**York Bus Forum – Members Monthly Meeting 17.30-19.00 Tuesday 20th May 2025, by Zoom**

Attending: Doreen Magill (Chair), Roger French (Finance and Membership), Niall McFerran, Graham Collett, Ian Anderson, Wayne Blackburn, Joel Bradley (First Bus), Iris Wells, Stuart Fillingham (EY Buses), David Stuart, Duncan Miller, Eden Blyth (Moorsbus), Gordon Campbell-Thomas, John Hart, Catherine Odell, Peter Monk-Steel, Chris Thompson (Pullman), George Wood, Councillor Andrew Waller ( on behalf of Councillor Stephen Fenton) and Terry French.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Doreen Magill welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed members of the recent sad death of John Bibby a founder member of York Bus Forum and paid tribute to John’s work not just for the Bus Forum but in a number of capacities in York and this was echoed by others including Graham Collett and Ian Anderson.

Doreen will write to his wife at an opportune time when more details of his sad passing are known.

Apologies had been received from Jason Murgatroyd, Tony Hudson, Robin Jorimann, Anna Courtier (First Bus), Dee Boyle, Tom Horner City of York Council), Andy D’Agorne, Gail Shuttleworth, Dave Merrett, Mary Cannon, Cllr Stephen Fenton, Diana Robinson, Kel Pizzuti (Transdev), Adam Emmott (Transdev) .

1. Minutes of the 15th April meeting and matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda

The Minutes were approved
Matters arising:

1. Minute 8 Wigginton Road Congestion Ian Anderson had not received a response to his email to the Council leader and Chief Executive. He suggested that he forward his email to Doreen Magill who would consider the course of action with the Membership Secretary and Treasurer and the committee members.
2. Minute 8 Draft template letter and template letter for Town and Parish Councils

In the absence of Andy D’Agorne no update was possible.

1. Enhanced Partnership Meeting- 23 April 2025

Doreen reported the main points as being:

1. The idea of overnight parking at Park and Ride sites would be taken forward but may not be in place until Christmas.
2. Live screens are in place at Heworth and Morrisons and at the meeting it was said all those due out would be installed within two weeks ( though see below at 7c)
3. The exception was the screens at the station which would not be in place until issues with the electricity supply were resolved.
4. At the EP Forum it was said that City Centre Corridor options would be available and consultation would be May and June- though it was noted that no options or consultation had taken place to date.
5. Access refusal figures for wheelchair users had been circulated but seemed to need verifying as some did not look credible e.g. some operators had reported no refusals whilst others had many. Peter Monk Steel recounted a recent experience where he had to wait until a 3rd bus arrived on the no 1 route to gain access and asked whether he could arrange an accessible taxi if refused access. Joel Bradley said this was possible and Wayne Blackburn explained that if space was not available the driver should issue a ticket and then radio control and control should then contact the next available bus on the route to pick up the passenger.
6. The York EP forum meets more regularly than other EP Forums and it was suggested the frequency of meetings may be altered (though as yet the timetable previously issued to EP members remains intact). Stuart Fillingham commented that other EP Forums he attends meet less frequently but are more strategic and suggested an a different structure option may be to alternate a strategic meeting with a scrutiny meeting.
7. Joel Bradley reported that as of July 20th all Park and Ride sites would operate so that the first bus form the sites to the City Centre arrived by 5.45 and the last bus from the City Centre would be 10.30p.m.
8. Parliamentary Transport Committee Consultation 29th April 2025

Doreen reported on the background to her being invited to give evidence to the above Parliamentary Committee as a result of the work done primarily by Graham Collett on submitting views on transport in York. There had been submissions from 125 organisations around the country and only 7 had been chosen to give evidence to the Committee. York was the only City represented with the majority being market towns. The report publication date is not known.

Also at the meeting was the Chief Executive of Bus Users U.K. and Doreen as a result of the contact made has secured a representative from that organisation to talk to York Bus Forum at the June Members’ meeting to outline its role and objectives.

1. Public Meeting Leeman Road 7th May 2025

As per 2 b) above Andy D’Agorne had tendered apologies. Andy would be requested to provide a written update on both items for circulation to members.

Duncan Miller reported that the buses that currently routed via Leeman Road were to be diverted from 2nd June due to the York Central Scheme works though Joel Bradley said First Bus had not yet been informed of a commencement date so 2nd may not be possible. New bus stops had been put in place in readiness for the change and the changes should make running the buses on time easier for the time being though recognising the disruption to services for those on Leeman Road.

1. Advance Notice Public Meeting Heworth 25th June 2025

Doreen explained that the meeting was being organised by the local ward councillors in Heworth to specifically obtain views on transport, including bus services, in the ward and was open to all residents.

