

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Held on 13th January 2005
At Quay Arts Centre, Newport

PRESENT: Steve Porter – Chair
John Bentley – Isle of Wight Council
Jenny Boor – Hovertravel
Ashley Curzon – Isle of Wight Council
Ernie Fox CC – Isle of Wight Council
Tim Hunter-Henderson – Federation of Small Businesses
Laurence Keynes – Rural Transport Partnership
Stephanie Light – Isle of Wight Council
Stuart Linn – Southern Vectis
Jack Richards – Rail Passengers Committee / Wight Track
Janice Rounsevell – IW Taxi Proprietors Association
Ian Schaff - Isle of Wight Council
Nigel Smith – Isle of Wight Tourism
Don Vincent – IW Bus Users Group
Steve Wade – Island Line
Mo Wakeman – Riverside Centre
Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth
Chris Wells – Isle of Wight Council
Charlotte Westwood – Isle of Wight Council
Brenda Wilkins – IW Group of Advanced Motorists
Ryan Willegers – Wightlink

The agenda was altered, item 4 and 8 switched and item 7 was added.

1. APOLOGIES

Ian Dodd – Freight Transport Association
Peter Harris CC – Isle of Wight Council
Kevin Hatt – Red Funnel Group
Margaret Howden – Isle of Wight Older Voices
Steve Matthews – Isle of Wight Council
Rachel Mills – Isle of Wight Council
Ron Wallis – IW Motorcycle Training Scheme
Dave Woracker – Transport 2000

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (21st October 2004)

Item 4 included an action point for Steve Porter (SP) to write to Cllr Fox regarding the, IW Council allowing licensed hackney carriages to use all present and future bus lanes and bus priority and secondly to provide public transport and taxi information maps in both town and village centres, this letter was now to be sent to Cllr Harris. Tim Hunter-Henderson (TH-H), proposed that an additional paragraph was included asking the Council to erect signs in leisure centre car parks explaining where the money from the new charges was being used. This proposal was seconded by Brenda Wilkins (BW) and the motion was carried.

Action: SP to amend letter and send to Cllr Harris.

3. ENGINEERING SERVICES PR STRATEGY

John Bentley and Stephanie Light gave a presentation on the PR Strategy which it was hoped would improve communications between Engineering Service, the press and the public. (Notes were provided at the meeting, additional copies can be obtained from the QTP Secretary).

The group discussed that although some good work had been done in the past the press appear to prefer to report 'bad' news stories regarding transport. However Wight Insight provides the council with an opportunity to communicate directly with the public.

It was acknowledged by the group that to overcome the transport issues on the Island we are all part of the problem as well as the solution. However, it was felt that because the majority of the adult population are car drivers, the press are not so interested in public transport initiatives.

4. COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Jack Richards gave a short presentation regarding the benefits of the Rail Working Party evolving into a Community Rail Partnership (CRP). (Notes were provided at the meeting, additional copies can be obtained from the QTP Secretary).

The group discussed how the CRP Officer would be employed by the council to promote the railway. It was hoped that funding would also be received from additional partners, this would mean there would be no financial implications for the QTP. The CRP would remain under the QTP umbrella and therefore retain its links to the LSP. The Executive Committee would be made up of operators and users groups. Jack proposed that the Rail Working Party evolved into the Community Rail Partnership. This proposal was seconded by TH-H and the motion was carried.

5. RYDE INTERCHANGE UPDATE

Ian Schaff (IS) displayed five concept designs for Ryde Interchange and explained that they had each been assessed by an independent architect and cost consultant. At least one of the designs was considerably over budget, however because they are all just concepts there was scope to alter and downscale if required. The group discussed the designs and some concerns were raised regarding the need to improve pedestrian access and maintenance issues due to the buildings proximity to the sea and possible problems from pigeons. IS informed the group that each of the five architects who had submitted designs would be invited to interviews held at the end of January.

6. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2

Chris Wells (CW) gave a presentation regarding the process of writing the Second Local Transport Plan (LTP2). (Notes were provided at the meeting, additional copies can be obtained from the QTP Secretary) CW explained that he felt that transport was an important element of every day life however he thinks that it was often given little consideration. LTP2 will provide the council with the opportunity to work with operators and the community as a whole to improve the transport network on the Island. The LTP should include a 5 year strategy and a 20 year vision. The group were therefore asked to participate in this work and it was agreed that the QTP should consider the problems and opportunities as part of a number of workshop sessions to be held over the next few meetings.

7. CLLR E FOX

Cllr Fox informed the group that he had resigned as transport portfolio holder. He felt confident that the Island has the ability to deliver its own transport solutions and he thanked the group for their support over the last few years.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Don Vincent informed the group that the Bus Users group supported the proposal of a small plate to be placed in the Ventnor Rail Bus to commemorate Jim Ruby's work for transport.

9. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 17th March 2005, at 14:00 in the Theatre, Quay Arts Centre