

Minutes of YBF Meeting held on 21 November 2017 at West Offices

1. Chair Graham Collett (GC) welcomed all to the meeting - 6 YBF members and 4 others
2. **Apologies** – D Roberts, Dee Boyle, Gail Shuttleworth, Toby Hart, Councillor Mary Cannon
3. **The main topic was York's Quality Bus Partnership (QBP)**. Keith McNally, QBP Chair, outlined its functions. This was fundamentally to bring together York's Transport Officers and the various operators, dealing with short-term issues. He noted the ambitions of local politicians within the group, to achieve a 10% increase in bus use, but funds for development were limited, and there seemed to be shortcomings related to York's main operators. Some of the concerns by QBP related to safety, ticketing, interchanges. Some major schemes had been progressed through the various funding schemes from central government. Examples were the Better Bus Area Fund (BBAF), which had brought bus wardens, enhanced timetable information (bus stop displays) and development of city-wide interchanges. Local Sustainable Transport Funding had enabled IT journey planning, while pinch-point funds and Green Bus funds had also been exploited. The BBAF had included valuable capital funds. He noted that bus use had marginally grown on many routes while the national trend had been down, and surveys pointed to healthy passenger satisfaction in York itself. Future plans would hopefully include better reliability, growth in electric vehicle numbers, and contactless ticketing. Attention would also have to be given to other planned developments such as York Central. Mr McNally was thanked for his presentation, and questions were invited from attendees.
4. **Issues raised** included – re-assessing needs based on neglected corridors, the way forward with electric buses noting prospects in Harrogate by Transdev, consultations on the Local Plan and York Central, ending of BBAF next year, pinch points at A19/A64 junctions, consultations on bus operators future plans, local effects with HS2/3 plans, need for more bus stops on Inner Ring Road routes, operational issues, bus timetable displays and their reliability, air quality at low levels affecting children, need for private/public sessions of QBP meetings, lower levels of peak flow demand.
5. **It was agreed** that all the points made would be noted and referred to QBP meetings as far as possible, while YBF would continue to campaign within and outside the city, noting that rural/outer urban areas seemed to be neglected, as YBF resources are. Mr McNally agreed to speak with Andrew Bradley (York Council) about Forum representation at QBP meetings.
6. John Bibby reported on his continued efforts to establish a taxi/bus service in Heworth, with a prospect now of ward funding. **It was agreed** to provide qualified Forum support for the ward funding bid, taking account of the need not to impact on existing services. Support was also given to views expressed by Dee Boyle about YBF focussing on bus issues principally, and especially looking at shortcomings with current routes perhaps with input from parish/resident groups. **It was agreed** to ask First York if they had a "shopping list" of congestion hotspots which impacted on their services and also whether they were providing input to York Central or the Local Plan consultations.
7. The meeting closed at 19.15.