

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on 24th January 2002
at Quay Arts Centre, Newport

Present : Peter Tuck - Chair
Paul Airey - IW Council
Terry Butchers CC - IW Council
Patricia Collins - British Horse Society
Helen Cornish - Hovertravel
Ernie Fox CC - IW Council
Tim Hunter-Henderson - Federation of Small Businesses
Rachel Jolliffe - IW Council
Stuart King - Wightlink
Marc Morgan Huws - Southern Vectis (*attending on behalf of S Linn/A White*)
Steve Porter - Steve Porter Transport/Chamber of Commerce
Jack Richards - Wight Track/Rail Passenger Committee
Chris Roberts - IW Older Voices
Malcolm Ross - Cyclewright
Janice Rounsevell - IW Taxi Proprietors Association
Kevin Smith - IW Chamber of Commerce
Don Vincent - IW Bus Users Group
Stephen Wade - Islandline
Hugh Walding - IW Friends of the Earth
Chris Wells - IW Council
Desmond White - IW Taxi Proprietors Association
Brenda Wilkins - Institute of Advanced Motorists

1. APOLOGIES

Jonathan Green - Red Funnel
Stuart Linn - Southern Vectis
Steve Matthews - Head of Highways & Transportation, IW Council
Susan Moody - Freight Transport Association
Jim Ruby - Rural Issues Group/Ventnor Regeneration
Alan White - Southern Vectis

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting (29th November 2001) were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Don Vincent reported that he had now received the Council's 2001/02 public transport budget figures from Andy Morris, IWC Transport Manager. Peter Tuck had also received correspondence from Stuart Fraser, IWC Accounting Manager, regarding the inclusion of public transport expenditure within the Council Tax leaflet. The QTPs request has been placed on file and will be considered when compiling the 2002 publication.

Chris Roberts reported that he had attended an exhibition of taxi vehicles for carriage of the disabled. Older Voices felt that any such vehicle must be able to accommodate individuals 'with dignity'. The group discussed vehicle selection, adaption, licensing and possible financial arrangements for the purchase of new stock. Peter Tuck stated that the QTP had been invited to attend the next meeting of the Council's Hackney Carriage Working Party to be held on 22nd February. Further information can be obtained from PT

or Rob Owen, Head of Select Committee, IWC.

Stephen Matthews is currently looking at the QTP Constitution document and has sent a copy to the Council's legal department for comment. The final document will be brought before the QTP AGM later in the year. A key element of the Constitution is that the group should have no political standing and should not be affiliated to any individual political party. It was agreed that the decision on inviting Councillor Cunningham to join the QTP should be postponed until after the AGM.

4. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Chris Wells reported on the Council's Local Transport Plan and Annual Progress Report. The Council has now received their annual decision letter which announces the 2002/03 block allocation of £6m plus a supplementary allocation of £950,000 for the construction of a temporary road at Undercliff Drive. The initial site investigations are due to start on 6th February 2002 and it is hoped that the temporary road will be open by the summer. The full scheme bid will be submitted to the Government with the APR in July 2002.

5. BEST VALUE

Chris Wells reported on the recent Highways and Transportation Best Value Report. The report had highlighted some shortcomings of the service which to a large extent reflected H&T under-funding of previous years. A BV action plan and improvement timetable had been compiled with the BV Team due to return later in the year to examine improvements.

Councillor Butchers stated that she had spent a day talking individually to H&T staff where she had encountered a high level of staff commitment and was confident of a better 2nd report.

6. ISLE OF WIGHT PARKING ORDER

The Council have recently employed consultants Mott MacDonald to examine car parking on the Island. Their report suggests various changes to the current system including a review of ticket charges, residents parking zones, car parking operational times, improved signage, permit ticket price increases and the extension of pay & display areas. Concern was raised over the impact that the order would have on existing small businesses and the 'excessive' price increases. The Group endorsed the principle of a managed parking policy and Peter Tuck encouraged organisations to make individual representations to the Council as necessary. A copy of the Committee report giving details of the proposals can be found on the Council's website at:

www.iwight.com/council/committees/Mod-Environment/21-1-02/PaperB.htm

7. IW COLLEGE/RIVERSIDE AREA

Paul Airey, Planning Policy Manager, IWC gave a presentation on planning policy and retailing in the Newport area. The Council have recently approved a planning application for a new B&Q store on land at the IW College. Although the site is outside the 'town centre boundary' (as defined in the Council's adopted Unitary Development Plan) the application was of a 'bulky goods' nature and thus was considered appropriate on an edge-of-town site. The scheme also includes a new roundabout, footpath/cycle links to Newport town centre and financial contributions towards a SCOOT system and public transport enhancements. The section 106 legal agreement will commit both the College and B&Q to the adoption of an employee green travel plan. *(Copy of planning conditions attached for information).*

Several other 'bulky goods' retail applications have been received by the Council. The first scheme on the Wakes/Fairholme site, Riverway was refused with a subsequent smaller scheme approved. An application on the Premier site, Riverway has been refused with an appeal pending.

