**York Bus Forum Meeting Minutes Tuesday 18th February 2025**

1. Present: Doreen Magill (chair) Niall McFerran, Andy D'Agorne, Gail Shuttleworth, Roger French, Graham Collett, Duncan Miller, Richard Parker, Roger Pierce, Glen Simpson, Dave Overton, George Wood, Dave Merrett, Cllr Phillip Holder, Robert West, John Slaughter, John Hart, Terry French, Dee Boyle, Diana Robinson, Ian Ring, Robert West, Cllr Stephen Fenton, Eden Blyth, Christine Cooke, Catherine Odell, David Stuart, Tony Hudson, Anna Courtier and Joel Bradley.

Apologies: Tom Horner (CYC), Jason Murgatroyd, Mary Cannon, Robin Jorimann, Debby Cobbett, Judy Illing, Ian Anderson, Lionel Lennox, Colin Fletcher, John Bibby, Gordon Campbell-Thomas, Nick Murray,  and Adam Emmott.

2.      Minutes of 21st January meeting approved.

3.      Proposed North Riding Superloop- Councillor Philip Holder, Bedale Town Council outlined the idea to join up rural services to create a 'lifeline' network to include access to health services.

Ian Ring, from Hambleton and Richmond Bus Users, explained the concept of the Hambleton Diamond plus, a series of interlocking routes linking Richmond- Ripon, Ripon- Northallerton, and Northallerton- Richmond and beyond. Recognising that the approach may need to be incremental as funds became available the initial proposal is for a 2 hourly service.

Jonathan Tyler is aware of this work which has been submitted to the Combined Authority for consideration as part of the BSIP. Driver shortages are still a concern. If the concept is to progress it's assumed some contracts might have to be tendered as a Combined package linking the Superloop and Diamond proposals.

4.      Proposed new Bus Service Wetherby to York via Boston Spa. Tadcaster Councillor Penny Stables, Wetherby Ward Councillor, Leeds City Council was unable to join the meeting and will attend a future meeting.

5.      Enhanced Partnership Meeting 22 January 2025 Doreen Magill

reported that Mike Scott had been appointed as Transport Lead for the Mayoralty on an initial 3 month temporary basis.

Corridor package of schemes had been promised for circulation but still awaited.

6.      City of York Council issues Niall McFerran/Tom Horner: No representative from CYC was present.

a)      Update on the Banana Warehouse stop:  At long last after over 2yrs of raising concerns the council has at last agreed to the No10 service being moved to use the double bus shelter on Merchantgate. Permanently!!

b)      Dial a ride- report to the City Council Executive-Tom Horner A small amount in the 25/26 budget for a study but no commitment to restore a service for the city.

c)      Bus stop information and Information screens list of new screen locations, returned list of YBF proposed locations from Tom Horner: still not received by YBF.

Roger Pierce asked about the new contract for the JC Decaux Adshel bus shelters which has now been awarded to Clear Channel. It was stated that the change over would take 12months and required planning permission for digital illuminated advertising. Panels will have to be positioned so as to allow clear line of sight of approaching buses.

Additional stops for Eastbound buses on Clifford St + Piccadilly. Joel (First York) agreed to seek a decision on this request ( agreed after meeting)

d)      Paper timetables- reminder to operators of obligations at EP Tom Horner

e)      Service 412 Knapton services-letter to CYC Doreen Magill :Doreen to reply

f)       CYC/Bus operator respective responsibilities re road works clarification Tom Horner: The bus team have quarterly meetings with utility operators regarding planned maintenance works and notifications to bus operators works well. However CYC only places notices of diversions at stops within the city centre and operators use social media and apps to notify customers but not signs at bus stops, despite this being part of the EP agreement for them to do so.

7.      First Bus, JB a) Minute 9 paragraph 4 September meeting and minute 6 November meeting No 1 A service early morning reliability Joel Bradley reported that the service had been rescheduled from the current week and reliability would be monitored.

b)      No’s 10 and 11 improvements in service reliability actions proposed Joel Bradley: Cllr Ravilious + Cllr Nichols have discussed some possible route changes to be implemented from April to address delays which have been much less since January.

Gail Shuttleworth raised concerns about overcrowding on the early morning 7.31am No10 from Stamford Bridge since the next bus at 8.18am is too late for school use or for those starting work in York at 9am. It is often full by the time it reaches Dunnington as confirmed by availability on the app. Suggestions regarding re-introducing a service at around 8am or consideration of a double decker for the 7.31am to meet demand. Gail to send a picture of the overcrowding at Gate Helmsley to Joel Bradley.

c)      On board announcements, audio visual screens- progress on software issue Joel Bradley.

Andy D'Agorne asked about the on board announcements on park and ride buses still not working. These are now getting fixed, with work to each vehicle requiring night work to the software.

9. East Yorkshire

Dave Overton reported that East Yorkshire buses had been affected by congestion in Nunnery Lane at peak times.

10.      Transdev-

a)      Extended layovers – Stonebow and Rail station causing congestion email to Adam Emmott. Discussion about the obstruction of stops as result of 10min layover on Coastliner route. Made worse by lack of access only rule enforcement in the area. CYC can now apply ANPR but signage is missing on Piccadilly at entrance to area from the south.

11. Connexions Services

a) In the absence of Gordon Campbell Thomas, Stephen Fenton observed that drivers on the 16 route had expressed continuing frustration at not knowing when the revised timetable was to be implemented.

12. Any other business

a) Roger Pierce re bus services in rural areas noted that car ownership in the Dales was higher than average and suggested that an alternative to bus services may be schemes such as car sharing or Dial a Ride.

John Slaughter responded that whilst car ownership by households may be high, cars were not always available to all in the household and Doreen Magill pointed out that teenagers say 15-16 would be disadvantaged by not having bus services available and would be restricted in their independence.

b) Doreen Magill reported that she had been in touch with the Press re the multiplicity of fares from particular stops served by different bus companies. Doreen requested that anyone with knowledge of particular experiences at individual stops pass on information.

Dave Merrett raised his concern that from his local bus stop, Pulleyn Drive, he had been charged the maximum fare for the short journey to the station on his card despite advising the destination to the driver.

Joel Bradley said that the fare to be charged was down to the system but the drivers should recommend the lowest available fare.

13. Date of Next Meeting- 18th March 2025 by Zoom at 5.30p.m