

## York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 17.30, by Zoom

Attending: Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary), Cllr. D'Agorne, Duncan Millar, Mark Parry, Kevin Fradley, Flick Williams, Barry Thomas, Richard Parker, George Wood, Barry Connor, Ian Anderson, Colin Simpson, Gail Shuttleworth, Tony Hudson, Mary Cannon, Alan Robinson (Membership Sec.), Roger French (Finance), Brandon Jones (First), Tony May (YCT), Eden Blyth, Lionel Lennox, Michael Howard (CYC), Elizabeth Tomlinson, and Dave Merrett.

1. D. Mag. Welcomed the delegates and our speaker Peter Vanseverant from Ghent. Apologies were received from Jim Harbus, John Slaughter, Carol Green, Mary Cannon. New prospective members: Elizabeth Tomlinson, Glen Simpson, Mark Parry and Flick Williams were welcomed. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, there were no matters arising.
2. Peter Vanseverant from the Mobility Agency in Ghent presented the strategy they had adopted in the Belgian city to reduce car use and promote public transport and active travel. City has many similarities to York with 3 million visitors and a working population of around 200,000. System has been designed to reduce cross city traffic by moving it onto the outer ring road. The municipal roads are governed by Ghent with regional roads managed by Regional Government. Development and prioritising bike use now means that there are as many using bikes as car journeys. Public transport improving but need to work on their Park and Ride system. Public transport frequent and reliable. Trams run every 6-7 minutes, urban buses 15-20 minutes and regional buses every 30-60 minutes. Buses are articulated hybrids; fares are subsidised but changes in government leads to different levels of support. Fares are free 6-14 years, free Sundays on first Sunday of month, free Park and Ride and free Disabled shuttle bus. More inner-city space has been given over to bus lanes with stops not in bays. Parking charges in city centre increased and resident's car pass only for one vehicle, car park charges equivalent to York. Zoning city has reduced cross traffic which has improved air quality by 30%. Permits are issued for disabled drivers, medical staff, and deliveries. Continuing developments designed to extend Zone areas and improve cycle network. This will further reduce congestion and allow more bus corridors. DMag. Thanked Peter for presentation and asked about disabled vehicle users, PS replied that they have a demand responsive shuttle bus service. Flick asked about accessibility to buses for wheelchair users, PS responded that some stops have ramps for disabled but not all. KF asked about carrying bikes on buses, PS replied no but the trains do. MC asked about segregation of cyclists and pedestrians, this is not extensive, but bikes are not allowed in pedestrian areas.
3. BSIP etc. GC introduced Michael Howard who will oversee sustainable transport for the foreseeable future.

BSIP response expected from DfT in February with no indication of funding guidelines. It is hoped that ongoing commitments will be delivered anyway. ZEBRA electric bus scheme is also likely to be February before any indication. Enhanced Partnership, the consultation with the operators is in progress and the public process will be end Feb/early March with the timetable to submit plan at end of April. MH agreed to consult with YBF on all these schemes. City Centre Bus Study is still awaiting final brief but is overdue. MH agreed to advise YBF through regular meetings.

4. RF restated the requirement for members to pay subs.
5. NM reported that there was still time to send through candidates for poor bus stops. The meeting with York Central MP, Rachael Maskell was reported, and her support confirmed. The first meeting with the Head of Transport and Highways and other key officers was reported and felt that this was a useful format for ongoing dialogue
6. AR presented new publicity poster to be displayed on First Buses behind the driver. BJ approved the work done by AR and Cllr. D, Agorne congratulated the YBF on their work. Some suggestions for minor alterations were made.
7. AOB –  
BJ pointed out that there will be fare rises in place shortly and that First are looking for opportunities to grow the network, but passenger numbers are still below pandemic levels.  
DMag asked if any other fare incentive schemes are being considered, BJ replied yes within bounds.  
NM raised query from Acomb resident regarding routes of 5 and 5A, BJ responded that other options were always under consideration. IA suggested it is difficult to change routes.
8. Date of next meeting Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, the speaker is from Transdev