

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on 21st March 2002
at Quay Arts Centre, Newport

Present : Peter Tuck - Chair
Terry Butchers CC - IW Council
Trevor Cherrett - Rural Issues Group (Consultant preparing Rural Strategy)
Trish Collins - British Horse Society
Helen Cornish - Hovertravel
Ernie Fox CC - IW Council
Rachel Jolliffe - IW Council
Stewart King - Wightlink (attending on behalf of Ryan Willergers)
Steve Matthews - IW Council
Angela Mawle - IW Council
Jack Richards - Wight Track/Rail Passenger Committee
Chris Roberts - IW Older Voices
Malcolm Ross - CycleWight
Jan Rounsevell - IW Taxi Proprietors Association
Jim Ruby - Rural Issues Group
Don Vincent - IW Bus Users Group
Steve Wade - Islandline
Hugh Walding - IW Friends of the Earth
Chris Wells - IW Council
Brenda Wilkins - Institute of Advanced Motorists

1. APOLOGIES

Jonathan Green - Red Funnel Ferries
Tim Hunter-Henderson - Federation of Small Businesses
Steve Porter - Steve Porter Transport/Chamber of Commerce
Kevin Smith - Chamber of Commerce
Sarah Watkins - Freight Transport Association
Chris Wright - Road Haulage Association

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting (24th January 2002) were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Isle of Wight's 2002/03 Council Tax leaflet has recently been published. Members were disappointed that public transport spend had not been included in the pie-charts. It was suggested that this could be due to the small percentage slice which would be difficult to identify.

Action: Peter Tuck to write to Stuart Fraser, IWC Accounting Manager to clarify reason for omission.

Jim Ruby has arranged for Tony Jones from British International (helicopters) to visit the Island on Wednesday 3rd April 2002 for an "exploratory meeting". It was agreed that, instead of a separate QTP Airport Meeting, interested members should be invited to attend JR's meeting with an invitation also extended to Councillor Bartlett.

Action: Interested Members to contact Peter Tuck or Rachel Jolliffe. Jim Ruby to confirm time and venue.

Newport pedestrianisation consultation exercise has been extended until the end of March. To date the Council have received 1150 responses - 15% via the website. A public meeting is to be held on the evening of Wednesday 28th March 2002 at Holyrood Hall, Newport.

Peter Tuck has received a response from Kevin Burton, Senior Traffic Engineer, Isle of Wight Council on the issue of the removal of bus lay-bys at Whippingham. The lay-bys were removed as part of a number of bus infrastructure improvements to aid the mobility of the disabled. The change in cycle arrangements were drawn up after consultation with George Wilks (IWC advisor on cycle facilities).

Action: Copy of response to be sent to Jan Rounsevell, IW Taxi Proprietors Association for information.

A list of provisional QTP meeting dates were circulated. The dates were agreed as 23rd May 2002, 26th September 2002, 28th November 2002, (**NB This has subsequently been changed to 21st November 2002**), 30th January 2003 and 27th March 2003. Meetings will be held at the Quay Arts Centre, Sea Street, Newport starting at 1.30pm and finishing at 4.30pm. (Members will be informed should dates, times or venues change).

4. ADDENDUM TO QTP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES - FREIGHT DISTRIBUTION

In the absence of the both the Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association it was decided to defer this item.

5. REPORT ON WORK OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SECTION, IWC

The group received an update from Stephen Matthews, Head of Highways and Transportation, Isle of Wight Council. The Council have received an LTP settlement of £6.8million for 2002/03 with an additional £950,000 for the provision of a temporary road at Undercliff Drive.

The LTP settlement must be spent during the next 12 months and, to enable quick implementation, it has been decided to concentrate spending on 3 strategic routes : Ryde to Newport, Yarmouth to Newport and Cowes to Newport. Tenders have been invited on a "design-and-build" basis and 5 contractors have expressed an interest - 2 Island and 3 mainland companies. In order to minimise disruption, work will take place outside the peak holiday period and during nights and weekends. Advance warning signs will be erected.

The £950,000 for Undercliff Drive will be spent on a temporary link from Ventnor to Niton which will possibly also be the alignment of the new permanent road. This permanent road will cost in the region of £6million+ and will be the subject of a future bid to Government.

