

YORK BUS FORUM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 17th April 2018 held at West Offices, York at 5:30 pm

Chair : Graham Collett

Attended by : Councillor Peter Dew, Professor Tony May and Professor Greg Marsden (University of Leeds Institute for Transport Studies), Marc Bichtemann (First York), Julian Ridge (City of York Council) and 25 members.

Apologies : John Bibby, R. Daniels

The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced York City Councillor Peter Dew who holds the Portfolio for Transport Services. Councillor Dew explained his interest was drawn from 30 years working experience in the transport industry, both rail and bus services. He stated his commitment to working for what is best for the City in an “industry about people”.

Presentation : “A Bus Strategy For York”

The Chair introduced Professor Tony May and Professor Greg Marsden of the University of Leeds Institute for Transport Studies.

Some Main Points

- To develop a transport strategy for ‘on demand travel’
- Provide for those who have no other means of transport
- Provide alternative to the car
- Analysis of gaps in services - What is already provided, what is needed.

NB. Demand for transport services has increased significantly since 2014.

- 11% of households in the UK do not have a car
- 7% have a car but can't afford to run it
- Public Consultation shows the main issues are :

- reliability,
- cheaper fares
- better value for money,
- more buses,
- bus priority on the roads,
- cleaner buses

The Transport Strategy should be included in the York Draft Local Plan where 11

sites for development are expected to have more than 500 units of housing

Issues to be resolved :

- Congestion - lack of road space,
- Delays in boarding buses,
- Building works obstructing bus run,
- Kerbside delays,
- Cash payment for tickets takes 5 times longer than contactless payments,
- More on-line shopping results in more delivery vans,
- Rise in private hire taxi services - doubled in last 5 - 6 years, especially in the evenings,
- Access into public transport by prams, wheelchairs, and for blind and partially sighted.

Ideas to think about

- Bus Routes. - to cover areas of greatest need eg. access to Wigginton Hospital and for new housing developments.
- Extend operating hours. eg. Park and Ride Services.
- Increase frequency of buses
- Improve Information - signage, bus time tables.
- The Bus Services Act 2017 requires to be available audio bus-times and next-bus-stop-announcements-system on all bus-routes.

Ring and Ride Services

This scheme has been tried in Sittingbourne, Kent - where you telephone for an individual pick-up, and a time is allocated for the transport's arrival.

This could attract a wider selection of people; it could suit smaller housing developments where regular timetable is not available or appropriate.

Traffic Constraint. - even a 10 - 15% reduction has a big impact.

Resolutions to these issues requires both a Central Government strategy of co-ordination as well as local Community involvement.

Do not 'export' the resolution to outside Consultants - ask local bus users and local bus drivers.

Following this Presentation the Forum's Annual General Meeting took place.

Minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted.

There were no Matters Arising.

Reports from Officers

Chair's Report: Graham thanked the office-holders for all their efforts, the Meetings have been well-attended. The Web-site is up and running following financial support from the Joseph Rowntree Trust.

Vice-Chair's Report : Ron Healey recommended the Forum undertook more liaison with each Bus Company, and not just depend only on the City Council's staff for this.

Treasurer/Membership Records Officer's Report : Dave Merrett reported that 34 members had paid subscription in 2017. So far only 18 had paid up membership this year. There are 3 external affiliations. Expenditure in 2017 was approx. 100 pounds. More will be spent in 2018 due to the publishing of the Access Group's Report, and the setting up of the new website. Dave recommended setting the Accounts year with the calendar year, which was agreed. The Accounts Report was accepted.

Project Officer's Report : Rosie Barker had collaborated with the Community Transport Group, meeting every other month, also with the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Blind and Partially-Sighted Society. The Access Group had made recommendations for an easier 'stop the bus' strategy, provision of audio-visual technology on-board buses, and the 'One-Stop directory', to be designed by the end of May, then published in quotas of 500, with some copies in large print. On completion, distribution will include Libraries and other hubs with interests in public transport.

Election of Officers :

Chair	Graham Collett
Vice-Chair	Ron Healey
Secretary	Vacant – role to be advertised via CVS
Treasurer/Membership Records Officer	Dave Merrett
Project Officer	Rosie Baker
Press and Public Relations Officer/Programme Secretary	John Bibby
Independent Examiner	Committee to seek an appropriate person for this role
Website Development Team	Dave Merrett, John Bibby, Geoff Beacon, Rosie Baker, Tony Hudson

Any Other Business :

Tony Hudson gave a brief summary of the work to date of the Bus Station Sub Group, who are formulating a Discussion Paper entitled "Does York Need a Bus Station?". The consensus is 'yes' - the paper will outline the options to include interchange on both sides of the Railway Station. There is a need to talk with the Bus Companies and the City Council's transport officials, then place an article in the Press.

The meeting closed approx. 7:45 pm

Mary Harlington
29.04.18

