**York Bus Forum Open Meeting Tuesday 18th February 2020**

1. **Attendees:** Ray Walker (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary), Duncan Miller, Ben Hughes, Alan Robinson {Finance), Lionel Lennox, Alistair MacPhail, Carl Wain (Age Friendly York), Stuart Irwin, Tom Franklin, Richard Parker, Brian Nye, Doreen Magill, Tony Hudson, John Bibby, Dave Merrett, David Stuart, Roger French, Cllr. D’Argorne and Brandon Jones (First)
2. Apologies: Debbie Cobbett, Gail Shuttleworth, Mary Cannon, Gwen Vardigans, Peter Scott and Cllr. Ed Pearson
3. RW welcomed the members and guests.
4. The minutes of the January meeting were agreed with the amendment to correct the attendance of John Bibby.

There was correspondence between the Chair and Mary Greig regarding the problems of people with impaired vision and the bus companies’ policies, it was agreed to take this as part of item 7.

1. There was a presentation by Dave Merrett of the joint survey conducted by YBF, YEF and YCT into the transport issues for residents, commuters and visitors. The survey results are now available on the YCT website.
2. The second presentation was on the first set of Citizen Transport Forum meetings, which were a follow up to the survey. Graham Collett explained that 100 volunteers drawn from responders to the survey assisted in providing further explanation of the key transport problems in the city. GC went on to outline that the process will involve further Forum sessions where it is hoped that we can try possible solutions to gain public response.

Cllr. D’Argorne suggested the possibility of using the facilities at West Offices to host future meetings. **GC to contact Tony May**

It was pointed out that the interests of walking and cycling users were often combined and that care should be taken to separate these.

It was asked what percentage of people in York use no public transport, unfortunately this information was not available.

DM observed that the responses to the survey and forum meetings had been more radical and affirmative than he expected.

Brandon Jones pointed out that further Transport Focus data should be available in April which may be presented to a later meeting.

Members and visitors agreed that there was a crucial role in the city for an improved bus service and that reliability was the key to future success.

One issue that was important to consider was bus frequencies, AR pointed out that as bus routes converge on the city centre, instead of them being spread out to improve frequency they often ran very close to each other. **BJ agreed this could be looked at.**

RW thanked the speakers for the presentations

1. BJ asked for responses to the new timetable and was offered positive comments about the reliability improvements. The target now was to provide a service with 95%+ adherence to the timetables.

Electric vehicles delivery. These have now started arriving and will be entering services in the next few weeks.

There will be more information regarding the new football/rugby stadium service shortly, but plans are now well developed.

There was a general comment regarding improvements to the No. 12 service. However, there was a problem with some buses still not being connected to the network, thus negating the benefits of the App. Also there is an issue of some drivers now failing to observe the anti-idling requirements.

The poor rural service provision was also discussed, it was requested that one of the city services be extended from Acomb to Rufforth in its layover time, in order to provide an evening service. **Cllr. D’Argorne suggested that there may be money to run a trial scheme to achieve this.** **BJ also agreed to look into this.**

It was again pointed out that First have not provided audible information on bus stops on the regular local services. BJ said that that these would be provided on the new Park and Ride electric buses, but it was felt that they must be available on all. First are awaiting the full implementation of the Bus Services Act before taking decisions.

There was also a discussion regarding the failure of some drivers to observe passengers (particularly the visually impaired) hailing them from the bus stops. **BJ suggested that this was a training issue and would ensure that there was a reminder of the need to be diligent sent to the staff.**

1. Doreen Magill discussed the forthcoming meeting of the Yorkshire and Humberside Pensioners Convention at the Methodist Church in St. Saviourgate on April 25th. The speakers are still being confirmed but the subject of the Better Bus Manifesto would be debated and developed. There was broad support from the initiative from the meeting particularly from John Bibby who called for the YBF to sponsor the meeting. It was agreed that this would be carried forward to a later date.
2. RW reminded that the meeting that at the March AGM we would be seeking volunteers to become involved in the management of the YBF. There was also a reminder from RW that the annual subscriptions were due.
3. Date of next meeting: this will be the AGM on **Thursday 19th March**

**NM/GC 24-02-20/09-03-20**