

York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 16th August 2022 17.30 by Zoom

Attending; Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary) Dave Merrett, Roger French (Finance and Membership), Alan Robinson, Flick Williams, Gail Shuttleworth, Philip Ashcroft, Leo Hammond, Gwen Vardigans, Colin Walker, Cllr. D'Agorne, Ian Anderson, Michael Howard, Duncan Millar, Eleanor Tew, Richard Byron, Terry French, Roger Pierce, Kevin Fradley, Tony Hudson, Cathy Croston (First Bus), David Stuart, John Slaughter, Diane Maria Peaks, Diana Robinson, Cllr. Rachel Melly, Richard Parker and George Wood.

1. The Chair welcomed delegates to the meeting and reported apologies from Brandon Jones, Eden Blyth, Nick Murray, Sue Glenton and Barry Connor
2. The minutes of the July meeting were accepted with minor corrections.
3. Colin Walker of the EYRC gave a presentation on their response to current bus issues.

They have one main bus operator EYB the former EYMS who are part of the Go Ahead and a number of smaller operators and Community Transport buses. They anticipate changes to the network as passenger numbers have not fully recovered.

They already have a functioning Enhanced Partnership operation.

They were not awarded funds under the BSIP scheme but are still improving Beverley and Bridlington bus stations.

Fall in revenue is not as great as the fall in passenger numbers but leisure travel is ahead of previous numbers and commuting has fallen.

Community Transport is growing well and may be a way forward for the future with the new strategy to tackle 'Loneliness and Isolation' as proposed in Appendix 3 of their Local Transport Plan. The basis for funding is through a social value model which East Riding have developed themselves.

Concessionary travel is still below pandemic levels. When surveyed 62% of users are still having health concerns, 52% hadn't realised their pass had expired. Needs a marketing campaign to encourage use again.

DMag asked what the future will be like? CW replied by saying their EP will meet in October to discuss how to boost use and maintain stability in the services.

RP asked if the proposed £2 journey cap would be useful? CW was concerned that sudden extra pressure would expose problems with lack of drivers.

RParker asked if the reduction in peak travel had reduced costs and whether these had been passed on? CW said they had a close working relationship with the operators and all service changes were made following a collaboration process.

DR asked if they had considered running services to major visitor attractions? CW said these have been considered and may be tried in future.

NM asked for more details about the representation of bus users on their EP. CW outlined that there are Parish Champions who are allowed to sit, there are about 100 registered but 30 are active.

RF was concerned that the many rural services in ER would not be profitable and would rely on taxpayer subsidy.

Richard Byron was concerned about the services from Bridlington to Driffield which CW responded by saying these are being reviewed.

DMag. thanked CW for his talk and asked for a copy of the slide presentation.

4. EP plan for York is now available for public consultation, members are recommended to study the financial annex which outlines investment options.

MH advised that the new ZEBRA financed buses would be coming from a different source as the original supplier is not progressing.

He also advised that the EP proposal had been accepted by the operators, he remains optimistic that the BSIP funding will be delivered intact, but the EP must be established to facilitate this process

He also confirmed that the specification for the ZEBRA buses would now be a mix of single and double deck configurations.

DMag asked if there would be public meetings to discuss the EP, MH responded that these would not happen.

NM asked if it would be better for individuals to respond to the consultation or as a group? MH suggested both routes.

DM asked if MH was intending to share the specifications for the new buses? MH agreed he would send them.

5. DM reported on the progress of the Local Plan enquiry. The next phase involves transport and commences 6th September. The transport day is the 16th September which NM will attend as our spokesperson. We are still awaiting information on the impacts of interventions to increase bus travel, which CYC promised at the May sessions.
6. MH confirmed that there is still work going on with the multi-operator tap on tap off system for fare paying as this work feeds into the EP and BSIP aims.
7. MH said he was happy to work with us on the Bus Stop Charter exercise. RP suggested that we should include No Smoking signs in the shelters.
8. On publicity GC suggested that we print a small number of A5 posters for recruitment. CC also suggested that we engage in social media exercises which she could help with.
9. AOB – RParker advised that the information on the bus stops at Peasholm Green have been updated. MH advised that the CYC support team was currently under strength. IA complained that the digital display boards that malfunction display erroneous information instead of going blank, AR suggested that this could be resolved. It was also asked if there had been any progress with the Piccadilly stop for the number 10 route as the autumn is approaching?
10. Date of next meeting Tuesday 20th September with a presentation from Nottingham