

York Bus Forum

Minutes of the Committee meeting 5:30pm on Tuesday 15th May 2018, West Offices

Present: Ron Healey (Chair), Brian Nye (BN), Dave Merrett (DM), Tony Hudson (TH), Diane Robinson (DR), Neil McFarran (NF), Alan Robinson (AR)

Apologies: Graham Collett (Chair), John Bibby (JB), Andy d'Agorne (Ad'A), Mary Cannon (MC), Audrey Miller (AM), Dee Boyle (DB); Gail Shuttleworth (GS)

1. Introductions / Committee position

It was noted that this was a committee meeting and the question was raised as to who the committee was? DM noted that the AGM had missed electing a new committee; the committee member numbers beyond the officers was not defined as such. He ran through who the previous year's members had been. He asked who might be willing to be on the committee – DR no, NM, AR possibly (latter particularly interested in the bus station working group). **Action: Add election of new committee to next Forum agenda.**

2. Notes of the AGM

Noted, with addition of Diana Robinson's apologies.

3. Minutes of the committee meeting Tuesday 20th March

Agreed, with addition of Diana Robinson's apologies.

4. Financial Membership Position

The Treasurer & Membership Records Officer circulated a written update showing the current position, including 6 new members, 1 new affiliation and one pending.

5. Future Direction & Role of the Bus Forum

The meeting went through the Forum Chair's report para by para. The meeting chair thanked those who'd worked on the Forum's Local Plan submission. On publicity it was noted that John Bibby was now the Forum's publicity officer. Mention was made of the opportunity of York TV for publicity. It was noted that the Forum's new website was almost up and running. NF expressed an interest in attending the training at Red Media at North Duffield on the 29th. In terms of engaging with the Council, RH suggested that the Forum should campaign for the Council to uplift its subsidy criterion to £3 / passenger. In terms of how the forum identified bus issues, the paper's suggestion of having nominees to cover the four quarters of the city, most of those present said that they really only knew the services on their own routes, and did not feel area wide nominees was practical. Other than the area nominees idea, the paper was agreed.

6. Access Group's Report

This was noted with appreciation along with the proposal to publish and disseminate it.

Action: RB

7. Bus Station Working Group paper, YCT paper on Queen Street Bridge demolition & Alan Robinson bus station proposal

DM flagged the Queen Street bridge demolition paper and the Council were working up a proposal, which he'd had a glancing view of, which appeared to simply move the existing bus stops west to the demolished bridge site, with no turning arrangement. He was asked to what timescale the Council were working. DM said he didn't know but it sounded soon. The papers were discussed and it was felt important to get on with bringing the Forum's own proposals forward. Alan Robinson's proposal was welcomed, and it was suggested they should be taken into account in the working group's proposal, and the detailed paper incorporated as an Appendix to illustrate one possible approach to delivering a bus station integrated with the railway station. This was agreed. **Action: JB / Bus working group to consider how to reflect / incorporate Alan Robinson's proposals in an updated paper.** Discussion then focused on how the Bus Station paper could be taken forward and on the need to engage with the bus operators. It was suggested that the YBF should look to propose its ideas to the Quality Bus Partnership once updated. DM felt it was important to evidence the rationale of the design, and asked if anyone knew anyone with knowledge of bus station layout design, operational aspects such as layover times, covering delayed services, and the consequential calculation of bay number requirements, etc. The only suggested name was Toby Hart, and it was agreed that DM approach him about this. **Action: DM to follow up with Toby Hart.**

8. Council Consultation arrangements

Note was made of the Civic Trust's early involvement in the development of the Council's proposals for Queen Street Bridge and the Station, and the absence of any similar consultation with the Bus Forum, despite past requests for early consultation arrangements to the Director of Environment & Place and Ian Gillies. DM said he'd informally flagged the issue to the new Executive member, Cllr. Dew. It was agreed the Forum should formally seek similar prior consultative status as the YCT. **Action: ?**

9. Council's North York Bus Improvement Scheme

DM outlined the content of the paper going to Thursday's executive member decision session, and noted that the paper's title belied its content, and did virtually nothing to really improve the bus services. Why was no bus priority being included in the junction signal controllers at least? It was a complete missed opportunity. Regarding the hospital problem, he referred to the previous proposal to provide a new Park and Ride site at Wigginton road, which could serve staff and ambulant visitors and out-patients that he'd

suggested as an alternative at the time the multi-story car park was proposed. AR felt that the right turn from Clarence Street into Lowther Street should be banned. It was agreed that representations were made to raise these objections at Thursday's decision session. **Action: DM to register to speak against these proposals.**

10. Bus Service & other infrastructure changes

AR raised the impending service changes on the 20th, and the publicity for. Getting new timetables up beforehand was essential, especially if there were earlier timings. Concern was expressed at why the service was changing so much. On timetables, concern was expressed about the height of the timetables at station avenue, also timetable print size, and its unreadability. AR noted that rail have strict font and display panel size requirements arising from the DDA act. DM mentioned his frustrated efforts to address timetable readability during the previous administration where officers had gone behind his back and reduced the new minimum font size he'd previously got agreed. Early departures were flagged as another issue, but GS said Marc Bichtemann had previously indicated that up to 2 minutes early departures were permitted. RH later raised the issue of empty running, including final journeys to the depot, when additional passenger services could be provided at little extra cost. **Action: ?**

11. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Report

The paper on this was briefly discussed and agreed. DM said he was struggling timewise and did not want to take on the Data controller role, but in the absence of a secretary or other willing member, agreed to do so temporarily. **Action: DM**

12. Website Training

Covered in earlier item 5 discussion.

13. York Environment Forum (YEF) Transport Group / Local Plan

DM reported on his and the Chair's involvement in the YEF transport group's on-going work with Tony May from the York Civic Trusts planning committee on developing proposals for an independent consultation on future transport policy for the City in advance of the Council developing a new Local Transport Plan starting in January 2019, and also in commenting on the transport aspects of the proposed Local Plan, with a detailed submission having been made. DM circulated a shorter submission that had gone in from the Bus Forum. He reported that the enquiry inspector would be holding a pre-enquiry meeting in August, with the enquiry commencing in September, and the submission had sought our attendance at the enquiry. It was requested that the YEF Transport Group's consultation proposals and timetable were brought back to the next meeting. **Action: Chair / DM**