Other schemes proposed this year include Newport pedestrianisation (subject to results of public consultation and Committee decision) and public transport infrastructure improvements.

The Isle of Wight Council do not have plans to implement congestion charges, contrary

to recent national press reports

6. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

The Council must produce an Annual Progress Report which reports progress against the targets and objectives outlined in the Local Transport Plan.

The 2001 APR was submitted to the Government for the Office for the South East in July 2001. The plan was well received by the Government and was considered to represent significant improvements on previous plans.

The Group congratulated Chris Wells and Rachel Jolliffe on their efforts.

7. ISLAND FUTURES LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Local Strategic Partnership has now been launched, with Peter Tuck and Stuart Linn on the core group. The LSP is not a decision making body but can set local objectives and priorities. The draft Community Strategy is available and any general concerns/comments should be directed to Tony Geeson, Head of Corporate Services, Isle of Wight Council. As part of this process the Council can secure additional funding by submitting a Public Service Agreement (PSA). A PSA is a plan based on a mix of local and national targets (12 in total) - one of which must be transport related. It is hoped that the Isle of Wight Council's PSA will be submitted late summer 2002.

8. COMMUNITY STRATEGY - QTP DRAFT TRANSPORT SECTION

Copies of the draft Community Strategy Transport Section were circulated. This document has been compiled after a series of workshops (last year) and discussions with relevant parties. Should members have any suggested alterations please submit, in written form, to Chris Wells, Isle of Wight Council ASAP. This will not be an official document until formally approved by the QTP.

9. QTP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND OPEN MEETING

The QTP Terms of Reference state that the QTP should hold an open meeting for interested parties. It was agreed to incorporate this within the AGM and to hold the meeting at the Riverside Centre in June (subject to availability). It was suggested that a guest speaker should be invited from either the Government Office for the South East or from Hampshire County Council.

Action: Rachel Jolliffe to investigate availability of facilities for June 2002.
Chris Wells to arrange guest speaker.

10. HACKNEY CARRIAGE WORKING PARTY

Chris Roberts read out a letter from IW Older Voices on wheelchair accessible taxi vehicles. The IWOV Executive Committee have discussed vehicles and recommend the TX1 cab, although they appreciate the initial purchasing cost implications. The group discussed purchase cost, running costs, plates, accessibility and current availability. Peter Tuck suggested that members should direct any comments to the Council's Hackney Carriage Working Party. The IW Taxi Proprietors Association stated that they are very pleased with the HCWP's progress.

Item 11 (IW Airport Meeting) dealt with under Matters Arising.

It was agreed to defer items 12 (Alterner project), 14 (Leader +) and 15 (Car Free Tourism Workshop)

13. RAIL INTERCHANGE STUDY

Jack Richards (Rail Passenger Committee), Steve Wade (Islandline) and Chris Wells (Isle of Wight Council) are to examine RPP funding opportunities for Island rail stations.

The Ryde Interchange project is progressing, with the Council working closely with operators, users, the Strategic Rail Authority, Government Office for the South East and DTLR. It is hoped that a bid will be submitted to the Government with this year's Annual Progress Report (31st July 2002).

The group discussed integration, station access and cycle facilities. Steve Wade stated that he had researched cycle rack requirements but at present could not identify a need. Should this change he would be happy to make suitable provision.

Concern was expressed that there are no formal cycle storage facilities at the Cowes Red Jet terminal and subsequently cycles are chained to railings. Chris Wells stated that the Council had been working with Red Funnel to provide suitable covered cycle facilities and had offered to fund half of the cost. Progress on this rested with the company.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - AGENDA ITEMS

Concern was expressed over the length of agendas and meetings. It was agreed that in future, "For-Information" style reports would be circulated with minutes to be accompanied, where necessary, by a **brief** discussion at the meeting. Should members require detailed explanation/discussion they should contact the author prior or after the meeting.

A standing order was agreed that meetings should start at 1.30pm and finish **promptly** at 4.30pm.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 23rd May 2002 at 1.30pm** in the **Quay Arts Centre, Newport.**