York Bus Forum – Members Monthly Meeting 17.30-19.00 Tuesday 20th June 2023, by Zoom

Attending: Doreen Magill (Chair), Graham Collett (Vice Chair), Niall McFerran (Secretary), Alan Robinson, Gail Shuttleworth, Roger French, Flick Williams, Ian Anderson, Peter Kitchin, Elanor Tew, Duncan Millar, Christine Cooke, David Stuart, Mary Fairbrother, Andrew Hayes (First), George Wood, Richard Parlour, Eden Blyth, Terry French, Debbie Cobbett Michael Howard (CYC) and Julian Ridge (CYC).

1. DM welcomed delegates and reported apologies from Robin Jorimann, Glen Simpson, Kevin Fradley, Tony Hudson, Colin Fletcher, Cllr. Dave Merrett and Richard Bryon.
2. Minutes of the May meeting were accepted.
3. Local Transport Plan – RF reported that he had received no further comment on his presentation regarding our input into the proposed LTP4. DM thanked him for the effort he has put in.

GC reported that there is a revised timescale with a draft Plan being produced by end of September 2023.

MH responded that they are still awaiting guidelines from DfT and they are consulting with the new administration.

EB advised of the discussions between the Combined Authority and CYC regarding the forthcoming LTP’s.

NM suggested that the insertion of more targets and objectives into the document could strengthen the message. He agreed to insert his suggestions asap.

RP suggested that the new combined authority should not be a cause of delay.

IA raised concerns that the progress of improvements provided by the BSIP process appears to be running slowly.

RF agreed that few concrete improvements have been made.

1. Merchantgate/Piccadilly – MH advised that a survey had been carried out that did not support the move of the No.10 stop from Piccadilly. He advised that further work would be carried out to improve the current bus stop and a further survey would be carried out in the autumn.

GC suggested that it is important for YBF to have sight of the survey and asked which of the bus stops in Merchantgate was being considered as the first one does not appear busy.

NM asked MH to pledge that we would receive a copy of the survey following its submission to Exec. On July 13th.

1. Members issues –

GS advised that the unsuitability of the Piccadilly stop was acting to deter passengers on the No.10 bus to Stamford Bridge at a time when it is again under threat.

MH advised that this is a commercial service which limits CYC powers of intervention. He confirmed that tenders have gone out to other operators to supply the services that First wish to withdraw from.

GS advised the meeting that the problems are exacerbated by the end of the large employment factory in the village and lack of knowledge regarding threats to services.

MH replied that the BSIP funding had prevented many service losses in the city and advised a report will go to the July Exec.

GC reminded the meeting that the Sunday and evening services were formerly supported by CYC but First had eventually decided to run it without subsidy.

IA asked why First aren’t letting customers know of the situation?

AH advised that he will discuss the situation with Tom Bridge.

NM asked that the tenders will be restricted to the services which are being cut, MH responded that this is the case. NM asked why the whole route isn’t opened up to tender?

JR responded that although he is attending to answer questions on the Local Transport Plan it needs to be remembered that the current legislation restricts CYC’s ability to act.

RF said that it seems patently unsustainable if operators can close less profitable routes, then leave CYC to clean up the mess! He felt that the whole model needs improvement.

DM asked if First can explain this? AH advised he will inform Tom Bridge.

RP raised the issue of different operators running the same routes and whether they will accept tickets for return journeys? MH said that they are working with operators to introduce single tickets across all operators.

GS advised that the problem here is caused because Stamford Bridge is in East Yorkshire, a different authority.

GC felt that it is important that, in future the arrangements to secure reliable services are built into the service contracts.

DM advised that the No.11 service has also been reduced.

RF advised that the No.9 service to Vanguard Park is less well used as there is no advertising regarding the use of concessionary fares.

DC advised that the No.11 timetable intervals are problematic as no-one knows when buses will arrive and the loss of the evening service to Bishopthorpe has serious consequences.

RP raised the issue of the retention of the one-way system at Coppergate. This meant that for bus users traveling West to East there are significant gaps between stops, he suggested better use could be made of the Clifford Street stops.

MH agreed to look at this.

FW said she was still having problems with buses stopping for her as a wheelchair user, in this case a No.3 service.

DM suggested she record the incidents and report them. MH agreed these should be logged.

MF asked why timetables are changes so frequently? AH suggested that timetables change due to subsidy funding.

EM suggested that some services run too close together and should be better separated.

IA is concerned that the targets to achieve a ‘nett zero’ climate in the city may be too ambitious.

JR advised that this will be an issue for the newly elected Mayor of the combined authority.

1. AOB – DM invited members to play a part in the forthcoming York Environment Week and that Friends of the Earth are re-launching in the city.

FW asked if there was any news on the city centre shuttle bus? MH said that a report was going to the July Exec.

NM asked how the bus groups meeting went? DM suggested that there is a problem of demographics as most delegates were senior in age.

GC suggested that it was a useful event to make contacts with other parties and a follow up event was planned. DM also suggested that local issues tended to dominate.

DC asked if anyone knows how to engage with young people?

EB outlined the current Moors Bus activity during the summer but advised that they are seeking additional funding to keep going.

1. Date of next meeting 18th July