**York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 18th May 17.30, by Zoom**

Attending: Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary), Alan Robinson (Membership Secretary), Mary Harlington, Duncan Miller, Tony Hudson, Ian Anderson, Kevin Fradley, Mary Fairbrother, Ben Hughes, Julian Ridge (CYC), Dave Merrett, John Bibby, Gordon Smith, Jim from Harbus, Richard Parker, George Wood, Roger Pierce, Nick Beckett, Cllr. D’Agorne, Ian Mitchell, Richard Parker, Dr C. Fletcher, Diana Robinson, Edwin Barry Connor, Roger French, Barry Thomas, David Stuart, Ian Mitchell, Stuart Wilson, Marc Bichtemann, Eden Blyth, Don Southall, Elanor Tew Sharron Smith, Duncan, Lionel Lennox, Tony May, Stephen Fenton, Diana Robinson, Chris Love.

1. Delegates were welcomed and apologies received from Mary Cannon and Brandon Jones. The death of a past member, Peter Scott was mentioned. DMag. Pointed out to members that the Improving Yorks Bus Stop questionnaire is now available on the CYC website.
2. JR presented a series of slides on CYC response to the National Bus Strategy and the need to produce a Bus Service Improvement Plan by October 2021.

There is still some further guidance to come particularly regarding finance, but this is an opportunity to make improvements to the service in York and ‘ambition’ is the key watchword. The report will require an annual review to monitor progress.

The option to recommend a ‘franchise’ mechanism for York’s bus operation does not exist as we do not have an elected mayor.

Will introduce a contractual requirement in the partnerships between CYC and the bus companies to ensure improved levels of service. The BSIP proposal also contains clear guidelines as to the requirements for a ‘good’ service and will be an important part of the upcoming Local Transport Plan.

There will be public consultation over the summer which will form part of the transport plan process, this will be carried out as a mixture of on-line and face-to-face questionnaires.

Issues such as improving bus stops, audio-visual notices of upcoming stops, accessibility to vehicles will be covered.

DMag. Put a series of questions asked by members to JR – will fares be reduced? There are options within the plan to apply for funding. Will discount schemes for young people be extended? Will there be a cross ticketing scheme (EborCard) for all operators? JR responded that the bus companies all use the same ticketing network which facilitates this type of option.

How can we improve bus reliability? The City Centre Bus Service Study is under way to examine options to give buses better priority, but passengers getting on and off buses add to delays (seriously!)

What improvements to the network can we expect? All options up for consideration.

Do we have the resources to produce this report in time? We will need to employ a Consultant.

NM asked if we had compiles sufficient data to provide a supportive case for improvements? JR said that the data was available but not currently in the public domain.

Cllr. D’Agorne suggested that we have some data from our University contract which may help the ‘Low Fare Town’ application.

The use of flexible or carnet ticketing was also suggested.

RP suggested that views should be sought directly from users and that fares need to reflex value for money to family groups travelling.

JR invited YBF to provide the priorities it considers for the BSIP, this was initially three but increased to five. **Action:** Officers to produce draft list.

Following this TM updated the group on progress of the LTP4 production and the high degree of co-operation between CYC and York Civic Trust Transport Advisory Group (on which 4 YBF members are currently involved) and a timetable for this process.

The TAG recommendations for improvements to bus service include:

Better Park and Ride services

More orbital services

Demand responsive services for outlying and weekend services

Simpler fare structure

Audit of bus stops

Enhancements to QBP organisation

Innovative funding design

1. AOB

DMag asked for update on Rougier Street bus stops. JR said repairs had now been carried out and things were back to normal.

DMag advised that we were still receiving a high level of complaints regarding the temporary stop for the No.10 service in Piccadilly. JR said he would again consider this, GC suggested that the empty stop in Merchantgate should be used.

1. Date of next meeting Tuesday 15th June, speaker Marc Bichtemann of First York Ltd.