Concern was raised over the pedestrian access to the College and the possible increase in traffic.

8. COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The LSP document is making progress and will be referred to the QTP before being finalised.

Peter Tuck, Stuart Linn and Ryan Willergers attended the LSP launch on behalf of the QTP. The launch included release of the 'Island Futures' survey results which placed transport as the second most important local issue (behind crime and disorder).

The next meeting of the LSP will take place on the 7th February 2002.

9. FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

The FTA have agreed to join the QTP but have expressed concern that the 'Aims and Objectives' make little reference to freight issues. A copy of the FTA/Hampshire CC/HEP Freight Quality Partnership Agreement was circulated for information.

The Group was reminded that the QTP was set up as an 'umbrella' committee to deal with all aspects of transport and the 'aims and objectives' were compiled to reflect this. It was decided that the entire FTA/HCC/HEP text was too specific for the QTP but that Peter Tuck would compile a single freight related objective.

Action: Peter Tuck to write to FTA to explain QTP's decision.
Peter Tuck to compile objective to be returned to next QTP for discussion.

10. SANDOWN AIRPORT

Peter Tuck had received a letter from Sandown Bay Regeneration Group/IW Tourism relating to the future use of Sandown airport. It was agreed the QTP working group (plus any other interested members) should meet to discuss both Island & mainland airports.

Action: Peter Tuck to arrange meeting of QTP Working Group.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER CONFERENCE

Chris Roberts attended the Crime and Disorder conference on behalf of the QTP. The conference, held at Northwood House on 17th January, was attended by a variety of organisations with Stephen Wade (Islandline) the only public transport provider represented.

The Crime and Disorder Partnership was formed under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and the Isle of Wight's strategy produced in 1999. As part of this strategy a crime audit must be completed every 3 years and this is now due. The object of the conference was to seek opinion and observations for inclusion within the strategy.

Both Chris Roberts and Stephen Wade considered the conference 'too general' and subsequently of little relevance to the QTP. It was agreed that the conference feedback sheet should reflect these comments.

12. RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

The Rural Transport Officer post was advertised in November 2001. It was felt that the response was not as strong as hoped and the Council and Countryside Agency have decided to re-advertise the post in another publication. The new advertisement appeared in The Guardian on 23rd January and will also appear in the IW County Press on the 25th January.

13. GREEN ISLAND ACCREDITATION

Peter Tuck has been invited to attend the Sustainable Tourism Forum on behalf of the QTP. It was agreed that the QTP should support the Forum.

Action: Peter Tuck to attend meetings and report back as necessary.

14. LOCAL AND NATIONAL RAIL ISSUES

Jack Richards reported that money could be bid for under the Rail Passenger Partnership (RPP) scheme. The RPP provides a source of partnership funding to assist in the provision of new or enhanced rail services which contribute to the Government's wider objectives for rail. Suitable schemes include public transport interchanges, schemes increasing passenger security & accessibility and the upgrading/provision of new station facilities.

Jack Richards circulated a paper on Public Transport Interchanges. The paper included the benefits of a good interchange, an interchange 'checklist' and examined existing facilities at the Yarmouth Ferry Terminal.

Members stressed the importance of keeping other related organisations informed of future plans in order to increase awareness and to ensure that any future bids/works are fully co-ordinated.

Chris Wells reported that the Council had met with the SRA before Christmas to discuss future rail franchises. Issues discussed included the provision of a dedicated link between Shanklin & Ventnor and links between Sandown station & the town centre.

The group congratulated Islandline on the re-award of their Charter Mark.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Council is about to embark on a public consultation exercise on the possible pedestrianisation of Newport High Street. A total of 15,000 leaflets have been produced, 10,000 of which will be distributed to households in the Newport/Carisbrooke area. Copies will also be sent to IW Councillors, Parish Councils, transport operators, schools and other relevant organisations. Display boards are to be placed in various Newport stores, Council Offices, Newport library and the bus station. Information can also be found on the Council's website : www.iwight.com/pedestrianisation. Comments should be submitted to the Council by 18th March 2002.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st March 2002 at **1.30pm** in the Quay Arts Centre, Newport.