

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on Thursday 25th June 2009 at Quay Arts Centre, Newport

PRESENT:

David Bottom – Chair
Morris Barton – Chamber of Commerce
Stuart George – IW Bus Users Group
Valerie Lawson - Cycle Wight
Andy Morris – Isle of Wight Council
Marc Morgan Huws – Southern Vectis
Lisa Scovell – Isle of Wight Council

Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
Ron Wallis – IW Motorcycle Rider Training
Chris Wells - Isle of Wight Council
Charlotte Westwood – QTP Secretary
Brenda Wilkins – IW Group of Advanced Motorists

1. APOLOGIES

Roger Barnard – IW Older Voices
Patricia Collins – British Horse Society
Ashley Curzon - Isle of Wight Council
Susan Cracknell – Isle of Wight Council
Jim Fawcett – Isle of Wight Council

Edward Giles CC – Isle of Wight Council
Peter Hayward – Isle of Wight Council
Bobby Lock – Community Rail Partnership
Wendy Perera – Isle of Wight Council
Steve Porter – Steve Porter Transport

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the 25th September 2008 were agreed.

The AGM was briefly discussed, it was felt that there was a good turn out and that the Panel Question and Answer session was very popular and should be repeated. Chris Wells (CW) informed the group that Susan Stuart, Government Office for the South East, had been pleased to have been able to attend and had found it useful to gain a better understanding of the Ryde Gateways Project and issues facing the Island. It was agreed that the AGM and Open Meeting minutes would be up-loaded onto the internet.

Action: QTP Secretary to up-load the AGM and Open Meeting minutes on www.iwight.com/transport

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(A) KICKSTART BID

Andy Morris (AM) informed the group that the Isle of Wight Council were in the process of preparing two Kickstart Bids which would be submitted in July 2009. He explained that the Kickstart funding came from the Department for Transport and had been introduced as a pilot as part of the Urban and Rural Bus Challenge competition in 2003. The aim of the Kickstart initiative is to provide pump-prime funding to support new bus services and bus service enhancements. A pot of £25million is available between 2009/10 and 2011/12 however AM thought that more bids would be submitted than the funding would cover. AM explained that he was reluctant to divulge details of the bids before the closing date due to the competitive nature of the process, however details would be made available to the QTP before the next meeting. It was felt that letters of support from the QTP would be helpful, AM agreed to communicate outline details of the bids to David Bottom outside of the meeting.

Action: AM and DB to have a dialogue regarding letters of support for Kickstart Bids.

(B) ISLAND PLAN

Lisa Scovell (LS) explained that the Island Plan had been formally submitted to Government in May 2009 and that a Planning Inspector would be meeting with Officers in August. The Inspector would then be holding informal hearings in October to hear a range of topics identified beforehand. It was thought that the resulting report would be completed by the middle of 2010.

(C) CROSS SOLENT TRAVEL COSTS

David Bottom (DB) generally felt that the service provided by the ferry operators was generally not that bad, however he felt improvements could be made to the way in the way in which customers are dealt with. It was felt by the group that there were three main issues:

- Lack of connectivity between ferries and trains,

- More focus needed on the requirements of Island residents, both travelling and those living close to ports.
- Inappropriate disabled facilities on some routes ferries.

Marc Morgan-Huws (MMH) explained that Southern Vectis did not have a natural consultation route and felt that the ferry operators may be in a similar position. The question was raised as to whether, as part of it's new role, the QTP could become a "critical friend", whereby more meetings would be open to the public. It was felt that this process would increase communications between transport operators, users and the Council, as well as reducing the need for transport operators to establish additional groups. The group acknowledged that the QTP needed to reconnect with ferry operators and that this might be achieved as part of any enhancements that are made to the group.

4. WORKPLACE TRAVEL PLANS

Chris Wells (CW) explained that 62 schools had a School travel Plan in place and overall 99% of schools on the Island were engaged in the process. The Council had established a travel plan working group and were working with the NHS and The College to develop a joint plan. The Council were hoping to appoint a Work Place Travel Plan Advisor as a secondment position and had been supporting a bike purchase scheme for the past few years. The planning process could be used to ensure that new developments were covered by travel plans, however existing sites might pose more of a challenge.

5. NEWPORT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

DB informed the group that the QTP Executive had meet with Peter Hayward, and it had been a useful meeting. The Executive were informed that consultants had been employed to look at possible traffic flows for Newport. Consultation would be conducted between July and September with a decision being made at the end of September. A number of other items were discussed including the future format of the QTP and the operation of sub groups.

6. UPDATE FROM CYCLE FORUM

Valerie Lawson (VL) went through the minutes from the previous meeting and explained that the Cycle Forum provided a good bases for communication between the Council and cyclists, however it was felt that the constitution needed strengthening. VL explained that the Forum would like to adopt the Cycling Touring Club (CTC) guidelines as well as appointing either a Council Member or an independent Chair.

DB expressed some concerns regarding the operation of the sub groups and explained that these may be "refreshed" in the light of the discussion with Peter Hayward outlined above.

7. UPDATE FROM FREIGHT FORUM

The last meeting was cancelled due to low attendance.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hugh Walding (HW) informed the group that Friends of the Earth had established a national petition regarding the closure of the Vestas Factory on the Island, the following web link was circulated, www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/vestas_petition_20414.html

VL circulated an independent public transport guide from Cornwall which she felt was an excellent example of how to present timetable information.

9. DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 3rd September 2009, 2.pm at Quay Arts, Newport.

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