

York Bus Forum: Note of Meeting held on Tuesday 11th October at West Offices York

Present: Ron Healey (RH) (Chair), Dee Boyle (DB), Dave Merrett (DM) (later), Monica Nelson (MN), Graham Collett (GC) (Minutes)

1. Introduction by the Chair

RH welcomed those present. He said that we should avoid detail as far as possible and also try to reduce the number of emails. Individuals needed to make commitments to carry out actions in order for the Forum to make progress.

2. Apologies for absence: Andy D'Agorne, John Bibby (JB), Carole Green, Toby Hart, David Rice (Haxby Town Council), Diane Robinson (DR), Eleanor Tew (ET) (YBPSS).

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2016: these were accepted as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

(a) JRF Grant

This had been submitted by JB on the basis agreed. A response was expected in early November. **Action JB** to report the outcome

(b) Corporate Membership

Haxby Town Council and Bishopthorpe Parish Council have both affiliated to YBF. DB said that Rawcliffe PC would join if they were supplied with a membership form. **Action: RH to send a form when contacting Rawcliffe**

(Secretary's Note: the current form – as used at the Guildhall event on 15th September – includes provision for corporate membership @£10).

5. Reports on Recent Activity – Convenor, Treasurer/Membership and others

(a) YOPA 50+ Fair at the Guildhall 15/9/16

Our stand was manned by Mary Harlington, RH and GC (with thanks to RH for providing a temporary cardboard stand at short notice). The event was not as well attended as in previous years, but some good contacts were made and 2 new members were recruited (see also separate report on the event).

(b) Finance

(i) DM reported that he had acquired a shareware accounts package aimed at voluntary organisations which was suitable for preparing the Forum's accounts and had input most of the data. It was agreed to make a £5 donation to the software authors. **Action: DM**

(ii) DM had been through the membership records received from JB – there were approximately 50 memberships paid to date, out of a large list of attendees and interested parties. Unfortunately it is not possible to be definitive who paid a membership as against a donation or those who simply attended. He felt it was

best to treat all the names as potential members for the current year, and wait until Year 2 to clarify the actual number and names of paid-up members.

(iii) Receipts to the end of September (excluding £6 in new memberships taken on 15th September) totalled £282, including payments in kind, but only £50 in cash terms. The YBF Bank Account was not yet open, but was progressing through the lengthy bank application system. Assets included 4 free First Group bus passes (weekly/monthly) estimated at £100 in value. It might be possible to raffle 2 of these at the 15th October St Nicholas Fields event, subject to YBF attendance. A free stand had been offered at this event and JB and RH were hoping to arrange staffing **Action: JB/RH**

(iv) It was agreed that a loan of £26 to cover room hire for a meeting at Briar House be paid back. **Action: DM**

(c) YBF Website

JB and GC met Paul Colbeck (joint proprietor of Anbrico Video) on 26th August. Paul had agreed to design a website for us and to arrange a domain name and webhosting. He had been delayed by business and health pressures but would be starting work on this shortly.

(d) Acomb Meeting to include bus services

Action: RH to follow up and report back

6. Strategic Working Groups – Progress and Plans

(a) Access to Buses

Following a request from ET, GC had contacted CVS Chief Executive's Office and asked them to alert other organisations who might have an interest in this group. The CVS had responded positively and had been in touch with ET direct. GC had also alerted other organisations at the Guildhall event. DB said that Rawcliffe PC were interested in making contact with other PCs over access issues. It was hoped that a fuller report could be given at the next meeting **Action: ET**

(b) Network

TH was not present so it was not known how far this group had progressed. RH suggested that it could be rolled into the Parish Councils Group. **Action: RH/TH**

(c) Parish and Town Councils

(i) DB reported that Rawcliffe PC (at its September meeting) had set up a Public Transport Advisory Committee (PTAC), which included DB and DR. The PC was keen to support the PTAC and one of its Parish Councillors had met with Andrew Bradley (CYC). The next meeting of the PC on 24th October would include a report from the Advisory Committee (DB would be attending).

- (ii) A lot of people were now isolated, following the withdrawal of the evening and Sunday service on Route 19. A scheme had been set up where the PC paid a £1 subsidy towards taxi fares for journeys into the city in the evening or on Sundays; the taxi company offered a discount to scheme users. The scheme had about 30 members at present and the PTAC were trying to collect data to assess demand.

(d) Bus Station

MN expressed the continuing concern of residents and visitors that there is no bus station in York. DM said that work had been done on a scheme for an interchange at the station as part of the York Central development. This would form part of the Local Plan consultation. The VTEC franchise agreement was intended to build in the need for relocation of the current long-stay car parking area to release land for the interchange.

Action: GC to check the franchise agreement and report back

7. Relations with City of York PT Team

- (i) JB and TH had met Councillor Gillies and Andrew Bradley on 20 September to discuss working together to develop a strategy for a vastly improved public transport network for York. The meeting had limited success, but the Forum was now working on building a good relationship with Andrew Bradley and the Quality Bus Partnership (QBP). A meeting with the Chair of the QBP had also taken place.
- (ii) Coppergate Traffic Restriction Order. DM had taken the lead in putting together a submission from the Forum in support of the re-designated scheme and it was agreed that he put the submission (in the form agreed with Forum Officers) forward.

Action: DM

8. Review of Membership and Aims

It was agreed to defer discussion of this to the next meeting.

9. Buses Bill Prospects and Challenges

RH said that the Bill was still in Parliament at present. Further discussion was deferred to the next meeting

10. York Park and Ride – Impact on Local Bus Use

- (i) DB drew attention to the potential of the evening Park & Ride (P&R) services to provide cover for the loss of local services. She had estimated around 140 potential users along the Rawcliffe corridor from Hotels, Guest Houses and Youth Hostels if an evening service calling intermediately was offered on P&R Route 2. She is aware of a number of regular visitors who use the bus to go into York in the evening. Her estimate did not include users of B&Bs or local residents.

Action: DB to investigate further

- (ii) The meeting discussed how the Forum should input to the current debate about P&R services, given the absence of any bids to the Council's recent invitation to

tender. It was agreed that the Forum should focus on the interests of bus users in the debate and our aims should be as follows:

- A later evening service
- More intermediate stops in both directions after 1830 on routes where there is no alternative stage carriage service available
- Better integration with local bus services
- Through routes where possible
- Seek potential support from businesses benefitting from the Park & Ride services - both retailers and employers

Action: DM to submit our views to the Council, alerting the media as appropriate

11. Arrangements for the AGM

It was agreed to avoid an evening meeting, to allow those members at work to attend. A 1400 start time was suggested. It was unclear when this was due to be held. Subject to clarification of the timing, this item would be carried over to the next meeting.

Action: JB

12. Any Other Urgent Items

DB advised that some drivers on Routes 6 and 19 were not following the scheduled route in order to avoid traffic congestion, thus leaving sections of route unserved. If this practice continued, it would need to be raised with the bus company and – if necessary – with the Traffic Commissioners.

GRAHAM COLLETT

6th November 2016