

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING
Held on Thursday 3rd December 2009 at Quay Arts Centre, Newport

PRESENT

David Bottom – Chair	Rachel Mills – QTP Secretary
Roger Barnard – IW Older Voices	Marc Morgan Huws – Southern Vectis
Morris Barton – Chamber of Commerce	Andy Morris – Isle of Wight Council
Ollie Boulter – Isle of Wight Council	Steve Porter – Steve Porter Transport
Edward Giles CC – Isle of Wight Council	Steve Roscoe – Southern Vectis
Peter Hayward – Isle of Wight Council	Tanya Simms – Southern Vectis
Chris Hougham – Newport Parish Council	Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Peni Houghton – Hants Police, RPU	Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
Kerry Jackson - Wightlink	Ron Wallis – IW Motorcycle Rider Training
Valerie Lawson - Cycle Wight	Chris Wells - Isle of Wight Council

1. APOLOGIES

Patricia Collins – British Horse Society	Chris Smy – Youth Connections
Loretta Lale – Hovertravel	Brenda Wilkins – IW Advanced Motorists

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the 9th September 2009 were agreed.

David Bottom was pleased to report that the proposed amendments to the QTP format have now been agreed (ie to form 2 sub-groups – transport operators/providers and users). He thanked everyone for their input and, in particular, Cyclewight and Bus Users for agreeing to participate in the ‘user group’.

3. WORK OF EEKDP

The Island’s Local Strategic Partnership includes 4 Key Delivery Partnerships responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Eco Island vision. David Bottom is a member of the Economic and Environment Key Delivery Partnership (EEKDP) which leads on the ‘Thriving Island’ theme. DB is concerned that the group doesn’t appear to consider transport as a major issue and only focuses on PFI. DB will continue to raise the profile of transport including emphasising the importance of cross-Solent links.

4. ISLAND PLAN

Ollie Boulter, IWC Planning Policy and Conservation Team Leader, gave an update on the Island Plan Core Strategy. After discussions with the Planning Inspector and GOSE, the Council have decided not to proceed with the plan’s formal hearing as there is a risk that the plan will be found to be unsound. The Council wrote to GOSE requesting for the plan to be withdrawn which was agreed by the Secretary of State on 12th November 2009. The Council are now revising the plan to address the concerns of the Inspector and stakeholders. A revised plan timetable will be published early 2010 which will include two six-week consultation periods.

5. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3

Chris Wells, IWC Transport Policy Manager, gave a presentation on Local Transport Plans. LTPs became a statutory requirement under the 2000 Transport Act with the Island’s first plan, LTP1, covering 2001-06 and the current plan, LTP2, covering 2006-2011. The Council are now compiling their third plan which will commence April 2011 and will include both a strategy and implementation plan. Under new legislation, authorities can now set their own timescales and it is likely that the Island’s LTP3 will reflect the PFI timeline (ie run until 2038). The plan must consider the government’s National Transport Goals but can also include local goals. Development of the plan will be in conjunction with others including the QTP and take account of other consultations (eg Newport Parish Council).

The group discussed the European requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRAs) and the balance between the environment and aspirations for economic growth. It was agreed that key environmental bodies should be invited to a future meeting to discuss the impact of transport on the environment.

Action: Invite environmental groups to a future meeting.

6. NEWPORT PARISH COUNCIL – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

David Bottom welcomed Chris Hougham, Assistant Parish Clerk, Newport Parish Council, to the meeting. Chris has been employed by the Parish Council to advise on planning issues and to assist with the compilation of the Parish Plan. Earlier this year the Parish Council consulted residents on local issues, of which over 50% of respondents felt that transport was a key priority. The Parish Council decided to hold a transport open weekend which attracted 400+ visitors, many of whom completed questionnaires. Questionnaires have now been analysed and will be used to help shape the Parish Plan.

The group discussed Newport traffic issues. Concern was raised that the current resident's parking permit encouraged people to drive to work and, for park and ride to be viable, a review was needed of both parking availability and price. Peter Hayward reported that a paper is currently being prepared for Council Members to consider parking arrangements and implications.

The group also highlighted the importance of Newport as the Island's retail centre and the needs of the commercial sector.

7. OPERATOR UPDATES

David Bottom invited each of the operators to give an update on their current operations and future plans.

(a) Southern Vectis

Marc Morgan-Huws gave an update on Southern Vectis. Between 2005/06 and 2009/10 Southern Vectis has experienced 60% increase in passenger journeys and 58% increase in miles operated. Focus has been on both frequency and direct, quality services with the fastest growth on Newport to Ryde/Cowes/Sandown. SV has also introduced a number of environmental actions including the 'scrap my motor' scheme (which has won a green innovation award) and RIBAS (monitoring of SV driver habits, ranking and training). Go-ahead are currently investing in new ticketing arrangements (ie smart cards, ticket machines and direct debit payments) which will be rolled out across the Group over the next 3 years (Island due within next 18 months).

(b) Wightlink

Kerry Jackson gave a presentation on Wightlink.

- (i) Ryde Pier Head - Portsmouth : Wight Ryder I and II now in service with new retail/café at Pier Head, berthing facilities at Ryde & Portsmouth and installation of Real Time Information screens at Ryde.
- (ii) Fishbourne – Portsmouth : Terminal and marshalling area at Fishbourne redeveloped but still need to consider traffic flow. St Catherine vessel has been sold leaving 4 ferries serving the route.
- (iii) Yarmouth – Lymington : High Court hearing set for 14/15 December. Wightlink now reached agreement with English Nature. Outcome of hearing could be (a) agreement (ferries continue as normal); (b) don't agree and ferries suspended for set period or (c) route closed which could have wider implications for Wightlink.

(c) Hovertravel

Loretta Lale was unable to attend but happy to give presentation to future meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Roger Barnard felt that there was a need for a QTP sub-group to consider needs of pedestrians, equestrian and others (eg wheelchair users). David Bottom felt that this should be dealt with by the new 'User Group'. There is already an established Island 'Local Access Forum' which deals with access to countryside and recreation and the QTP are welcome to join. Members highlighted the importance of focussing the QTP on strategic not site specific issues.

Action : Roger Barnard to consider representing the QTP on the Local Access Forum.

9. NEXT MEETING

Next full meeting is AGM and Open Meeting (March 2010 – date to be confirmed). Speakers current being considered include Martin Tugwell, Regional Transport Board, Jay Jayasundara, PFI Programme Director and Jocelyn Pearson, Passenger Focus.