



**TRANSPORT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th JULY 2010
UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES
SAFFRON WALDEN**

PRESENT: District Councillors Keith Eden (Chairman), Clive Smith, Elizabeth Bellingham-Smith and Mark Lemon, Jeremy Pine, Sue Locke (UDC), Sam Barwick, Wendy Jackson (ECC), Alan Neville (National Express), Barry Drinkwater, Robert Sinnett (ULODA), Ian Willard (Cycling Group), Jane Clarke (Wenden Road Action Group), Danny Douglas (RCCE) and Kerry Vinton (Uttlesford Futures)

APOLOGIES: Murray Hardy (UDC), Sue Meyer (UALC) and Peter Blanchard (Walden Travel/CPT Essex)

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1.1. Due to the late arrival of the chair, Cllr Mark Lemon ran through the minutes on the chair's behalf and confirmed they were an accurate record.

2. ACTION ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1. None, all other actions were covered on the agenda

3. UPDATE FROM NATIONAL EXPRESS

3.1 Alan Neville, Area Station Manager gave the group an update on the National Express commitment to Audley End Station and the surrounding community, including the significance of the temporary extended contract National Express has until the new provider has been awarded.

3.2 He went on to explain the greater focus in customer service and the service quality standards regime the company adheres to, he added that the company has built up a number of community links i.e. TIC and the Saffron Walden Initiative, and looks forward to working with new groups, he has the opportunity to speak to Sir Alan Hazelhurst regularly when he is using the station, updating him on the progress being made on station developments, for example the increase in available parking of a further 166 new spaces, which has made a huge difference to off-peak passengers, and the introduction to the lift and bridge have proved popular, resulting in the lift being made available 24hrs per day for a trial period between 19th July – 4th September 2010.

3.3 The station has introduced reciprocal arrangements with other stations in the region i.e. Ely, in order to promote local places of interest to visit.

Improvements have been made to the bus timetable information and to the turning circle for the local buses and the investment into new rolling stock which will be coming on line in the autumn.

3.4. The renewal of taxi permits will go a head; there are no plans to increase the number of permits.

3.5 Alan agreed there was more work needed to improve the bus/rail relationship especially for evening services, and to consider special shuttle services while the Audley End summer concerts are on, similar to the service provide for the Newmarket Race Nights, he was also aware there was not a provision for the plus-bus ticket at the moment.

3.6. Platform length was another issue covered and is being addressed at Stansted Airport, the group felt the timetable did not fit in with airport travellers.

3.7 The group were reminded of the decision made by Government not to pursue with the second runway at Stansted airport, this has resulted in cancellation of all highways and rail orders.

4. GREATER ANGLIA RAIL FRANCHISE UPDATE

4.1 The DFT have indicated that the new franchise will be awarded for a 10 year contract; this is considered better and will encourage new providers to invest in the service over the longer term. National Express has been given an extension to their current contract, until the consultation and tendering process is completed later this year.

5. ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Quality Taxi Partnership

5.1 The partnership has held two further meetings since the forum last met, the meetings focused on in-car CCTV provision. The cost of installation for 20 cars will be approx £10k, 5/6 operators have shown an interest in the scheme.

5.2 A training day will take place on 29th September 2010, 35 operators have indicated they will attend. Delegates will be able to cherry pick from a list of workshops through the day.

Cycling

5.3 There have been a number of unused cycle racks identified; Ian Willard asked if the forum had any suggestions where they should be sited.

5.4 It was felt by the cycling sub group that they would need to be included at an earlier stage during planning applications, in order to influence cycling facilities and infrastructure.

5.5 There will be two cycling surgeries in September at Audley End Station; cyclists will be able to have their bikes checked over and security marked.

5.6 The sub group have formed good links with Sustrans, who have negotiated an agreement with Essex CC to maintain the county's cycle paths.

5.7 Jane Clarke (Wenden Road Action Group - WRAG) informed the forum of they had sent their proposal of a shared cycle and pedestrian path top both Uttlesford District Council and Essex Highways.

The action group are looking at a possible survey by Essex CC of the proposed route, there will be meeting between the WRAG and Essex CC to discuss the cost.

6. BUS SERVICES UPDATE

6.1. Wendy Jackson informed the group that the i-kiosk is too large to be sited in either the TIC or the library, other locations in Saffron Walden will be considered and a move planned when funding becomes available.

6.2 Services 133 and 42A the bus stop has be moved to accommodate the building working on Gt Dunmow high street. There are changes to the timetable for the 443, 444 & 445 services, this is to ease overcrowding. The service at Audley End 301 will change to aid better connection with trains coming into the station.

6.3 Fare concessions currently managed by Uttlesford District council, will move to Essex County Council in 2011, there will also be a small consultation on bus passes.

7. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERNCE

7.1. The draft terms of reference were circulated to the group, the group agreed adding the rail franchisee, Essex County Council and RCCE to the list of members, the group also discussed representation from young people perhaps inviting a member from the Youth Parliament.

8. STANSTED AIRPORT UPDATE

8.1. BAA have formally withdrawn their application for a second run way, all compulsory purchases have been withdrawn, as have new rolling stock and highways orders.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. Sue Locke shared with the group the concerns the Healthier Communities & Older People working group has over access to community travel in the evenings, Danny Douglas from RCCE will be investigating the community travel schemes around the district and working with them to extend accessibility.

9.2 The group asked if the cancellation of free bus service to Tesco was a breach on the 106 agreement.

Action: Jeremy Pine to forward the Tesco 106 agreement to Sam Barwick, ECC in order for her to look into the bus service.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

11.1. Wednesday 13th October 2010 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber at the UDC offices in Saffron Walden.