

UTTLESFORD TRANSPORT FORUM held at COUNCIL OFFICES GREAT DUNMOW on 15th July 2009 at 10.00 am

Present: Uttlesford District Councillor: Keith Eden (Chairman); Jeremy Pine, Rebecca Procter (Uttlesford District Council Officers); Paul Garland (Sustainable Uttlesford); Ian Shaw (Uttlesford Community Transport); Barry Drinkwater (ULODA); Sue Mayer (UALC); David Corke (Sustainable Uttlesford); Wendy Jackson and Nick Blackall (Essex County Council) ; Kerry Vinton (Uttlesford Futures).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Rose Johnson, Councillors Catherine Dean, Jackie Cheetham and Elizabeth Bellingham-Smith, Steve Mills (BAA); Sue Locke and Murray Hardy (UDC); Kris Radley (RCCE).

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2009 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. UTTLESFORD FUTURES

i) Transport Working Group Terms of Reference

3.1 Jeremy Pine circulated the draft terms of reference, with a brief history of the Transport Forum and its purpose. The meeting acknowledged that there had been terms of reference going back to 2002, but they were not a current live document and were now happy to comment on the proposed draft, which will compliment the Uttlesford Futures Governance Arrangements 2008.

ii) Transport Working Group Action Plan

3.2 Included in the terms of reference were the proposed four key areas for the Transport Forum to implement and to support the action plan.

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE
Taxis	To encourage less use of private cars Establish the majority of taxi drivers to be part of the scheme
Buses	To encourage less use of private cars
Cycling	To encourage less use of private cars
Disabled Mobility	To ensure continuing success of Uttlesford Community Travel

3.3 Paul Garland informed the group that the Environment Group saw their role as an advocacy one, supporting Uttlesford Futures' with key actions, but also continuing with work outside of the action plan on a work programme, Paul also mentioned the cross over work that had been identified with the Healthier Communities and Older People i.e. the Wildlife Garden, and how owning the actions, enables the groups' focus and gets things done.

3.4 David Corke asked why rail had not appeared on the key areas of work. The Chairman confirmed that rail had not been precluded, but as the rail industry did not usually engage with the Forum it would be difficult to work with it. David Corke went on to say they had had some success with rail issues using the nag factor. He also raised concerns regarding the promotion of the discounted senior rail card and that the local authority should be developing a station travel plan with all partners. The

Chairman wanted to be clear who would take responsibility for the plan. The forum was made aware that National Express would incur a penalty for not producing such a plan. The Chairman expressed the view that in their current position this might not be of immediate concern to the company.

3.5 Paul Garland advised the Forum of the meeting he had had with the Area Station Manager and suggested the Chairman make contact with him, in order to influence Uttlesford and Audley End issues. Paul went on to describe the success in securing the disabled access bridge, soon to be completed at Audley End to enhance access to the northbound platform, and how lobbying Sir Alan Haselhurst had helped its installation.

3.6 David Corke asked if there were national indicators that would match up with the objectives.

3.7 The following action was agreed:

3.7.1 A list of national indicators and those the local authority has signed up to, to be circulated to the Forum, and to assign the relevant NI to each of the Action Plan topic objectives.

3.8 The Chairman raised the possibility of bidding into the LSP budget or other funding, once the NI's were indentified, ensuring projects were not duplicating work of other agencies or groups .i.e. the Airport Transport Forum.

3.9 It was agreed that a smaller sub group would be formed for each of the four objectives and that they would meet to develop their action by using the Action Plan pro forma as a guide line and report back to the wider Forum in 3 months time.

