

## **York Bus Forum Meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 17.30 by Zoom**

Attending; Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary) Dave Merrett, Roger French (Finance and Membership), Flick Williams, Tom Bridge (First), Michael Howard (CYC), Terry French, Kevin Fradley, Catherine Odell, Jason Murgatroyd, Jim – Harbus, Carole Green, Stephen Dunthorne, Cllr. D’Agorne, John Slaughter, David Stuart, Ian Anderson, Diana Robinson, Glen Simpson, Fran Postlethwaite, Eden Blyth, Tony Hudson, John Bibby, Alan Robinson, Mary Fairbrother, Duncan Millar and George Wood.

1. The Chair welcomed delegates to the meeting and reported apologies from: Gail Shuttleworth, Lionel Lennox, Dee Boyle, Richard Bryan, Richard Parker, Colin Fletcher, Robin Jorimann and Mary Cannon.
2. Fran Postlethwaite from ‘Better Buses for South Yorkshire’ outlined the strategies they were adopting to seek improvements to bus services in that region.  
The present bus operation in South Yorkshire is failing due to inadequate funding and lack of supportive policy. They are now seeking to change local policy to adopt the bus franchising principle.  
They are using information from CPRE, the UN and local authorities to seek the support of like minded organisations and key opinion leaders. They used opportunities to support their campaign on the street and promoted their activity by placing stickers inside bus stops. Amongst the local supporters were climate activists, trades unions, and certain political parties.  
They have succeeded in persuading the South Yorks elected mayor to consider the option of bus franchising, with the process starting next year. The use of on-line petitions and the support of local media had helped galvanise public opinion. They have a list of around 600 people locally who support the campaign but a national process is the ultimate aim.  
Fran invited all to attend the first national bus campaign meeting in York on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Friends meeting House.  
NM congratulated Fran on her work and asked how this has been funded? This has come from a group of local organisations including Trades Unions.  
JB asked what more Fran felt we could do? She suggested we try street stalls.  
CllrD’A advised that we might investigate the different treatments of BSIP funding and the operation of Enhanced Partnerships across local authorities in England. He advised that powers are put in place but the process is still arduous.  
TB advised that First are not in favour of franchising and reminded the group that bus companies are staffed by hard working professionals who are dedicated to improving the service.  
IA asked how the lessons of South Yorkshire could be applied to North Yorks? Cllr D’A advised that there is a different system involving two representatives from York and two from North Yorks who will work with the mayor. IA felt we need to be on the ground floor of this process.  
DR commented that bus policy cuts across many other areas such as health and climate, should we seek support from organisations engaged in these fields?  
GC said that comparisons with other councils are useful and that there are local integrated health care groups who might be interested.

RF cautioned our approach to the new authority as North Yorks have a poor record on bus support and felt that CYC had to ensure the Enhanced partnership lives up to its name.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the amendment of Skeldergate for Stonegate in the flooding item.

Matters arising:

Bus passenger numbers – it was felt that numbers had improved over Christmas and that the DfT would publish figures around the success of the £2 scheme. MH advised no numbers currently available for operational reasons

RF asked if the accurate numbers will be provided to the Enhanced Partnership? MH advised they did not have the resource to handle this task.

TB responded that First do have the analysis available. This demonstrated that York had recovered passenger numbers better than any division of the company with performance currently exceeding pre-Covid times when judged on a passenger per mile basis. He will supply the information.

He also advised that changes to the No.10 and 11 timetables were because of a new programme that attempts to improve reliability, and this could revert to regular intervals (of 40 minutes) if passengers requested.

FW suggested that the network was working well during the weekdays but stretched at the weekend. MH responded that his information was that the network is coping. He added that a lot of BSIP work is going on in the background.

DM asked when the performance data previously supplied on the bus stop in Rougier Street would be re-instated? MH replied that this was before his time and that Transport Focus were now working on passenger satisfaction studies that will be published May-June.

Disabled ramps and spaces – MH advised he sent a response and will resend.

Nether Poppleton – GW advised that there needs to be an alternative route through the village of the No.10 service, in the event of the river flooding. The route could run along Ebor Way, Allerton Drive and Riversvale Drive to reconnect with the original journey while losing two stops. This also needs to be publicised to the local population when these events occur and potentially additional stops could be added. GW will present information to GC and then report to TB.

Timetables – more information required to assess changes.

Coastliner to Whitby – awaiting further response from Transdev.

4. Transdev performance - RF reported that levels of performance had improved post-Christmas but Nos. 24/25/26 services still posing problems with 79 cancellations out of a total of 89 recently. One cause for the delays was the problem of inappropriately parked cars on the route. It is felt that measures should be used to encourage Transdev to improve.

MH responded that Transdev have been made aware of issues and advised that servicing problems had caused cancellations.

GC advised that the Committee had provided a briefing on current bus issues to the Chair of the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee on CYC ahead of their meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

5. Bus shuttle report – AR hoped all had read our submission and agreed that this service should not simply be regarded as mitigation for the removal of footstreet access by disabled motorists.  
IA complemented AR on an excellent piece of work.  
MH confirmed that he has forwarded the submission to the consulting firm who will submit a report post elections.
6. City centre access study – DM asked as this work has been undertaken, when will the stakeholder engagement and public consultation occur? MH advised that this would be reported on after the elections, but some meetings may occur before May.
7. Nominations for Committee – DMag asked if anyone was interested in joining the group, they would be welcome and to advise before the next meeting.  
IA asked if officers had a set term? GC will consult constitution.
8. AOB –  
AR showed poster that we have produced to highlight threat to services, this will be parked until the new deadline for funding is approached in June.  
AR felt it is important to warn people ahead of the crisis!
9. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March