

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING
Held on 27th March 2003
At Quay Arts Centre, Newport

Present: Jim Ruby - Chair
Richard Box – Hovertravel
Ernie Fox CC – IW Council
Martin Gibson – LIFT IW
Margaret Howden – IW Older Voices
Rachel Jolliffe – Isle of Wight Council
Stewart King – Wightlink
Stuart Linn – Southern Vectis
Steve Porter – Steve Porter Transport/Chamber of Commerce
Jack Richards – RPC / Wight Track
Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
Steve Wade – Island Line
Ron Wallis – IW Motorcycle Training
Chris Wells – Isle of Wight Council
Charlotte Westwood – Isle of Wight Council
Alan White – Southern Vectis
Brenda Wilkins – Advanced Motorists
Dave Woracker – Transport 2000

1. APOLOGIES

Terry Butchers CC – IW Council
Tim Hunter-Henderson – Federation of Small Businesses
Steve Matthews – Isle of Wight Council
Kevin Smith – Chamber of Commerce
Sarah Watkins – Freight Transport Association
Chris Wright – Road Haulage Association

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 20th January 2003.

The minutes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Rachel Jolliffe requested that the signed copies of the Aims and Objectives be returned, however Richard Box commented that his organisation felt that the wording of objective 4 should be altered. The matter was deferred for further discussion.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Jim Ruby was concerned that the QTP was starting to be used as an “appeals court” and reminded the group that the QTP had been established to improve transport on the Island. This can only be achieved by working together. JR is keen to ensure that the group maintain it’s original focus and credibility rather than becoming seen as just a talking shop.

Opportunities exist to improve transport on the Island and issues such as Southern Vectis Universal Travel Plan and options to extend car sharing should be examined further.

5. REPORT FROM RAIL WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the Rail Working Party of 5th March 2003 had been circulated with the main agenda. Jack Richards reported on the main outcomes of the meeting.

The next meeting of the Rail Working Party will take place at the end of April. Invites will be sent to all past attendees and representatives of Island Line, Wightlink and Hovertravel. Any other members wishing to attend should contact Rachel Jolliffe for details.

Chris Wells informed the group that the Council had met with Nick Newton, SRA on 14th March 2003. Nick Newton assured the IWC that the SRA will be appointing a Transport Planning Team to investigate future options for Island Line.

Jack Richards told the group that Wendy Toms, RPC will be visiting the Island on 31st March 2003 (her last day as Chairman). There will be a presentation to Wendy at the launch of the RPC/Wight Track Interchange report. Members wishing to attend should liase with Jack Richards. It is hoped that the new Chair will visit the Island soon.

6. RYDE INTERCHANGE UPDATE

Chris Wells reported on the progress of the Ryde Interchange project. A bid for £5.56million had been provisionally approved by the Government (subject to planning permission).

The Environment and Transport Select Committee held a meeting at Ryde Theatre on 25th March 2003 to discuss the project. Both operators and the public had been invited to attend and were given the opportunity to speak.

CW emphasised the importance of the project, not just for Ryde but also for the Island as a whole.

The group were pleased that the project had received provisional acceptance and pointed out that this was a good opportunity to improve integration.

7. POWERED TWO WHEELERS – PARKING BAYS

Jim Ruby circulated a report on parking bays for powered two wheelers. JR gave an example of where a “general” parking space (located outside of the Ventnor Somerfield’s store) had recently been changed to motorcycle use only. This space had previously been utilised by the disabled and those with mobility difficulties. Ventnor Town Council were concerned that they had not been formally consulted on the motorcycle space and, although in favour of motorcycle provision, would have preferred a different location.

Stuart Linn pointed out that consultation often significantly delays implementation and, should the Council consult on all minor works, delivery would be affected.

Chris Wells pointed out that the Council does work in partnership with the Parish/Town Councils and the community on major issues.

Ron Wallis stated that motorcyclists require adequate parking provision but not necessarily in prime locations.

8. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Jim Ruby expressed concern that little progress was being made with Safe Routes to School (SRTS).

JR has regularly witnessed a number of dangerously parked cars outside a Ventnor primary school at school finishing time, and is concerned that this represents a hazard to pupils.

The group acknowledged that during school start/finish times there is a significant increase in the numbers of cars on the road. This is very different during school holidays.

Chris Wells pointed out that the "school parental choice" option had increased the problem. Pupils who live more than 2 miles from their local primary school or 3 miles from the local secondary schools receive a free bus pass from the Council. However those exercising parental choice do not qualify for a free bus pass.

Stuart Linn reported that a number of possible travel options had been considered, including staggering attendance times. Unfortunately the schools concerned had not been willing to participate.

Hugh Walding stated that a local primary school had tried to organise a "walking bus scheme" but unfortunately, although parents were initially keen, insufficient numbers had volunteered their time. HW also suggested that by preventing cars getting close to the school gates, pupils may be encouraged to walk, cycle or travel by bus.

Councillor Fox told the group that the Council has allocated £250,000 for SRTS in 2003/04. The Council has recently introduced a SRTS priority ranking system and money will be allocated accordingly. It is hoped that the complete 2003/04 Engineering Services Capital Programme will be published on the internet in the near future – this will include priority rankings.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Ruby suggested that, when the agenda allows, partners be offered the opportunity to give a presentation to the group on the work of their organisation. The group supported the proposal as this will increase the understanding of the functions and problems encountered by others.

Councillor Fox reported that the Council, in conjunction with Southern Vectis, are introducing a new park-and-ride in Cowes. The scheme will start on Monday 31st March and will run from a 90 space car park at Somerton Industrial Estate to the Red Jet Terminal. Buses will coincide with ferry times.

Ron Wallis informed the group that as from October 2005, it may not be possible to facilitate motorcycle testing on the Isle of Wight. This is due to European Legislation. The nearest test centre would therefore be in Fareham. The motorcycle fraternity are currently fighting this proposal and RW agreed to keep the QTP informed of any developments. Councillor Fox offered the Councils assistance with the case.

Rachel Jolliffe reported that arrangements could be made for the QTP agendas/minutes etc to be published on the "iwight.com" website. The group agreed that this would be advantageous.

Action: Rachel Jolliffe to arrange for web space to be made available and documents to be added to site.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **xxxx** in **xxxx**
(PLEASE NOTE REVISED DATE AND TIME).