

**UTTLESFORD FUTURES TRANSPORT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th APRIL 2010 AT SAFFRON
COUNCIL OFFICES**

THOSE PRESENT

District Councillors Keith Eden (Chairman), Catherine Dean and Mark Lemon, Jeremy Pine (UDC), Sam Barwick, Wendy Jackson and Rose Johnson (ECC), Paul Garland (Sustainable Uttlesford), Peter Blanchard (Walden Travel / CPT Essex), Barry Drinkwater (ULODA), Malcolm Barrell (UCT), Ian Willard (Cycling Group), Jane Clarke (Wenden Road Action Group) and Bruce Tice (Saffron Walden Business Forum)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1. Apologies were received from Sue Locke, Murray Hardy and Kerry Vinton (UDC).

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1. These were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record, subject to amending Minute 6.1 to indicate that the trial period had finished.

3. ACTION ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1. None.

4. ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Quality Taxi Partnership

4.1. Barry Drinkwater explained that the QTP was signed on 4/12/09. A launch event with stakeholders had been held. 28 operators had now signed up, with others likely to join. An implementation plan was finalised on 26/2/10. The £10k funding for in-car CCTV had been received. Operators would have to apply for the funding, and a prospective supplier had been identified.

4.2. A driver awareness training programme had been drawn up, with possible funding from ECC. A passenger charter was in draft, and would appear in vehicles. Publicity would be given for accredited members. Stakeholders were due to meet at the Police Station on Friday. Monitoring of standards would take place.

4.3. The awareness training would be a single day event. Paul Garland questioned whether it should be repeated.

Buses

4.4. Jeremy Pine explained that the membership of the Sub-Group had been expanded to include representatives from Stansted Mountfitchet and Hatfield Heath. A representative from Great Dunmow was still being sought.

4.5. Some progress had already been made on Action 3.1, details of which would be given later on by Wendy Jackson.

4.6. In relation to Action 3.3, there was a need to review the wording to take account of opportunities presented by the Greater Anglia Franchise Consultation, where great emphasis appears to be being placed by DfT on all aspects of the station interface.

Action: Jeremy Pine will revise the wording of Action 3.3 after the UDC response to the rail franchise consultation has been sent.

4.7. Paul Garland had produced a wish list of things he wanted to see, including:

- More PlusBus availability
- Vouchers for bus travel
- Improved bus stand information
- Co-ordinated timetables
- Off-bus ticket purchase

4.8. The Group would consider ways of increasing the publicity given to the Arriva 510 as, because of its frequency, it could be a useful local connection with other routes.

Cycling

4.9. Jane Clarke circulated a short paper and explained her project, which was to make Wenden Road safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. A shared-sue path suitable for pedestrians and cyclists was proposed, 2-2.5m wide, kerbed and adjacent to the road. Audley End Estates was willing to discuss land issues.

4.10. The Chairman had met with the UDC Chairman and Leader, along with representatives of ECC Highways. ECC had indicated that it would fund the re-energising project, which was now affordable. It was agreed that this project would be included as part of the plan being prepared by Ian Willard. A Sub-Group was needed, which would comprise Ian Willard, Rose Johnson and the Chairman.

Action: The Chairman would chase ECC for a timeframe and to find out how much money was available.

4.11. Ian Willard gave details of his cycling plan, which included more cycle parking in the area. Liaison was taking place with the National Express Area Manager over cycle racks at Audley End Station. Comments had been provided on the Tesco and Sainsbury planning applications, and other significant applications would be scrutinised.

4.12. Cycle surgeries would be established where bikes could be checked over and security marked. One would be hosted at Audley End. National Express does this elsewhere, but there does need to be proper insurance.

4.13. More involvement with cyclists in Great Dunmow is being sought, esp. via the local Press. Local links are being established with the Essex Cycle Forum and Sustrans. Help is being given to Essex Wildlife Trust volunteers

with roadside verge maintenance. Publicity is being given to National Bike Week, which starts on 19th June, and to promoting National Cycle Network Routes 11 and 16. Work has also commenced on the signing of Regional Route 50 (High Laver – Ricking). Wendy Jackson advised liaising with her colleague, Harvey Panrucker, re cycle to work.

