

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on Thursday 27th March 2008 at Quay Arts Centre, Newport

PRESENT:

David Bottom – (Chairman)	Marc Morgan Huws – Southern Vectis
Norman Arnold – Federation of Small Businesses	Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Morris Barton – Chamber of Commerce	Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
David Blake – Federation of Small Businesses	Chris Wells - Isle of Wight Council
Kevin Bolan – Primary Care Trust	Charlotte Westwood – Isle of Wight Council
Dawn Cooper – Isle of Wight Council	Brenda Wilkins – IW Group of Advanced Motorists
Valerie Lawson - Cycle Wight	

1. APOLOGIES

Adrian Ash – Isle of Wight Council	Loretta Lale – Hovertravel Ltd
Patricia Collins – British Horse Society	Wendy Perera – Isle of Wight Council
Ashley Curzon - Isle of Wight Council	Steve Porter – Steve Porter Transport
Tony Dickenson – Island Line	Andy Morris – Isle of Wight Council

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the 1st November 2007 were agreed.

Don Vincent (DV) enquired as to the present situation with regards to Ian Schaff, Project Development Manager for Ryde Interchange. At present Ian was still suspended, with an Inquiry pending.

Brenda Wilkins (BW) thanked the chairman for the additional information regarding the new traffic layout at the junction of Whitecross Lane with Newport Road, Lake.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(A) QTP VISION

David Bottom (DB) explained to the group that his vision for the QTP was to move away from being just a consultation body and to be more pro-active. To achieve this he felt far greater use should be made of the several and varied skills of the members of the QTP.

Also that the group should adopt a much broader strategy albeit inclusive approach looking at ways in which the various transport needs for the Island as a whole could be improved yet maintaining the vital input of the Council teams' continuing assistance with delivery of individual components.

(B) MOTORCYCLE TRAINING FACILITIES

DB explained that Steve Porter had written to the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) in December 2007 regarding the closure of motorcycle testing facilities on the Island, as of September 2008. A response was received from the DSA explaining that the Agency had been unable to find a Multi-Purpose Test Centre (MPTC) site on the Island, which was both affordable and large enough. Two potential sites had been identified however one was rejected on operational grounds and the other on cost. The group felt that this was a serious issue, and that a meeting should be organised between the DSA, and QTP.

ACTION: DB to write to DSA requesting a meeting as soon as possible which would be attended by DB, Morris Barton and Ron Wallis from the QTP.

Chris Wells (CW) explained that the Council had also written to the DSA on this issue and that following a similar reply he had contacted IWC Property Services department regarding land owned by the Council. The Go Karting track behind Tesco's was suggested as possible dual usage site however no further details were known.

(C) HOSPITAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Following the November 2007 QTP meeting, it was felt that a meeting was required.

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

CW informed the group the Council had previously hoped to develop a joint Workplace (Green) Travel Plan with the NHS Primary Care Trust. However the Council was at that time unable to support the initiative due to a lack of capacity. The idea has been included for development as one of the Eco Island deliverables. It was acknowledged that bus travel may not always be the most convenient form of travel, particularly for shift workers. However a staff survey undertaken some years ago indicated that opportunities may exist for the majority of staff at the Hospital and the Council, which work normal office hours.

(D) CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE BUS SERVICES

DB informed the group that the QTP had received information from Martyn Mullins, Public Transport Officer regarding subsidised local bus services on the Island. It was felt that the QTP would prefer to consider the social implication of the removal of services as a whole rather than specific bus routes. Marc Morgan-Huws (MMH) felt that Wightbus should be utilised to complement the service provided by Southern Vectis.

ACTION: Chairman to write to Isle of Wight Council regarding the proposal to remove subsidies from some bus services.

4. FEEDBACK FROM TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE WORKSHOP

Dawn Cooper (DC) explained that the consultation period on the Island Plan had now closed and over 300 representations had been received. It was felt that the themed workshops had assisted with public involvement and that transport had been a common theme at each of the workshops. A number of issues were discussed at the Transport and Infrastructure workshop including the need for further consideration regarding the facilities for bulk freight and ways to achieve a modal shift in travel by making better use of the railway and cycle network. Furthermore there was general support for the introduction of infrastructure tariff and measures which ensured that future developments were more sustainable.

Concerns were raised over the perceived perception that the Island required a third ferry port. It was felt that a professional study should be commissioned to look at the options and the implications in terms of land use and traffic. It was suggested that an officer from the Council should be invited to the June meeting to discuss future regeneration on the Island.

ACTION: QTP Secretary to invite Bernadette Marjoram, Interim Director of Regeneration and Development, to the next QTP meeting.

Consultation on issues and options took place during March and April with public participation on preferred options taking place in August and September 2008. Further details can be accessed on www.iwight.com/planningpolicy

5. 2008 QTP PROJECT, NEWPORT

DB informed the group that the QTP should look at tackling traffic issues in and around Newport, and that a working group needed to be established, and the findings would be presented at the AGM in December. Valerie Lawson (VL) explained that Cycle Wight had a detailed plan for Newport, which she would forward to QTP Secretary.

ACTION: Valerie Lawson to forward plan of Newport to QTP Secretary.

It was felt suggested that an independent body should look at transport as a whole, and that there were no easy option to Newport. The vision was the most important element as the detail would follow.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Morris Barton (MB) informed the group that the previous meeting of the Freight Forum, on 17th March 2008, was well attended and that the group had discussed the strategic road network, trailer parks, option of a third ferry terminal, and loading bays. CW explained that specific issues were becoming apparent and that an action plan was being produced.

CW informed the group that the Isle of Wight Council had been awarded a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) for the improvement of the highway network subject to the submission of a satisfactory Outline Business Case. It was noted that the PFI would improve the general road condition however it would not tackle issues such as pollution or congestion. It was felt that the QTP required further details relating to the PFI.

ACTION: QTP Secretary to invite Malcolm Smith to the next QTP meeting.

David Blake (DBL) raised two issues, firstly that the main approach roads into Freshwater were lined with parked cars which was causing congestion around the town and he suggested that a clearway should be considered. Secondly, concerns regarding Voluntary Hospital Cars, which often transport vulnerable people, and do not have additional insurance nor are the driver's criminal records checked. Furthermore it was highlighted that on occasion the costs to the passenger exceed that of a commercial taxi.

DB explained that Huge Walding (HW) would be chairing a working group, which would be looking at the constitution and membership of the QTP. Those wishing to be involved were asked to contact the QTP Secretary.

MMH explained to the group that Yarmouth Harbour Commission and Wightlink were investigating the possibility of changing the coach parking on the Quay into extra car parking spaces. He felt this was a retrograde step in that it would reduce the effectiveness of the current bus / boat interchange.

7. DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26th June 2008, at Quay Arts, Newport.