priority to join Parkhurst Road. MMH explained that the new arrangements had increased frequency on the Newport to Cowes route. It was hoped that in April 2008 the Route 1 would increase frequency to a bus every 6 minutes. Southern Vectis were trialling a Route 37, around Newport, however the route does not pass the Hospital because of time constraints.

It was suggested that in some circumstances the Hospital Car Service may be the most appropriate form of transport. Hugh Walding (HW) expressed concerns regarding the amount of time allowed for people using the Pedestrian Crossings on Parkhurst Road and Barton Road.

ACTION: Secretary to report issue to Road Safety & Traffic Management, Isle of Wight Council.

POST MEETING NOTE: Iain Thornton, Traffic and Transport Engineer, stated that the crossing at Barton Road, Newport had on-crossing detectors which means that the crossing times extends as required, and had been checked on the 19th November 07. At the same time the Parkhurst Road crossing was investigated and no faults were found, the pre set times were considered to be adequate, with 19 seconds to cross, however this could be investigated further if required.

Kevin Bolan (KB) confirmed that parking charges were in place within the Hospital grounds however there were still significant problems with car parking and that schemes that encouraged staff to use other forms of transport were welcomed. Hospital staff were eligible for an assisted cycle purchase scheme however it was felt that Dodnor Lane Roundabout was difficult for cyclists. Also the bus stops outside the Hospital were not popular at night. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged between Southern Vectis, Primary Care Trust, I.W Bus Users Group and the Isle of Wight Council.

ACTION: Secretary to arrange meeting between Southern Vectis, Primary Care Trust, I.W. Bus Users Group and the Isle of Wight Council.

7. **RYDE INTERCHANGE UPDATE**

Ian Schaff (IS) gave a presentation illustrating the history of Ryde Esplanade and previous interchange buildings. He explained the design competition and the final scheme. The construction stage of the scheme was scheduled for 60 weeks with hopes that the building would be completed by January 2009.

8. **10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE QTP**

SP informed the group that in January the QTP would be celebrating it's tenth birthday, to mark the occasion the QTP AGM would be held on 10th January 2008, if members would like to request a speaker for this event, to contact the Secretary by 10th December 07.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Wells explained to the group that following the introduction of new Government guidance the Isle of Wight Council were required to write a Sustainable Travel to School Strategy which was accessible at www.iwight.com/transport. The Council welcomed comments from the group on the strategy which could be sent to either sustainableschooltravel@iow.gov.uk or to the Secretary by the 31st January 2008.

MS enquired as to whether the Isle of Wight Council were part of the Transport for South Hampshire Group. CW replied that although the Council were not strictly part of the group, they were invited at officer level.

MS explained that when travelling to the Lymington ferry there were no warning of the long and poorly signed diversion route ahead. Andy Morris (AM) was able to inform the group that when he travelled the route earlier in the week the works appeared to have been completed and the diversion removed.

BW raised concerns regarding the signing of the new 'no right turn' restriction from Whitecross Lane into Newport Road, Lake.

ACTION: Secretary to report issue to Road Safety & Traffic Management, Isle of Wight Council.

POST MEETING NOTE: Denise Scott, Traffic Engineer, stated that; a red and white 'NEW ROAD LAYOUT HEAD' sign has been erected, which was located before the new sign, with the hope that it would highlight the change to drivers. Furthermore the section had received a number of requests for a 'no right turn' sign opposite the junction, the Council are strictly governed by what and where signs are erected on the highway and after discussions with the Department of Transport, were informed that a sign opposite the junction would not be permitted however an additional 'no right turn' sign would be erected opposite the existing one to creating a form of 'gateway' treatment.

Ron Wallis (RW) informed the group that due to changes in the requirements for powered two wheeler tests, as from September 2008 there would be no facilities for motorcycle test to be undertaken on the Isle of Wight. The Drivers Standards Agency stated that test candidates should be able to access the test centre within 45 minutes which would not be the situation for Islanders who would have to travel to either Poole or Fareham and incur the cost of the ferries and possibly the charges of their instructors if accompanied. RW felt that motorcyclists on the Isle of Wight were being victimised and discouraged. CW stated that these changes flew in the face of reducing congestion and felt that the Council should write to the Driving Standards Agency highlighting their concerns. SP confirmed that the QTP would also write.

ACTION: RW to forward further details to the Secretary.

ACTION: Isle of Wight Council to write to the Drivers Standards Agency.

ACTION: SP to write to the Drivers Standards Agency.

AM explained to the group that from April 2008 people over the age of 60 and the disabled would be entitled to free bus travel nationally, however an application form would need to be completed by December to ensure that the new pass was issued by April. The forms could be obtained from Council Help Centres and Libraries.

10. DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday 27th March 2008, at Quay Arts, Newport.