Mobility

4.14. Malcolm Barrell advised that different options were being looked at. There was huge demand for the service. UCT is the largest provider in the area.

5. BUS SERVICES UPDATE

5.1. Wendy Jackson explained that all bus stops with timetable frames would be provided with new frames, and that updated information was being provided in Saffron Walden town centre and at Audley End. One operator would change the frames on behalf of them all, but any queries should still go via ECC. Bus shelters in Saffron Walden High Street are to be changed.

5.2. Services 7 and 7A would continue as present after the 6 month trial. There was a wish for the Arriva 510 to divert into Stansted Mountfitchet, but there were timing issues that prevented this. Catherine Dean said that local residents felt that there should be some link from the village to the 510. There had been some changes to Services 302 and 306. The 317 had been withdrawn, but the 319 was an option.

5.3. An i-kiosk situated outside County Hall is to be relocated due to lack of use. As there isn't one in Saffron Walden, it could be relocated there. An appropriate location was sought, either external or internal. The Chairman suggested either the Tourist Information Office or the Library.

5.4. Peter Blanchard expressed his extreme concern over the funding of bus services. Industry costs were rising at 8% per year, and low inflation meant nothing. The last increase in ECC funding was 2% in March 2009, and this is to run through to August 2011. Operators need money from somewhere, leading to possible high fares increases this year. Some services may be discontinued, which could cost ECC more as they seek to retain statutory minimum service levels. Paul Garland said a serious issue would develop if people can't afford to run their cars but the public transport system collapses. He wanted to know what ECC Members were doing. Wendy Jackson said ECC would do what it could within its own budgetary constraints.

5.5. It was again queried whether Tesco had gone back on its original planning obligation to provide a free shuttle bus to its Saffron Walden store.

Action: Sam Barwick to check whether Tesco has breached its agreement.

6. AUDLEY END STATION – SECTION 106 AGREEMENT UPDATE

6.1. Jeremy Pine read out the relevant clauses of the agreement. The developer had until the end of the year to submit a detailed design for the bus

turning circle, and was then obliged to carry the works out within 6 months of their approval. The developer's obligation would cease if the design hadn't been approved by 30th June 2012.

6.2. Paul Garland was concerned that the wording of the agreement could encourage the developer to try to delay things so that the 2012 clause was activated. As an interim measure, he wondered whether Network Rail could take out some of the forecourt spaces temporarily to provide a turning circle.

Action: Wendy Jackson would discuss with Jayne Sumner, who was the ECC project manager.

7. GREATER ANGLIA FRANCHISE CONSULTATION

7.1. Jeremy Pine ran through the main points of the consultation, which would close on Monday 19th April. A significant local concern was the allocation of the new Class 379 rolling stock, which should not be at the expense of local commuters. Jeremy Pine explained that his understanding from what the DfT had said was that some of the new rolling stock would be used on the more popular am and pm peak service to and from Cambridge. Peter Blanchard queried whether the new rolling stock had actually been ordered.

Action: Jeremy Pine to circulate UDC's response to the DfT.

8. UTF TERMS OF REFERENCE

8.1. The Chairman noted that the 2005 terms of reference had been looked at in July of last year and now needed reissuing in a modified form. Paul Garland said that they should be put to the Uttlesford Futures Board.

Action: Jeremy Pine to redraft the terms of reference and recirculate them.

9. STANSTED GENERATION 2 UPDATE

9.1. Jeremy Pine referred to what had just been said in the Labour Party's manifesto. The statement that no runway other than Heathrow R3 would be allowed to proceed during the lifetime of the next Parliament was doing nothing more than stating the obvious. The current timeline for sorting out the ownership of the airport, preparing revised G2 data, holding any inquiry and informing the Secretary of State would likely be at least 5 years.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1. Wendy Jackson reminded the Forum that Item 5 should now be "Bus Services Update" and not "Review of Bus Services".

10.2. Bruce Tice updated the Forum on progress with the project on renaming Audley End Station as "Audley End for Saffron Walden". A design for an add-on to the running boards had been produced, and the Saffron Walden Initiative would provide the £1,200 funding required. A revised font would be required. There was also an appetite for extra signing for cycling and walking to / from the station.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

11.1. Wednesday 14th July 2010 at 10.00am in the Committee Room at the UDC offices in Saffron Walden.