1. City of York Council issues
2. City Centre Bus Corridor Consultation Process- see 3 d) above.
3. Dial a Ride Progress report- no update was available and Councillor Waller confirmed that no update had been made available to Councillors.
4. Bus stop information and information screens list of new locations- the position in Heworth outlined at 3 b) above was welcomed but Roger French and Graham Collett confirmed that the new screens due to be installed by the end of the 1st quarter 2025 in Dringhouses/Acomb and Copmanthorpe had not been installed.
5. Paper timetables- reminder to operators of obligations at EP. Stuart Fillingham confirmed that bus operators had been reminded of the requirement in the EP Forum to produce paper timetables. Joel Bradley agreed to consult with the First Bus commercial department and report back.
6. Service 412 Knapton Services- no update was available.
7. CYC/Bus operator respective responsibilities re road works clarification –Councillor Waller said that bus operators were not always made aware of road works in advance and Eden Blyth reported issues at the station and expressed concern that Moorsbus have been unable to source any information on the proposed closures on Malton Road between Monks Cross and Hopgrove and Chris Thompson concurred that Pullman had also been unable to access information. Stuart Fillingham offered to pick up the issue with CYC officers.

Duncan Miller queried arrangements during road closures at the station from Saturday 24th May at 20.00 to Tuesday 27th May at 06.00.

Wayne Blackburn offered to provide copies of the temporary timetables with diversionary route details for the First Bus 1,3,4,5,7 and 9 services which would not progress to the station after Blossom Street but turn right to Nunnery Lane before progressing to Rougier street and onwards. Chris Thompson reported that Pullman had been contracted to provide a shuttle bus service from Blossom Street to Rougier Street and offered to send details. (Note both were provided and sent out to members immediately after the meeting with thanks to Wayne and Chris).

Richard Parker observed that there are currently road works in Bishopthorpe with a bus stop out of use. Communication on this had been good and Doreen observed that notification if road works had improved generally recently.

Wayne Blackburn reported that road works were commencing at the Theatre Royal on 21st May and a temporary stop was being put in place at the De Grey Rooms.

1. Clifton Green stop for the Nos 2 and 30 services- no update was available.
2. Clifford Street bus stops- services 6 and 11 added to stops, Doreen reported that the stops had been updated to include these services but people were still not aware that the buses stopped there. She offered the opinion that notices should be put on the Buses on this route to increase awareness and Joel agreed to discuss internally with Fist Bus colleagues.
3. First Bus
4. Changes from April RE No 1 A service to improve early morning reliability

Joel reported that there had been little improvement with a number of incidents of burst water mains on the route not helping punctuality.

1. Nos 10 and 11 improvements in service reliability actions proposed-Joel reported that First were in discussions with CYC re the no 11 and it may be that the service would be retimed again with potentially an hourly service. Doreen said that going hourly would give an easily remembered clock face time.
2. Niall McFerran asked whether there was any movement to reinstating the 11 service on Sundays. Stuart Fillingham reminded members that the Sunday service had been subsidised by CYC who some years ago had then decided to stop any subsidies to Sunday services so a change of policy may be required.
3. Extended layovers at Railway station University buses-Joel reported that in mid-June when the University term ends the situation would ease and for the new term First were looking at making Rougier Street the terminus. A debate took place on the relative merits of Rougier Street and the station. David Stuart suggested via the chat facility that layovers should be at the University.

Councillor Waller raised the issue of First Bus withdrawing from Twitter which made it hard to get information on short term issues but Joel said analysis had shown that few people accessed the Twitter account and most people used the app to get the up to date information.

1. Transdev

Due to the lack of a representative from Transdev no progress could be made.

1. Extended layovers- Stonebow and Rail station causing congestion- no progress to report
2. Extended layovers –Service 30 at Exhibition Square- no progress to report
3. Overcrowding single decker Coastliner service- no progress to report.

Graham observed that the Coastliner service to the West had been reliable though acknowledged that this was probably in part due to the long layovers at Stonebow.

1. East Yorkshire
2. Changes to improve service reliability- Stuart reported that punctuality had improved on the X46/X47 but the biggest problem was delays of up to 15 minutes on James Street stuck in traffic going to the tip. As a consequence it was likely that the route would revert to using Walmgate and Piccadilly.

Roadwork son the A1079 had been another on-going issue for several months.

1. Service X45 to be shown on bus stops in York-Stuart believed this issue was now resolved but would check.

Stuart reported that East Yorkshire were talking to the East Riding Enhanced Partnership about the service that could be offered to Full Sutton Prison, the cost of doing so and the effect on re-routing current services to serve it.

1. My service 16
2. Service My16 Revised service – transfer of contract to Pullman 7 April 2025

Gordon Campbell Thomas had left the meeting but Chris Thompson reported that the service operated well most days with overall reliability 76% but on some days due to congestion it was impossible to maintain to timetable. An option was to move to a 1 hour 10 minute timetable. Options were being discussed with CYC.

Councillor Waller observed that since part of the 24 route merged with the 16 it has proved difficult to maintain the timetable. He observed that there either need to be a reversion to the no 24 route or an in-depth discussion with the local community and resolved to discuss the issue with Chris and Gordon off- line.

1. Any other business

Eden Blyth reported that he Hull – Danby- Pickering service operated via Moorsbus was very well used having received good marketing assistance from the local authorities in Hull and East Yorkshire. However, the same was not true of the services from York and he asked for contact names in marketing at CYC and was informed that Lara Thornton was the appropriate contact and Guy Wallbanks a Travel Planning Officer at CYC another potential contact.

Doreen offered to distribute leaflets at the u3a and Graham Collett similarly offered to distribute amongst his contacts.

1. Date of next meeting- 17th June 2025 5.30 p.m. by Zoom