

York Bus Forum Meeting 20-11-2018 West Offices 5.30pm

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed those present (including Anna Perett, Labour Candidate for York Outer) and noted a number of apologies (see attendance record).

2. Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 19th September 2018

These were approved.

3. Matters Arising

(a) It was agreed that the Demand Responsive Transport Group should pursue ideas for promoting the No 6 route as an alternative to driving to York District Hospital.

(b) Rosie Baker (Access Project Officer) presented the Forum's YorAccess Guide (produced in association with the Community Transport Group and iTravel York) on the range of accessible public transport opportunities within the city and surrounding areas. She requested that all who could help with its distribution should do so. John Bibby thanked Rosie for her presentation and ideas. He agreed to continue the work of the Access Group on a temporary basis and appealed for further members to join the Group.

4. Speaker - Meera Rambissoon, The TAS Partnership

"Making life easier for passengers with mental health issues: pitfalls and potential ways forward"

Meera presented an outline of her work, highlighting the problems of transport users with mental impairment. This is driven by the increasing numbers of potential transport users who suffer conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's who are wary of using public transport.

5. Speakers - Margaret Ferguson and Philip Kingsley, Alzheimer's Society:

"Dementia-friendly environments for bus users"

Margaret and Philip drew attention to the forecast growth of 20.5% in York residents over 65 between 2010 and 2020. York is a dementia friendly community and was an early adopter (2012). Public transport was essential for people with dementia to get out. The York Forum on Dementia Network (YFDN) could provide input to the design of any future bus (or rail) schemes, including the current Interchange proposals. It was suggested that YFDN members could accompany Council Officers when they were carrying out site visits.

6. Discussion: What needs to be done?

Some comments arising from the presentation were;

1. The need to improve railway station access
2. The need to use pavement surface differentiation to improve use by visually impaired passengers
3. The need to review Blue Badge Allocation to assist mentally impaired passengers' access
4. Increase the amount of audible and improve visible signage and information for bus users
5. Improve driver training to confidence in the less able community
6. Consider the use of a standard design card to signify to transport staff the need to account for potential impairment of users.

7. Conclusions

Dementia Friendly Communities

In order to take this section of the communities' views into account it was suggested that there should be improved consultation with representatives of the York Forum on Dementia Network when proposing future plans.

The action points suggested were;

1. The need to improve bus interfaces for these users
2. Create an email group to help develop meeting themes
3. Develop a "Ramps" initiative to improve conditions on York bus service.
4. Today's presentations to be added to the YBF Website.

The meeting closed with John Bibby thanking participants and attendees.

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