

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on 23rd May 2003

At Committee Room 2, County Hall, Newport

Present: Jim Ruby - Chair
Tony Dickinson – Island Line
Ernie Fox CC – IW Council
Tim Hunter-Henderson – Federation of Small Businesses
Margaret Howden – IW Older Voices
Valerie Lawson - CycleWight
Stuart Linn – Southern Vectis
Steve Porter – Steve Porter Transport/Chamber of Commerce
Jack Richards – RPC / Wight Track
Malcolm Ross – CycleWight
Peter Taylor – Isle of Wight Council
Steve Wade – Island Line
Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
Chris Wells – Isle of Wight Council
Charlotte Westwood – Isle of Wight Council
Brenda Wilkins – Advanced Motorists

1. APOLOGIES

Trish Collins – British Horse Society
Ashley Curzon – Isle of Wight Council
Martin Gibson – LIFT IW
Kevin Hatt – Red Funnel Ferries
Rachel Jolliffe – Isle of Wight Council
Steve Matthews – Isle of Wight Council
John Metcalfe – Isle of Wight Tourism
Gary Price CC – Isle of Wight Council
Jan Rounsevell – Isle of Wight Taxi Proprietors Association
Kevin Smith – Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce
Peter Tuck – Retired QTP Chair
Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Ryan Willegers – Wightlink
Dave Woracker – Transport 2000

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 27th March 2003.

The minutes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Jim Ruby informed the meeting that the issue of objective 4 of the aims and objectives, which had been raised at the previous meeting by Richard Box, Hovertravel, had been discussed with Rachel Jolliffe and it was agreed that consultation is needed and therefore the matter should be deferred for discussion at the September meeting. Stuart Linn commented that all of the members of the QTP signed up to the aims and objectives 5 years ago.

Brenda Wilkins enquired if there were any developments regarding motorcycle testing on the Island (raised by Ron Wallis at the previous meeting), Jim Ruby stated that no new information had been provided.

4. ROAD SAFETY

Peter Taylor apologised for the incorrect information being issued and circulated a copy of the Road Safety Plan. PT asked that QTP members consider the Plan and correlate the views of their organisations, which should be discussed at the next meeting. Furthermore, if any of the members had a specific view from their organisation, that a written copy be sent to Jim Ruby with a copy to Rachel Jolliffe.

The first draft of the plan was prepared by TMS Consultants and agreed by the Transport and Environment committee that the views of the QTP be considered. PT went through the plan briefly touching on the themed topics, including

- 16% of casualties were aged under 16 compared to national average of 12%
- 12% of casualties were powered two wheeler drivers or passengers compared to national average of 12%
- 6.7% casualties were over the age of 60 compared to national average of 4.1%

Brenda Wilkins highlighted that the Island has a large elderly population and this could attribute to the high percentage of 60+ casualties. PT mentioned that older drivers may be more prone to accidents due to failing eyesight and slower reaction times. The group discussed the issue of older drivers and their reliance on the private motor vehicle. Brenda Wilkins explained that unless a driver does more than 4,000 miles a year it would be cheaper to hire a taxi when wanting to travel.

Although it was suggested that a number of the accidents may involve non Island residents, this was not found to be the case.

Councillor Fox suggested that cultural issues such as drivers becoming over familiar with the roads and driving on "auto-pilot" may result in increased accidents.

Margaret Howden explained that a new government incentive had been launched at 11 Island Schools called Kerb Drill where by young children are instructed on how to behave when out on the public highway.

Malcolm Ross and Hugh Walding felt that when roads are designed there is not enough consideration given to vulnerable road users.

Valerie Lawson commented that since the introduction of the speed cameras the traffic appeared to be travelling within the speed limit. Councillor Fox commented that firstly there should be more signs going up warning of mobile cameras and secondly suggested that a police representative be invited to the QTP to give a presentation.

It was suggested that the QTP form the basis of the Road Safety Forum. Steve Wade felt that Island Line had little to offer to road safety. Jim Ruby suggested that Member Organisations could attend when they felt the issues were relevant to their organisation.

5. REPORT FROM RAIL WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the Rail Working Party of 25th April 2003 had been circulated with the main agenda. Jack Richards reported on the main outcomes of the meeting.

Island Metro gave a presentation to the group on light rail. The group welcomed the presentation but felt that the figures required further investigation. Island Tramways turned down the offer to attend.

Dave Woracker's paper on Island Line passenger journey figures has been passed to the SRA to confirm the figures, however the outcome is still unknown.

Chris Wells suggested that the QTP write to the SRA to enquire on progress with the new franchise and including a copy of the Rail Working Party minutes. This proposal was supported by Councillor Fox. Furthermore, Jim Ruby felt that it might be an advantage for a representative from the SRA to attend a QTP meeting.

Action: Jim Ruby to write to the SRA to gain clarification on the progress towards establishing a new franchise and enclosing a copy of the RWP minutes.

6. FREIGHT ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Steve Porter gave a presentation on freight distribution. The presentation was based on his perspective as an Island haulage operator. A copy of the notes are attached.

Chris Wells asked SP if his drivers used Newport town centre as opposed to negotiating the chicane on Forest Road. SP stated that his drivers preferred using Forest Road as this avoided the 'heavy' town centre traffic.

Councillor Fox highlighted that a number of shopkeepers wanted to receive deliveries close to their premises but were not willing to lose parking for the provision of a loading bay.

Chris Wells enquired as to the possibility of using vehicles fuelled by Gas or LPG, similar to some major retailers eg Mark & Spencer's and Sainsbury's. SP informed the group that the majority of his vehicles are hired and vehicles fuelled by alternative means were not available.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 31st July 2003 in Council Chambers, County Hall, starting at 2.00pm.