**York Bus Forum – Members Monthly Meeting 17.30-19.00 Tuesday 17th December 2024, by Zoom**

Attending: Doreen Magill, Niall McFerran (Vice Chair), Andy D’Agorne (Secretary), Roger French (Finance and Membership), Dave Merrett, Graham Collett, Richard Parker, Gail Shuttleworth, Tony Hudson, Catherine Odell, Eleanor Tew, Glen Simpson, Stuart Fillingham (EY Buses), Wayne Blackburn, Joel Bradley (First Bus), Cllr Nick Murray (Rufforth and Knapton Parish Council), David Stuart, Duncan Miller, Eden Blyth, Lionel Lennox, Ian Anderson, Councillor Stephen Fenton (Dringhouses and Foxwood), George Wood, Ian Craven(Haxby Town Council), Christine Cooke, Debby Cobbett, Linda Baker, Kathleen Mary, and Terry French.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Doreen Magill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from, Robin Jorimann, Mary Cannon, Jason Murgatroyd, John Slaughter (HARBUS), Anna Courtier (First Bus), Robert West (Copmanthorpe Parish Council),Diana Robinson, Dee Boyle, Iris Wells Judy Illing, Gordon Campbell- Thomas, Cllr Christine Cooke (New Earswick Parish Council), John Hart, Mary Fairbrother, and Tom Horner (CYC).

2. Minutes of the November 11th YBF meeting approved

3. Enhanced Partnership Forum meeting Dec 11th Nial McFerran expressed strong concern that the EP Forum was not able to scrutinise the decisions of the Partnership Board effectively and that the Forum meetings were badly chaired. He proposed to write to CYC to suggest this needs to be addressed either by appointing another chair or serious efforts to ensure that meetings were run more effectively.

It was agreed that Niall would write to Kate Ravilious , Executive Lead for Transport, on behalf of the YBF Forum.

Niall also reported that the Park and Ride design had been discussed but not the proposed functionality at the Park and Ride sites. Niall was worried that the slow progress on spending capital funds would lead to them being taken back by the Department for Transport (DfT)

4. Members Issues

Service 16 This has been discussed by the council recently and a revised timetable is to be introduced from January to try to address the issues of late running and missing out parts of the route when blocked by parking problems. John Bibby proposed a ‘route champions’ working group might be established to report back in 2 months. However it was then proposed that the YBF committee should consider this arrangement first at its January 2025 meeting and report back to a future meeting.

Service 10 Lionel spoke about the reliability issues and it was explained that congestion delays, particularly on Fri afternoons and Saturdays meant that sometimes drivers were forced to end the service early to return directly to the depot to stay within drivers hours. Lionel said there were 3 specific incidences of running very late or being cancelled, with there being no information on the real time display at the Bar Convent. Wayne said that some number 10s were having to return to the depot for charging, and others questioned incidences of the bus returning empty leaving passengers standing at stops. It was suggested that the company had a duty to have extra driver/ vehicle on standby rather than passengers having to pay out for taxis. Andy D’Agorne and Richard Parker suggested that operators should put more pressure on the council to resolve identified spots causing the most delays.

Services 1a/ 13 Ian Craven said that recent route changes around Haxby were a concern and wondered if the 1a could be used to fill some of the gaps. While West Nooks is covered the new route means that some 2000 households, many elderly no longer have a convenient bus taking them a short distance into Haxby. This is a concern for Haxby Town Council.

After discussion it was agreed that Haxby Town Council would write directly to First Bus re the 1/1a service and , if necessary, Connexions re the 13.

5. City of York Council Issues

 CYC issues meeting with Tom Horner and Sam Fryers. Nial reported that because of construction work the ‘Banana warehouse’ No 10 stop would at last be relocated to Merchantgate as the forum has pushed for, for at least 2 years. However CYC intend this to be only temporary during 6 months of work but the committee will press for it to be made permanent.

Dial a ride: Stephen Fenton reported that there had been a budget of £98k pa to support the operation prior to its demise in Dec 2023 and the scrutiny report was complete but awaiting being tabled to Executive to determine the next steps. The budget consultation makes no mention of the need to identify funding for this service.

Richard Hampton had made progress with bus stop replacements and installation of new real time indicators.

There was concern that allowing 6 local timetable changes per year was too many creating confusion and lack of consistency.

