

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on 17th September 2003

At Quay Arts Centre, Newport

Present: Jim Ruby – Chair
Rosie Barnard – Isle of Wight Council
Katy Blackburn – IW Youth Trust
Richard Box – Hovertravel
Sue Chilton – Isle of Wight Council
Ashley Curzon – Isle of Wight Council
Ernie Fox CC – Isle of Wight Council
Margaret Howden – Isle of Wight Older Voices
Tim Hunter-Henderson – Federation of Small Businesses
Valerie Lawson – CycleWight
Stuart Linn – Southern Vectis
Rachel Jolliffe – Isle of Wight Council
Sean Millward – Wightlink
Garry Price CC – Isle of Wight Council
Jack Richards – Rail Passengers Committee / Wight Track
Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Steve Wade – Island Line
Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
Chris Wells – Isle of Wight Council
Alan White – Southern Vectis
Brenda Wilkins – Advanced Motorists

1. **APOLOGIES**

Trish Collins – British Horse Society
Kevin Hatt – Red Funnel
Steve Matthews – Isle of Wight Council
Steve Porter – Steve Porter Transport
Malcolm Ross – CycleWight
Kevin Smith – IW Chamber of Commerce

(Item 4 was dealt with first)

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 23rd May 2003**

The minutes of the 23rd May 2003 were agreed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

Jim Ruby circulated a copy of a letter sent to the Strategic Rail Authority regarding the SRA's consultation paper "Specification of Network Outputs".

4. **LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTERSHIP PRESENTATION**

Sue Chilton and Rosie Barnard from the Isle of Wight Council's Policy Unit gave a presentation to the group. Sue Chilton is now responsible for co-ordinating the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Community Strategy. The LSP is to be restructured with 7 Themed Groups and an Executive. The Executive will consist of 16 Members – an independent chair, vice-chair, 7 theme "champions" and representatives from 7 key stakeholders – IWC, Health Authority, Voluntary Sector, Private Sector, Hampshire Constabulary, Youth MP and a community representative.

The first themed workshops are due to be held in October and, although there is currently not a specific transport workshop, QTP members should try to attend transport related workshops wherever possible.

Action : Rachel Jolliffe to send QTP membership list to Rosie Barnard.
Rosie Barnard to send list of workshop dates to QTP members.

5. YOUTH TRANSPORT PRESENTATION

Katy Blackburn, IW Youth Trust gave a presentation to the group on the Youth Transport Research Project. The Project is funded by the Children's Fund and, although initially only for one year, has now been extended until March 2004. 3,000 transport questionnaires were circulated to parents of primary school children; middle school pupils and high school pupils. 1,584 (55%) completed questionnaires were received highlighting concerns relating to: safety around schools; access to after school activities; concessionary fares; value for money; bus shelters/stops and service quality & frequency. The report makes 17 recommendations and focuses on 6 key projects.

Copies of the full report can be obtained from the Youth Trust (01983 529569) or downloaded from the Wight 2B Heard website – www.wight2bheard.co.uk).

The group welcomed the report and thanked Katy Blackburn for her hard work.

6. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE

Copies of this year's LTP Annual Progress Report had been sent to all QTP members. Chris Wells thanked contributors to the plan and outlined the contents of the report.

The APR was submitted to the Government in July 2003 and includes a supplementary bid for repair and strengthening of the road-over-rail bridge at Ryde St Johns. A major bid has also been submitted for funding to assist in the stabilisation of the area around Undercliff Drive. The Council will receive a decision letter from the Government in December 2003.

The Isle of Wight are currently ranked 35th (out of 85) nationally, close to the top of the "average" category and hope to improve on this position next year.

7. QTP AGM AND OPEN MEETING

This year's AGM is due to be held in November. Jim Ruby asked the group for possible dates, start time and speakers. It was agreed that the AGM should start at approximately 5pm and the Open Meeting at 6pm, ideally on 20th November in Newport

(Update : the AGM will be held on 27th November 2003 at Quay Arts Centre Theatre, starting at 5.15pm).

It was suggested that Dr Caroline Cahm from the National Federation of Bus Users would be an interesting speaker.

Jim Ruby informed the group that he would be resigning as Chairman at the AGM for health reasons. The group thanked Jim for his help and commitment over the last year.

Action: Rachel Jolliffe to arrange AGM & Open Meeting and notify members of date & venue.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Strategic Rail Authority have appointed Chris Austin as the new Rural Railways Officer. It is hoped that Chris will visit the Island in the near future.

Steve Wade reported on the latest position with Island Line. The SRA are currently preparing the new franchise document for signature by Stagecoach by the end of November. The new franchise will run until 2007.

Rachel Jolliffe informed the group that the IW Rural Community Council are launching their "WightRide" car-sharing database on 22nd September at Havenstreet Railway Station. Any QTP members interested in attending should contact RJ for details. Information is also available on the internet – www.wightride.com.

Chris Wells reminded QTP members that this years' APR included a consultation questionnaire. Completed questionnaires should be returned to Charlotte Westwood at Jubilee Stores, The Quay, Newport IW by 31st October 2003.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting – date, time and venue tbc.