

UTTLESFORD TRANSPORT FORUM held at COUNCIL OFFICES SAFFRON
WALDEN 20TH October 2009 at 10.00 am

Present: Uttlesford District Councillor: Keith Eden (Chairman); Jeremy Pine (UDC); Paul Garland (Sustainable Uttlesford); Cllr Elizabeth Bellingham-Smith; Ian Shaw and Peter Carmichael (Uttlesford Community Transport); Barry Drinkwater (ULODA); David Corke (Sustainable Uttlesford); Peter Blanchard (Walden Travel/CPT Essex); Ian Willard (Cycle Users Group); Sue Locke (UDC) Kerry Vinton (Uttlesford Futures).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Wendy Jackson and Nick Blackall (Essex County Council) Rose Johnson (Road Safety Officer), Councillors Catherine Dean and Jackie Cheetham; Steve Mills (BAA); and Murray Hardy (UDC); Kris Radley (RCCE).

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2009 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. ACTION ARISING

i) Transport Working Group Terms of Reference

3.1 In order to formally agree terms of reference, the group agreed to have this as an agenda item for the next meeting. Jeremy Pine circulated the list of National Indicators that related to this group, although it was evident that a number of them fell under working groups i.e. Killed and Seriously Injured was looked at by the Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership. The group thought it useful to have a complete list of NIs that the other working groups had regard for.

Action 21.10.09 – 01 Kerry Vinton to put together Uttlesford Futures' working group table showing which NI's groups have regard to.

ii) Transport Working Group Action Plan

3.2 Covered separately as an agenda item

iii) Uttlesford Futures'

3.3 The group agreed to have Nick Blackall represent them at the Uttlesford Futures' management team.

iv) Action Plan

3.4 Due to a change in responsibilities Cllr Simon Walsh would now not be the most appropriate representative on the group, Cllr Eden felt an alternative councillor needed to be approached and suggested Cllr Ray Gooding.

v) Review of Bus Services

3.5 David Corke informed the group of a number of issues with the 94 Swards End route, which he had taken up with Essex CC. Peter Blanchard from Walden Travel was disappointed the problems were not taken up with him directly, the group felt this was an issue they both needed to conclude outside of this meeting.

4. ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Quality Taxi Partnership

4.1 The group has made good progress; there was a meeting on 7th August 2009 with all the major stakeholders present. A formal presentation was made to the licensing Committee on the 16th September 2009 and the group agreed they would present at the Futures' Assembly in October. Essex CC are supporting the project with a contribution of £10k from the Passenger Transport team, the group were looking for clarification on the mechanism for the funding, as where it should be deposited.

Buses – Improvements to local services

4.2 The sub group met for the first time last week, along with David Corke and Jeremy Pine, were two Essex CC representatives Wendy Jackson and Sam Barwick. The group are hoping to extend membership, to include a bus operator, Peter Blanchard said he would be happy to attend, time permitting.

4.3 The group were clear they did not want to duplicate any work the county were already undertaking and came up with a number of areas they thought could add value or have some influence on:

- Ensure Essex CC role out time table information in a timely manor
- Encourage parish council to respond to Essex CC, i.e. Parish Plan
- Uttlesford Futures' contributes to the 3rd Generation Local Transport Plan
- Continue to work with BAA
- Campaigns
- Consider 'Reverse Park & Ride' scheme
- Communication – which officers to work with within Essex CC

4.4 The group discussed the possibility of purchasing rail tickets from the town centre prior to getting on the bus, there has been some interest from CrossCountry Rail in providing a ticket machine, ensuring some profit from the arrangement, it may be possible to site the facility in the Tourist Information Centre. Future investigation on how integrated the system can be needs to be done.

Increasing Cycle Travel

4.5 Ian Willard has said he is keen to get involved, although the group has no other representation yet. There are a number of established regional and national groups that Uttlesford could link into, as well as approaching the County's Cycle Forum. Jeremy Pine informed the group of the Stansted Airport forum he is involved and that Uttlesford District Council has regard to the Cycle Network Plan in any of section 106 work.

4.6 Sue Locke asked if there could be opportunities through the Sainsbury/Heritage site to develop safe cycling routes, and she informed the group of the work the Healthier Communities and Older People working group were doing through their Access to Services project and the recent proposal for a further extension to the Hinxton hall site, perhaps approaching them to invest in cycle paths up to the Genome Centre from Gt Chesterford, as were put in place to Cambridge previously.

4.7 Paul Garland shared with the group the article he had found on possible funding through the The Big Lottery, which is supporting the revival of cycling and walking activities.

4.8 Ian Willard plans to develop some ideas and projects for the sub group, in order to determine its objectives. Jeremy Pine offered his support to the group, subject to time.

Action 21.10.09 – 02 Ian Willard and Cllr Eden to discuss group representation, with a view to approaching Essex CC through Highways for someone to join the group.

Mobility – Community Travel

4.9 Ian Shaw informed the meeting that the sub group had met, and were able to put together a comprehensive action plan with the involvement of a small group of trustees. There is a need to complete the mapping exercise in order to capture all the services provided across the district and to identify funding streams.

Action 21.10.09 - 03 Cllr Eden to speak to Gaynor Bradley regarding the criteria in order to apply to the Uttlesford Futures' Budget.

5. REVIEW OF BUS SERVICES

5.1 This item was deferred due to there being no Essex CC colleagues being available for update.

6. AUDLEY END STATION - update

6.1 The bus circle is still under development and the lift will be available early 2010.

7. STANSTED GENERATION 2 - update

7.1 BAA appeal goes on; once the decision has been made there is likely to be an 8week turn around for the enquiry. The proposed sale will be heard this week.

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

8.1 Regarding the proposed planning application from both Sainbury and Tesco, the questions was asked, will there be any provision for a bus service, also the car parks provide should be designated as public car parks. Jeremy Pine informed the group of the complexities of the planning proposal and how the local authority links in and engages with it, whilst considering the needs of the town. The planning application should be available to the public within the next week, if the group want to submit evidence for consideration, they need to provide it over the next 6/7 weeks.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 20th January 2010, 10am Council Chamber, Saffron Walden Council Offices, London Road, saffron Walden.