

York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 21st December 17.30, by Zoom

Attending: Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary), George Wood, Jim Harbus, Ian Anderson, Debbie Cobbett, Gail Shuttleworth, Dr. Colin Fletcher, Tony Hudson, Mary Fairbrother, Alan Robinson (Membership Sec.), Roger French (Finance), David Stuart, Stuart Wilson and Dave Merrett.

Apologies from Barry Connor, Iris Wells, Kevin Fradley, Brandon Jones, Julian Ridge and Eden Blyth.

The Chair welcomed the delegates and asked for approval of November meeting minutes. DC pointed out that the constituency for Rachael Maskel is York Inner.

The Forum commenced

Better Bus Stops – NM reported that this issue was mentioned in other submissions and that he would formulate a campaign for the spring. Issues surrounding the No.10 stop in Piccadilly still existed. It was asked why some bus stops were retained even if not used? This is to enable their use if required, later. DM asked if there was a specification for bus stop design including width of pavement? **Action:** NM will find out. IA asked about the bus stops in St' Leonard's Place and the University stop underneath the bridge. GC pointed out that having a shelter outside the Theatre Royal had been opposed by the theatre itself. Dr.F suggested that the shelter in Museum Street was not long enough for the large queues that formed there. DMag raised again the issue of the facilities at the Stonebow which are clearly inadequate for use and required better management to stage bus arrivals and departures to reduce congestion. NM asked if the Clifford Street stop was being used on No.10 service? There is lack of information about it.

Complaints- GC reminded members that these should be directed towards the bus company with a copy to CYC, he also suggested that members complaints could be copied into the Secretaries account at the YBF.

Bus Stop information – no further comment as this awaits outcome of BSIP.

BSIP progress – GC reported that funding requests are likely to be frustrated as the scheme was heavily over-subscribed. YBF input was quoted but concerns about it being the public consultation source. It was suggested that the proposal had not been aspirational enough, RF suggested an amount should have been allocated and the BSIP used to justify the expenditure.

GC reported that the items we suggested were included and that we looked forward to meeting Michael Howard, who had been appointed by CYC to cover for Julian Ridge.

Q&A – It was agreed that more members are desirable, GC reported on an initiative with First Bus to distribute a recruitment poster in spring 2022. NM suggested a photo of officers holding a poster next to a bus.

GC reported that our meetings with key political figures and officers of the Council had been successful but contact with York Outer MP Julian Sturdy had been unsuccessful. **Action:** IA offered to contact him on behalf of YBF as he had had previous contact.

GC also suggested that we should aim to contact York BID and the LEP organisations.

DM suggested we contact the QBP Chair for a one-to-one meeting.

DC mentioned TUC as an interested body, DMag reported that we had contact.

RF suggested that we establish links to North Yorks Council although they are not very forthcoming.

IA suggested we try to get more coverage in the Press. NM asked if anyone had personal contact with a reporter in the organisation? DM suggested he may have a contact.

RF reported that we are considering making an application for grant funding but asked what the money could be spent on. NM suggested publicity campaigns.

GC suggested that once pandemic is over, we could arrange a public event "York Bus Day" and that we should circulate leaflets around the Libraries in the city. **Action:** NM to approach Library about leaflet display. Several members offered to help distribution.

NM had a suggestion that we should promote the tipping of bus drivers as an act of appreciation for what they have had to go through during the pandemic. We will have to discuss this at the next QBP meeting.

Appreciation for the work done by officers was expressed.

Date of next meeting Tuesday January 18th presentation on bus transport in Ghent.