

MINUTES OF QUALITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP USER GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 11th September 2012
Seaclose Offices, Newport 10:30 -12:30

PRESENT

David Rogers (DR) – Chair
Eddie Elsom (EE) – IW Older Voices
Rachel Mills (RM) – Isle of Wight Council (IWC)
Morris Barton (MB) – Chamber of Commerce
Alex Lawson - Cycle Wight
Hugh Walding – IW Friends of the Earth

Tricia Merrifield – IOW bridleways group
Brenda Wilkins – IW Advanced Motorist
Stuart George (SG) – IW bus and rail users group.
Ollie Boulter (OB) - IWC (For Island Plan update)
Chris Wells (CW) - IWC

1. APOLOGIES

Wendy Perera – IWC
Edward Giles CC – IWC

Valerie Lawson - Cycle Wight
Tim Thorne - Cycle Wight

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

A copy is available at www.iwight.com/transport along with other QTP agendas and minutes.

3. PRESENTATIONS / UPDATES

QTP update

DR explained the way in which the QTP will now operate through the QTP users group, QTP executive and discussion with transport providers and business community now through the chamber of commerce strategic infrastructure group.

Island Plan update

OB explained that the Island Plan – Core Strategy has been adopted following Examination in Public. The council is now working on “daughter documents” Area Action Plans (AAPs) for medina valley, Ryde and the bay area (including Sandown, Lake and Shanklin) Timescales – medina valley – underway now, Ryde – early 2013, bay – late 2013. The remainder of the Island will be covered by the Delivery and Management Plan – all plans to be in place by 2014.

- Proposals for changes at East Cowes will be considered as part of AAP.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will sit alongside existing Section 106 developer contribution scheme. Money will be spent on a range of beneficial schemes including transport.

Action point: Plans will be advertised and there will be opportunities to comment and contribute. QTP will be kept up to date.

Action point; Anybody wishing to be contacted specifically regarding AAPs to contact CW.

Island Transport Plan (ITP)

CW gave an update on the ITP and the desire to continue monitoring a range of local transport indicators, including bus patronage, punctuality, train patronage, punctuality reliability, ferry patronage, cycle trips, access to Newport town centre, casualties and numbers killed or seriously injured. Air quality management, road traffic mileage (cars using monitored roads), road and footway condition.

Buses

Rachel Mills (RM) gave an update on local buses and single contract between IWC and local bus operator – Southern Vectis.

- Concessionary fares – IWC currently reimburse approximately 3 million concessionary journeys annually (total cost £4.5m)
- Subsidised buses – Contract runs until March next year. Has encouraged an ongoing increase in patronage.
- Home to school transport – operated in partnership with IWC education. Any spare places are made available to children living outside free travel to school area. Out for procurement under EU procurement process, 7 year contract SV preferred tenderer, will also include community buses.
- Community buses – operated in partnership with SV and local communities' services use 8 buses off peak school lift vehicles. Working with partners and provider, two national awards and shortlisted for National Transport Award (October) Funding (£48k from DfT not guaranteed) plus funding from council. As part of agreement, groups can set own fares and retain income. Some groups have elected to run on 'set fares' whilst others request voluntary contributions.

Questions / comments

- Red Jet park and ride service (MB) – information not always clear re bus stops being used.
- Complaints (EE) – do complaints made go to traffic commissioners?

Action point: RM to follow up issue raised by EE regarding complaints.

Rail issues

CW gave a brief update on Island Line. Franchise and recent responses to DfT and Network Rail regarding desire to improve service (rolling stock and line improvements)

Questions / comments

Timetable – (SG) pointed out that a passing loop at Brading rather than Sandown would give ability to tie in with Wightlink Fast Cats better. Missed connections can be an issue especially if used P&R at St Johns.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

RM explained that IWC had been successful in achieving one of a number of bids to government for funding to improve local transport.

Project has tourism slant to encourage visitors to travel without a car, or leave it at holiday destination.

Elements of the bid include:

1. Transport hubs – signage, information on Island and nearby mainland locations using intelligent technology (mobile phone and on interactive on-site)
2. Walking and cycling – infrastructure upgrades (New and improved routes) cycle hire and bikes on some West Wight buses. Walkers and cyclists welcome scheme.
3. Promotion – hearts and minds, to be delivered in partnership with the newly established destination management organisation (DMO) which includes tourism providers, business community and the council.
 - Successful pathfinder bid (1 of 5).
 - 2 ½ years to deliver project.
 - Work has started - need to spend effectively as no possibility to carry over money.
 - Committee report being prepared to confirm way forward.
 - Monitoring framework to be established.
 - Opportunity to build on project.
 - Congratulations from all.

Action point: Stakeholders meeting – Westridge Centre, Monday 17th September 10:30 All welcome.

Questions / comments

Wheelchair users (DR) – good to see ability to carry bikes on buses, but consideration should also be given to ability to carry wheelchairs. DR distributed details of facilities offered for wheelchair users in Brighton and Hove.

Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH)

CW explained that IWC has now formally joined TfSH a strategic transport planning group including Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils.

TfSH is recognised and valued by DfT and joining the group, will bring a number of benefits to the Island, these include:

1. Improve dialogue with our neighbours and operators.
2. Joint working on range of issues such as a cross boundary travel card. LSTF support and promotion.
3. Being included within detailed transport model – which can be used for a range of tasks including strategic issues such as developing bids for funding and testing planning applications.
4. Be included in a group which under government proposals could become a Local Transport Body (LTB) – to whom Government will delegate future (major) transport funding.

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

PFI – MB expressed concerns over potential disruption caused by PFI works. Need to ensure close working relationship with PFI provider.

Action point: CW to invite PFI provider to appropriate QTP meeting

Traffic orders – SG asked how traffic orders are advertised, as it would appear that a Southern Vectis (SV) were not aware of a potential loading bay in Ventnor High Street.

<p>Action point: RM to follow up. Post meeting note RM confirmed that SV are one of 23 consultees and were consulted over changes.</p>

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 8 January 2013

Tuesday 21 May 2013

All meetings scheduled for 10:00 (tea / coffee) - 10:30 start. Seaclose Offices, Newport.

Meeting closed at 12:27