

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on 22nd April 2004
At Quay Arts Centre, Newport

Present : Steve Porter – Chair
Kevin Bolan – IW Healthcare, NHS Trust
Mike Cunningham CC – Isle of Wight Council
Ashley Curzon – Isle of Wight Council
Ernie Fox CC – Isle of Wight Council
Kevin Hatt – Red Funnel Group
Tim Hunter-Henderson – Federation of Small Businesses
Laurence Keynes – Rural Transport Partnership
Stuart Linn – Southern Vectis
Susan Marshall – Isle of Wight Council
Sean Millward – Wightlink
Jack Richards – Rail Passengers Committee / Wight Track
Janice Rounsevell – IW Taxi Proprietors Association
Derek Rowell - Isle of Wight Council
David Ruscing - Red Funnel Group
Ian Schaff - Isle of Wight Council
Nigel Smith – Isle of Wight Council
Tracey Young - Isle of Wight Council
John Vosper – Isle of Wight Council
Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Steve Wade – Islandline
Maureen Wakeman – IW Disability Action Group
Huge Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
Chris Wells – Isle of Wight Council
Brenda Wilkins – IW Group of Advanced Motorists
Charlotte Westwood – Isle of Wight Council
Dave Woracker – Transport 2000

1. APOLOGIES

Valerie Lawson – Cyclewright
Steve Matthews – Isle of Wight Council
Margaret Howden – Isle of Wight Older Voices
Jim Ruby – Rural Issues Group
Ron Wallis – IW Motorcycle Training Scheme
Alan White – Southern Vectis

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (26th FEBRUARY 2004)

The minutes of the 26th February 2004 were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

4. PRESENTATION ON ROAD SAFETY (IW COUNCIL)

Rachel Jolliffe (RJ) gave a presentation on Road Safety on the Isle of Wight (copy attached).

Kevin Burton, Isle of Wight Council's Senior Traffic Engineer, explained how accidents are recorded and plotted by the police using a GIS mapping system. The information is then transferred to an accident database which enables the Council to view a range of criteria (eg driver age, vehicle class, road type, weather, time) and to identify 'accident black spots'.

Once a black spot has been identified, the Council can visit the site to see if a scheme can be designed to tackle the problem. Should a scheme be implemented it is monitored annually to ensure that the problem has been resolved.

Every highway's scheme over the value of £5000 is now safety audited. Chris Bartlett, Isle of Wight Council's Safety Officer, explained that 4 audits are undertaken by an approved audit team. This system identifies 99.9% of defects at the design stage.

The Isle of Wight Council are a member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Safety Camera Partnership. This partnership works together to identify locations where speed has been a significant factor in road accidents and installs safety cameras where appropriate.

5. ROAD SAFETY DISCUSSION

The group discussed road safety. Members emphasised the need to consider vulnerable road users in new schemes and the "appropriate" positioning of dropped crossings.

The group commended the recently completed Newport Traffic Management Scheme but felt that there were still a few areas in need of improvement. The Barton Road crossing can take a long time to change and has no audio signal. KB acknowledged that there were still software problems with the crossing and explained that the audio signal has been replaced by revolving tactile cones. These cones are located on the crossing boxes and assist the visually impaired who may become confused if two audio signals are located close together. These crossings conform with the DfT's Puffin Crossing Regulations.

The works at Newport Road, Lake were discussed. Members were concerned that the temporary traffic lights do not include pedestrian crossing facilities. KB explained that the contractor should set the lights to allow time for pedestrians to cross but were not required to provide formal pedestrian crossing controls.

Action: KB to speak to the relevant contractor to ensure that adequate time is allowed for pedestrians to cross.

The procedures for road opening by the utilities were discussed. Currently the information is posted daily on the Council's website and advertised weekly in the County Press. Lists are also circulated to local radio and TV stations. It was felt that major road closures/temporary traffic lights should be advertised in a more comprehensive manner, possibly with the display of notice boards in advance of the works.

6. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE

Chris Wells explained that the Council are currently compiling this year's Annual Progress Report (covering the financial year 2003/04). Rachel Jolliffe has contacted transport operators for any "good news stories" and other additional information. The report has to be submitted to the DfT and GOSE by 29th July 2004.

Last year GOSE highlighted a number of targets which were not on track – road casualty reduction, safe routes to school, bus patronage and road maintenance. It is hoped that work undertaken during the last year will address these issues.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Don Vincent highlighted that different transport operators have different child age criteria. The provision of the Youth Mover Card provides IW teenagers in full time education with discounted/free transport however teenage visitors pay adult fares on certain types of transport.

Steve Wade pointed out that the child age for train travel is set nationally but teenagers can purchase a Young Persons Railcard.

Action: Steve Porter to write to Councillor Fox to ask him to investigate the situation and suggest that all young persons between the ages of 5 and 16 be entitled to a reduced fare.

8. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Val Lawson felt that the QTP had not sufficiently covered road safety as they had not discussed driver behaviour. It was decided that the QTP should continue to discuss road safety at the next meeting.

Action: Brian Crane, Isle of Wight Council Principal Road Safety Officer, to be invited to give a presentation to the group on driver training and the progress of the Council's Road Safety Plan.

Action: A representative from Hampshire Constabulary to be invited to attend the next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 24th June 2004 in the Seminar Room, Quay Arts Centre, Newport starting at 2.00pm.