

Minutes of YBF Branch Meeting: West Offices – Tuesday 13 December '16 (18:00 – 19:30)

Present: Ron Healey (Chair), Toby Hart (minutes taker); Graham Collett, John Bibby (Convenor), Eleanor Tew (Access Working Group); Andy D'agorne & Dave Merrett

1. **Introduction – Chair (Ron Healey):** It was suggested and agreed that Toby Hart would take the minutes for the above meeting
2. **Apologies:** Colin Wood; Diana Robinson; Dee Boyle
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 08/11/2016:** these were agreed as being an accurate reflection of items discussed and were formally accepted.
4. **Matters Arising: see below**
5. **Reports on Recent Activities etc:** This will include 'Matters Arising' items also on this occasion.
 - a) **Quality Bus Partnership Meeting:** Member Andy D'Agorne had attended the quarterly Quality Bus Partnership (QBP) and had reported a disappointing response from certain bus operators on the possibility of "talking buses", with a number stating that they did not believe it would be commercially viable to retrospectively introduce audio automated announcements on buses. This disappointment was shared by fellow members given the significance of York as a major international tourist destination and the number of visitors who use and could potentially use the local public transport system. At this point, Dave Merrett advised that there was a system of this kind fitted to the current Park and Ride Fleet but that this had not been made use of thus far (It is also to be noted that the vehicles used on local tendered services by Arriva do have such a system in use).
 - b) **Harrogate Chamber of Commerce:** TH and RH the Harrogate Branch meeting of the Chamber of Commerce which was held at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate on Monday 07 November, where a number of speakers from Transport Sector, including the CEO of Transdev, Alex Hornby. Alex gave a presentation about company successes, in particular the flagship 36, and how the company had been successful with attracting new customers through a number of initiatives such as contact-less payment and on-board USB charging points, as well as 2 + 1 configured leather seating with drop-down seatback tables. TH spoke with Alex at the end of the meeting regarding timetables and was reassured to learn that the company believed in providing printed publicity and services that were timetabled in a user friendly way.
 - c) **York Central Plan:** this was described by JB who attended an event in connection with this that it was very "top down" and that there was nothing specific on transport
 - d) **Finance Group:** JB and DM confirmed that a Finance Group Meeting had taken place and that the bank account was open with £270 balance currently. We also discussed match funding and how this could be secured: to this end, it was agreed the group would seek clarification on the criteria required and in particular the rules around ward funding, with the deadline for securing funding being confirmed as the end of April. We also agreed, as a group, specifically that taxi-buses should be explored as part of a range of options for improving social inclusion across communities in the Greater York Area.
 - e) **Annual General Meeting:** Possible dates – 04, 08 and 11 April - and format for the AGM were again discussed and it was suggested that a Saturday might be the best day of the week if we were to invite our local MP/s owing to their weekday parliamentary commitments. It was also agreed to retain an agenda and explore potential venues.
 - f) **Letter to Marc Bichtemann:** JB reported that he had received a response from the MD of First Bus in York to the letter sent by the group and an offer to come along to

one of our meetings. It was agreed to follow this up with the company and an invitation to a future meeting early in the New Year.

- g) **Rawcliffe Parish Council Meeting:** Ron reported that the taxi-bus scheme available to residents in his parish had received a setback because the taxi firm responsible for providing this service had recently gone out of business.
 - h) **Visit by Campaign for Better Transport Officer, Steve Chambers to York:** following a CBT (Campaign for Better Transport) workshop held in Leeds on the morning of 22 November, their bus campaigner, Steve Chambers came to York and was given a tour around the First Bus in York network, including a return trip to the University via the number 6 and 66 routes. While touring the network Steve enquired about information on 'Smart Ticketing' for local bus services: in view of this, DM offered to write to the council for a progress report.
 - i) **YBF Website:** following Railfuture's assistance by one of their Officers, Paul Colbeck, with setting up a website for the group, feedback from members has been sought by GC on the draft pages created so far. It was also suggested that a comments' section in the form of listening post could be included but caution was expressed that keeping on top of the feedback could be quite time consuming and that a nominated person would ideally need to take responsibility for this.
 - j) **Protocol on how Respond to local Issues affecting buses and their users:** In the light of a number of issues that had recently cropped up that members had differing views on how we, as a group, should respond publicly, DM offered to write up a protocol for members' consideration.
 - k) **Access Working Group:** Eleanor gave an update as lead for this group with the stated aim of a 10 point plan by the end of 2017. In the meantime, groups were in the process of being identified to establish contact with but that some assistance with this task would be needed, which YBF agreed to provide. In addition, a questionnaire would be devised for this purpose with some draft questions already drawn up. JB agreed to circulate Eleanor's proposals.
6. **Key Relationships with a view to Raising Match Funding:** already discussed in 'matters arising' but a supplementary mentioning that the Co-op has funding available to help community groups and it was suggested that we should explore this as a further potential source of income/funding
 7. **Review of Membership and Priorities – recruitment and building credibility:** It was reported that 2 new members had joined recently.
 8. **Park and Ride Contract Renewal:** Member TH and AD attended the recent the City Council's Exec Committee Meeting where alternative options previously discussed in response to the council's failure to secure a successful bidder were considered for a second re-tendering process. DM had registered to speak at the meeting but was unable to attend owing to being unwell. The chair of the meeting therefore agreed to consider the submission in their absence. In addition, AD hinted that the Green Members on the group might "call in" the decision that was taken to proceed with these.
 9. **In relation to working with other groups,** it was suggested that we make contact with Trade Union Organisations to see if there was any scope there and for them to become affiliates.
 10. **Regarding student involvement** in YBF, John Bibby stated that he had not had any response to his last communication with the York Youth Parliament Student group.

The meeting closed at 19:45 hours.