The committee are still pressing for more information about the park and ride contract due by 2026 – an opportunity to review routes, fare models and service levels.

Nick Murray described the decline of the 412 service since 2017 which has not had a Saturday service since covid and runs Wetherby – York missing out Knapton.

Doreen Magill agreed to write to Tom Horner and Sam Fryers on behalf of the Bus Forum supporting the Parish Council, with a copy to Nick

Tom Horner had agreed to attend the January 21st York Bus Forum meeting to explain the current City of York Council thinking in terms of the Park and Ride tender and seek input from YBF members.

The issue of accessible toilets at Park and Ride sites was discussed and Joel Porter reported issues with vandalism, especially on weekends and citing Rawcliffe Bar as an example

Niall referred to the on-going issues with road works where notification at bus stops and on information screens continued to be inadequate and Tom would seek to ensure that the Council and operators met their obligations under their agreements.

6. First Bus Issues

Joel Bradley (First Bus) heard a number of concerns from members: There is an issue about the No 10 not using the right stop at the station, resulting in passengers missing it.

Likewise with the No 11 being only hourly now a bus being cancelled can mean the expense of a taxi or more cars dropping people off at the station to catch a train. Questions were asked about one way travel in South Bank to avoid cancellations and late running because of congestion caused by the parking levels in the area.

Joel Bradley highlighted the difficulties encountered in South Bank due to double parking in narrow streets, and congestion in the City Centre as causing major difficulties but acknowledged the strength of feeling as demonstrated in the large turnout in the public meeting in Bishopthorpe in November. He stated that improving the No 11 service was a major priority for him.

It was suggested that he should engage the Council re the street parking issues with a one way system being a potential solution. Members agreed that YBF would support First Bus in approaches to the Council to reduce congestion and tackle the car parking issues in South Bank

Tony Hudson asked if First could explain why Full Sutton Prison was shown on the web version of the No 10 timetable with no timings. Joel Bradley (First) agreed to investigate.

Joel said that First would be announcing the new fare arrangements on Dec 19th following the lifting of the national fare cap from £2 to £3: fare increases would be limited to inflation growth since the fare cap first came into effect.

Stuart Fillingham informed members that the DfT had issues terms and conditions to operators participating in the fare cap. These set out a mechanism for graduating and controlling fare increases and Stuart agreed to send a copy to Doreen Magill as Chair.

A ‘software issue’ was still hampering on board stop announcements and AV screen displays – This seemed to particularly impact the park and ride services.

No 4 reliability Paul Croft message refers.

Roger French referred to the issue raised by Paul Croft on the data sheet sent out in advance of the meeting. Roger said that at times, from his experience, no4’s were following each other round Acomb leaving big gaps in service. This had made the timetable irrelevant and in his experience the only reliable way to know whether a bus was due was to use the app to see where buses were and ignore the timetable which clearly disadvantaged those not used to using technology.

7. Transdev Issues

Doreen Magill referred to a recent meeting with Adam Emmott the Transdev Manager for York in which he seemed to place emphasis on the Coastliner service being regarded as a series of local services, hence the wait times in timetables.

However, this did lead to extended layovers at Stonebow and , to a lesser extent , the station with a knock on effect of increasing congestion and making it difficult for other buses to access their stops.

Transdev had reported that Malton Bus station was to be refurbished and also that Transdev would look into the feasibility of stopping in Clifford Street as suggested by YBF.

Doreen also referred to the recent purchase by Transdev of a number of Reliance service bus routes in North Yorkshire and York including the no 30 from Easingwold to York.

8. East Yorkshire

Progress has been made on inter operator recognition of permits for use of electric mobility scooter users.

Finally EYMS reported that changes were being made to long distance routes as much as anything to address impact of traffic delays. For example on the Hull -York route in 15year there has been a 33% increase in overall journey time for the X46/47 route. This all adds to costs and undermines attractiveness of using public transport for these trips.

Tony Hudson reported thanks to EYMC for introducing the X45  service which has been widely praised by many residents In Dunnington. Residents also welcomed that detailed printed timetables where available.

9. Tourist tax for York

John Bibby had left the meeting at this point so this item was held over.

10. Membership Fee Proposals

The paper proposing membership fees be frozen for 2025 was approved.

11. Any other business

There was no other business

12. Date of next meeting- 21st January 2025 by zoom.