ACTION	LEAD OFFICERS
Community Travel	Ian Shaw (Uttlesford Community Travel and Sue Locke (UDC)
Quality Taxi Partnership	Andrew James (ECC) and Murray Hardy (UDC)
Buses – Improvements to local services	Cllr Simon Walsh (ECC Cllr) tbc , David Corke (Sustainable Uttlesford) and Jeremy Pine (UDC)
Increasing cycle travel	Ian Willard (Cycle users group) tbc

3.10 The following was agreed:

3.10.1 The Chairman would invite Cllr Simon Walsh to join the sub group, looking at **Buses - improvement to local services**. The Chairman would also invite Ian Willard to join the **Increasing cycle travel** sub group and make enquiries with the local authority as who would have an interest in joining the sub group from an officers point of interest.

3.10.2 The Chairman would speak to Councillor Howard Rolfe and Gaynor Bradley about who should be the representative on the Futures' Management Team. The suggestion was that it should be Nick Blackall.

4. NATIONAL EXPRESS FORMAL TIMETABLE CONSULTATION

4.1 Jeremy Pine had previously circulated the timetable consultation received from Jonathan Denby for comment. A fleet of 30 x 4-car electric units would be provided for the Stansted Express, but the consultation was whether some should be used for the Cambridge – London service. The consensus from the Forum was that the trains provided would not meet the wider passenger needs, as they would be specific to the airport route in terms of reduced numbers of seats to increase luggage capacity. Jeremy had invited National Express to this meeting, but hadn't had a response.

4.2 David Corke expressed his concern on the length of the trains and how the platforms would accommodate them.

4.3 The following action was agreed:

4.3.1 Jeremy Pine would write a response to the consultation paper and send it to Jonathan Denby.

5. REVIEW OF BUS SERVICES

i) General Update

5.1 Main changes within South Uttlesford are to the 7 and 301 routes around Bentfield Grn.

ii) Concerns Re: operation of Contract Services, following Stansted Transit ceasing to operate.

5.2 Stansted Transit approached Essex County Council in May 09, advising them they were experiencing financial difficulties. The hope was to reassign contracts on a temporary basis until the end of August and then re-tender, this was unacceptable and all contracts ceased to operate from immediate effect.

5.3 Excel at very short notice, acquired 34 vehicles and picked up the contracted services. The changes were notified to as many passengers as possible, via Parish Council contacts, posters on buses, the Travel Line website and the Essex CC website. The local press was not used to inform passengers. The contracts won by First in the 2009 tender process that were due to commence in September had been brought forward to July 5th.

5.4 The forum wanted to congratulate Essex CC in their swift intervention and seamless transition to the new operator in these difficult circumstances.

5.5 David Corke pointed out that future changes should be highlighted on the bus timetable; Wendy Jackson drew the Forum's attention to the Bus Passengers News, a monthly update giving details of all changes.

5.6 David Corke said that the 94 Swards End, didn't mention that it was a public bus and not just a school bus, Wendy said she would take it back to Essex CC.

6. AUDLEY END STATION - update

6.1 No further update available.

7. STANSTED GENERATION 2 - update

7.1 The inquiry had been postponed pending the outcome of BAA's appeal to the Competition Appeals Tribunal, which was due to be heard at a 3 day hearing starting on 19th October 2009. After that it likely to be 3 to 4 months before a decision is known. All the Council's preparatory work was now on hold, and there is a possibility the inquiry would be deferred until it is known who the new owner of the airport is.

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

8.1 Kerry Vinton asked if the Forum was happy if she was to develop a new page linked into the Uttlesford Futures website for the transport group, moving them from the Sustainable Uttlesford pages where they currently sit. She also asked the Chairman if he would write a short introduction for the group, its role and purpose etc.

8.2 Wendy Jackson mentioned the success of the Great Canfield shopper bus, and how it was contributing to the leisure target and in the near future there will be a similar service for Farnham.

8.3 Kerry Vinton made the Forum aware of the Uttlesford Futures' Assembly, the event will be on 13th October 2009, Chesterford Science Park. All LSP working groups will have the opportunity to deliver and facilitate a workshop; fuller details of the days programme will come in due course.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 The date of the next meeting was set for **Wednesday 21st October at 10 am**, in the Committee Room in Saffron Walden Council Offices.