**York Bus Forum Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 20th October 2020 by Zoom**

Present; Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Alan Robinson (Membership Sec.), Niall McFerran (Sec.), Dave Merrett, Julian Ridge (CYC), Mary Fairbrother, Gwen Vardigans, Peter Scott, Peter Jarman, Duncan Millar, Roger French, Elanor Tew, Richard Parker, Tony Hudson, George Wood, Mary Cannon, Barry Thomas, Carol Green, Lionel Lennox, Ben Hughes, Davis Stuart

1. Apologies received from Ed Person, Gail Shuttleworth and Brandon Jones
2. DMag welcomed delegates to second Zoom meeting and asked if the minutes of the previous meeting were a fair record? These were then accepted. One outstanding issue is the Park and Ride services calling at intermediary stops, JR stated that this was being done during the current period and would be reviewed at the end of the restriction period.
3. Ben Hughes presented his proposal for a new orbital bus service for the city arguing that it had economic, environmental and social benefits.

NM asked if this scheme would be in addition to current services or whether some existing services could be removed? BH said he expected this would be additional. BT asked about the railway line capacity particularly at York Business Park proposed station, BH replied that this would need upgrading. DM suggested that **a** previous part orbital service **~~(20)~~** had been previously tried but abandoned because of cost (circa £150,000p.a.) however, BH suggested that this was several years ago and that there may be new considerations I 2020. RP asked if the new traffic patterns could permit a better service with the same number of buses? JR replied that traffic and journey patterns in the city may have changed because of the virus and this had improved performance of the bus network timings. He already suggested that some of BH’s suggestions (such as improved access to York District Hospital) were already under consideration by CYC. DMag asked if there were any costings attached to the plans, to which BH replied that he did not have a resource for that? LL asked if there was one section he would chose to start with, which would it be? BH replied that the Clifton Moor to University route would be the logical starting point. NM suggested that if the plans could be phased in a way to allow their gradual introduction then some of the costs could be better borne and that if there were other members who could help with the development of the ideas then that would assist. BH said he would welcome help. **ACTION:** BH to form a working party to explore the suggestions further.

1. The Officers presented their updates: AR reported on a meeting between CYC, LNER and other interested parties about the Station Front developement. It was agreed that this had allowed us to present our case for the bus interchange but little further progress was made. NM discussed progress on the “Better bus stop” initiative which has been galvanised by the success of the Bishopthorpe residents who have now persuaded the Parish Council, **Ward Councillors** and CYC to fund a new shelter **(one third share each)** in Montagu Road at a cost of £3k. JR suggested that there was a programme for such work but if the YBF could help by pointing out critical stops in need of improvement and involve Parish and Ward Councils to engage their support then the shared financing formula could be effective. **ACTION:** JR to provide the specs of current bus shelters. NM encouraged members to send in photographs and descriptions of stops worthy of upgrading. NM then reported that we had received agreement from the Labour and Liberal Democrat Councillor Groups to have follow up meetings and that we were awaiting dates. GC reported on the recent meetings with the iTravel team at CYC where we were able to suggest some alterations to the site, these are pending.
2. Any other business – DM asked how many electric buses were now in service? JR responded by advising that three quarters of the fleet were now operating, mainly on the Park and Ride routes. He also pointed out that York had applied to the Dft for their “All Electric City” award which would provide £50M,**of which £25M would be needed** to convert the rest of the fleet of buses, the outcome is awaited. BH suggested that if in future bus specs the principle of having two doors for boarding and alighting this would reduce stopping times. AR asked if there had been any consideration of Hydrogen powered buses as there was some government support for this principal? JR replied that they may have a role in bus services of longer duration where charging would present as a problem. DMag asked why the QR codes on many bus stops had been allowed to be obscured? **ACTION:** DMag would contact JR directly on this issue. GW pointed out that in the Footstreets consultation document produced by CYC there was a section about the bus network, was YBF intending to submit a response? **ACTION:** GC said he would prepare a response.
3. Date of next Meeting is Tuesday 17th November by Zoom at 5.30pm. The speaker is expected to be **the MD of** Brighton **& Hove Bus Company,** talking about initiatives to encourage more bus use. The details of the meeting will be sent out in good time with an invitation code which will also be sent the day before as a reminder.