

York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 20th September 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, Richard Harrison (First), Cllr. D'Agorne, Michael Howard, Duncan Millar, Tony Hudson, David Stuart, Jason Murgatroyd, Jim Forrest -Harbus, Georgina Burdeck, Mary Fairbrother, Lionel Lennox, Jessie Secker, Richard Parker and George Wood.

1. Chair welcomed the group and reported apologies from Brandon Jones, Julian Ridge, Richard Byron, Terry French, Mary Cannon and Richard Fradley.
2. Minutes of last meeting accepted except for two amendments from DM. It was noted that the timetable screens are still malfunctioning in some locations.
3. As the meeting speaker from Nottingham had not joined it was decided to proceed without a presentation.
4. Outlying services threat – DMag reported that many areas were already having problems with evening and weekend services. We are still awaiting plans for the improved services to be implemented through the BSIP funding and to ensure this is properly managed through the Enhanced Partnership. A meeting was held with Bishopthorpe PC to discuss the threat to the No.11 service. They have generated over 1,500 signatures on petitions supporting the service, but the threat still exists to the No.11 at the end of the COVID subsidy period.

BSIP implementation – MH advised that the final approval would come when DfT have approved the Enhanced Partnership plans. DMag raised again our concerns regarding representation on the EP and the formation of a 'Forum' body would be consultative only giving stakeholders little say in proceedings. MH felt that the EP would be capable of changing if required. Cllr.AdG advised that the Exec meeting approving the EP had been delayed by the Queens death and it was important to make representations.

ZEBRA buses – RH confirmed that they had ordered many of the bus type to be used in York. DM again raised concerns regarding the number of disabled places, although one place is in the specification it was an opportunity to improve this position.

COVID support – still undisclosed how much of this fund will come to York. Still concerns regarding patronage and inactivity to increase numbers. NM suggested that sign regarding face masks could now be removed, as it is a matter for individual choice, others did not agree. It was also suggested that ventilation on buses on longer trips might have to change in the colder weather.

City centre Bus Access Study – MH suggested that this might be available for comment in early 2023. NM suggested that YBF will look forward to having the chance to comment

5. Local Plan – DM said a full report will be available for the next meeting but advised that some elements of the promised information form CYC had not been made available.

NM reported that many of the elements of the original bus plan had been removed at the last minute which undermined the Plan. Instead, the phrases “electrify the network” and “potentially incorporate elements of a Bus Rapid Transit system” had

been inserted. This is to apply to two major new developments at Elvington and on the Outer Ring Road new Wiggington Road.

6. Smart ticketing – MH reported that the BSIP contains provision for TOTO (tap on/tap off) systems, and he anticipated this will be launched soon. RP asked if the system would work on services that went beyond York boundaries? This is yet to be incorporated.
7. Bus stop charter – MH will send comments. DMag had received further comments regarding the obscuring of bus shelters by advertising material. FW reported issue of the new Roman Quarter development reducing by one the number of bus stops on Rougier Street, this would be challenged at Planning Meeting. GC reported that he is receiving comments regarding poor bus stop facility on social media.
8. £2 fare – MH advised that there is funding in BSIP for discounted fares but there may be other national funding that is in discussion. DMag asked if there will be a daily limit on fares? She was also concerned that some fares under the limit may rise because of the discount. DM was concerned that operators of longer routes may not want to operate a discounted scheme and that it may be too successful if buses become overcrowded.
9. Service reliability – MH reported that the driver shortage continued to present problems. DMag asked if there are any sanctions CYC can use against poor performance? Cllr AdG responded that there are few options open to CYC. GC suggested that local services that are supported by funding should contain contractual obligations and should contain measures for CYC. DMag raised again concerns regarding the notification of cancelled services and the poor operation of information boards. MH agreed that the right information was vital, but that CYC relied on data from the operators. The suggestion that a blank screen was better than a wrong screen could penalise the better operators. GC pointed out that supported services do include requirements on operators in relation to cancellations and poor reliability and CYC should take action with Transdev.

TH advised that there is a long-standing problem with the Dunnington notice board which he is trying to raise with the PC.

10. AOB – DM reported that the COVID payments come in two tranches, the second of which is conditional on a service review, How will this be carried out?
JM reported problems of foliage damaging the No.4 service around Foxwood Road. It was suggested that First should be reporting this to CYC.
JS suggested the reason more people do not use buses in Haxby is poor communication regarding timetable and discounted fares. NM suggested that First should target residents of Haxby with better information.
FW suggested that First have access days for disabled users to allay concerns, RH said this had been tried elsewhere and could be recommended for York.
11. Date of next meeting 18th October