

York Bus Forum Open Meeting Tuesday 20th August 2019

Attendees: Stuart Irwin, Brian Nye, Duncan Miller, Dave Merrett, Ray Walker (Chair), Graham Collett, Brandon Jones (First York), Brendan Murphy (YCC), Niall McFerran (Secretary), Peter Jarman, Gwen Vardigans, Tony Hudson, Ben Hughes, Peter C. Scott, Alan Robinson, Geoff Beacon, Debby Corbett, Diana Robinson

1. Apologies: Gail Shuttleworth
2. Minutes of meeting 21st May accepted. Comments – DM will YBF be submitting objections to the planning application for the Station Front development? RW suggested this would occur later. BJ pointed out that 21 new Euro6 compliant buses would be brought into service shortly not 16, these would appear mainly on the 3,7 and 9 routes.
3. Station Front development – BM outlined that changes to the design for this project were being made in light of objections received. The main alteration would be the increase of size of the multi-story car park which would now be three stories high instead of the original two. This was not well received, particularly when it was pointed out that the bus provision remains unaltered.

AR presented revised suggestions from the YBF, which in great detail indicated that; available space could be better utilised, cyclist routes improved, pedestrian safety and convenience enhanced and bus accessibility markedly increased. BM agreed that many of the suggestions were worthy of consideration but raised a new issue, that of potential terrorist attack prevention measures, this may impact the proposals.

RW suggested that in view of the time constraints a follow up meeting with the officers involved including representatives from Arup (to provide traffic projections and likely pollution information) should be sought and also a meeting with the Council Chair of Transport and other YCC involved Councillors should be arranged. RW would undertake this. The meeting thanked and congratulated AR on his work.

4. BJ advised the meeting of current changes to First Bus ticketing arrangements with the Monthly Ticket being restored. Fare simplification had resulted in some fares rising and others falling but it was accepted that some anomalies were being examined and improved. When asked it was explained by BJ that fares were largely determined by the operator, which take into account market forces, on tendered services where subsidy is paid the fares are agreed with YCC
5. The results of the recent Tendering process were reported to the meeting by GC. It was apparent that there was poor information available regarding the changes, despite those being implemented at the end of August and that there had been little improvement to the service. RW raised a particular concern regarding the frequency of buses to Fulford and Derwenthorpe
6. The release of funds under S106 for the Germany Beck development is still under consideration! Funds will not be released until the houses are occupied.
7. DM gave an outline of the Transport Plan research project which has been commissioned by the York Civic Trust, York Environment Forum and YBF, with substantial grant funding. This will cost £17,000 and is aimed to finish by Spring 2020 and is aimed at obtaining information from residents, commuters and visitors on their experience of, and aspirations for, the transport services of the city.

It was asked if this would run in opposition to the study regarding Mass Transport being undertaken by the YCC but it was hoped this was not the case. It was pointed out that the Age Friendly York project led by YCC, and the National Railway Museum were also each

carrying out research and it was hoped that all findings could be taken into account. When discussing the 'hard to reach' or 'seldom heard' groups it was suggested that young people could be contacted through their bus pass scheme, which is about to be re-issued.

RW thanked DM and GC for their work and looked forward to seeing the results.

8. RW re-iterated the need for further volunteers to help run the forum.
9. AOB – the question of First Bus and their continued existence in York was discussed in light of the imminent sale of the business. BJ assured the meeting of their continued support and hope to find a suitable operator to manage the York part of their business in future.
10. The next meeting is on Tuesday 17th September

NM/GC 260819