

York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 16th May 2023 17.30 by Zoom

Attending; Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary), John Stevens, Prof. Tony May, Roger French (Finance and Membership), Flick Williams, Tom Bridge (First), Michael Howard (CYC), Julian Ridge (CYC), Terry French, Richard Parker, Christine Cooke, Toby Hart, Catherine Odell, Lionel Lennox, Iris Wells, Jim Forest – Harbus, Carole Green, A. D’Agorne, John Slaughter, David Stuart, Ian Anderson, Diana Robinson, Dee Boyle, Peter Kitchin, Eden Blyth, Tony Hudson, Bob Adams, Duncan Millar and George Wood.

1. The Chair welcomed the delegates and reported apologies from, Gail Shuttleworth, Robin Harriman, Cllr. R. Melly, Mary Fairbrother, Roger Pierce, Richard Byron
2. The minutes of the last meeting were approved, there were no matters arising.
3. Prof. Tony May of York Civic Trust delivered a talk on the production of a new Local Transport Plan for the city.

His talk dealt with the requirements of a successful scheme, the areas that should be covered, the public consultation required and a likely timescale of measures, importance of public transport and the role of the new Combined Authority.

The issues of critical importance are the need to reduce carbon outputs, the need to revive York’s economy and the city’s planned population growth of 20% by 2037.

DMag. Thanked Prof. May and congratulated him on being able to cover so much ground in such a short space of time.

RF expressed his concerns about winning the public over to the plan, especially when the details emerge. TM agreed there will be a need to approach this carefully and explain the benefits properly, but experience has shown that as the big picture improvements emerge acceptance will improve.

DB asked if we could improve access to the hospital given the failure of the Park and Ride bus? TM agreed the ending of the service was unfortunate, but it had been a COVID measure and there will be free bus travel on First for NHS staff.

ADA expressed his concerns that the sustainable journey targets for new developments should be 60% but the Local Plan currently has levels of only 15%! TM agreed that the Local Plan has the opportunity for enhancements to be considered.

TH asked if the creation of ‘transport hubs’ at the Park and Ride sites would mean that rural services would be terminating outside the city centre? TM agreed that this proposal does allow a more radical approach to the bus network as other benefits can be offered from the sites.

DR wondered that if we are going to adopt the ‘20-minute city’ principal, where will the money come from? TM replied that this idea encourages more services nearer to where you live, encouraging sustainable transport and reducing carbon output. He advised that reducing car reliance brings other benefits. The key is to understand the benefits the Council can produce using their transport model.

FW asked if road pricing is on the agenda given the opposition from the new administration? TM said that it needs better consideration, evidence supports that properly considered schemes can operate successfully. If necessary, there may need

to be exemption for certain groups. The way revenue from the scheme is spent is key to public support. Inequities are more special than economic, so the scheme requires a design which encourages travel by public transport.

NM asked what can YBF do to support the process? TM advised we continue to press CYC for a workable scheme and encourage other societies and stakeholders in the city to become engaged.

DR thanked TM again for the excellent presentation.

4. Local Transport Plan ideas.

DMag. asked the members for input into our suggestions for the new Local Transport Plan.

ADA asked what is the EP Forum group considering? NM reported on the recent meeting, this group has yet to deliberate on the new plan.

DR said that it was a pity that the upcoming bus groups meeting in York coincided with the Big Tent event organised by Evenbrite. DMag confirmed that we will not attend this event.

NM suggested that the Committee produce a list of suggestions for consideration at the next meeting, this was agreed.

JR advised that there is plenty of time, but earlier submissions are likely to get better considerations.

5. National Bus Conference – Dmag. reminded group of the details of this meeting which are now on our website.

6. AOB

EB advised that Moorsbus will operate throughout the summer with a limited timetable during weekends.

7. The date of the next meeting is 20th June which is a members forum meeting.

GC advised that it is hoped that Tom Bridge for First will be available to answer questions.

ADA advised that this is a good time to lobby the administration and opposition regarding service improvements. He also told the group of improvements to the number 42 service (Selby, Cawood and York) on Saturday mornings to alleviate overcrowding.

GC reported that there is a good plan for meetings in the future.

DB asked if we had given up on calling for a new bus station? NM replied that it is still hoped that all routes can in the future link to the railway station.