



**TRANSPORT FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2013
COUNCIL OFFICES, SAFFRON WALDEN**

PRESENT: Cllr Keith Eden (Chairman), Cllr Alistair Walters, Jeremy Pine, Sue Locke, Kerry Vinton (UDC), Geraint Hughes (Greater Anglia), Paul Garland (Sustainable Uttlesford), Anthony Armon-Jones (Transport Users Group) Barry Drinkwater (ULODA), Paul Gadd (Access Walden), John Wells (NCS) and Peter Lainson (Uttlesford Access),

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Murray Hardy (UDC), Alan Neville (Greater Anglia) and Wendy Jackson (Local Bus Team, Essex CC)

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2012 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

ACTION ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Action: Sue Locke and Jeremy Pine to pull something together for Cllr Eden to draft.

Sue Locke has spoken with Richard Auty, who has reserved a slot in the November issue of Uttlesford Life for an article on Community Travel and the CVS updated Car Share Scheme. **Closed** The article did appear in Uttlesford life, Community Travel also endorsed the coverage.

3. FUTURE REPRESENTATION FROM THE BUS INDUSTRY

The chair raised the issue of future representation due to the closure of Walden Travel. The new operator Stephenson of Rochford, are a rapidly growing company having also acquired Burtons of Haverhill.

John Wells agreed to join the Transport Forum as the bus operators' representative.



4. UPDATE FROM GREATER ANGLIA

Celebrating the first anniversary of the start of its short-term franchise, it has been a significant week and busy 12 months, not least the improvements to the quality of service.

The recent Passenger Survey results show an increase in customer satisfaction, rising to 83% from 77% in the last year. The PPM for the franchise has increased to 92.2%, with West Anglia achieving a higher than average performance of between 94-95%. This could be the result of a new strategy in dealing with adverse weather conditions, adopting speed restriction avoiding any long term damage to the trains.

Greater Anglia will continue with the franchise, until an announcement from DfT is made about the new franchise competition arrangements. There is a possibility that the existing short-term franchise may be extended by the DfT in the light of the current review of franchising.

The disabled toilets at Audley End Station are being refurbished under the DDA programme; the Forum asked what the policy was regarding public toilets, as they had some concerns regarding the quality of some of them.

There will be a huge cycling improvement programme rolled out over the next 12-18 months, 3,000 spaces made available in Cambridge with retail, maintenance and bike hire opportunities, awaiting planning permission. The aim is to build a network with larger stations, introducing new and recycled kit, focussing on Colchester, Norwich and Ely to begin with.

Audley End Station has had another 30 spaces made available.

The group asked that the prohibition to chain up bicycles along the fencing at Audley End Station be relaxed during the milder weather, with this in mind, Geraint informed the Forum there have been some problems with abandoned bicycles.

A new property development in Elsenham may have implications on rail services, Greater Anglia are happy to talk to the developer regarding the support from the railway.

Bus Improvement Project – The project has an established working group, looking at content of measures and establishing principles and how the project might work. There have been positive responses to the Market research; encouraging customers to contribute, improvement measures will reflect people's comments.

ECC are looking at the bus network around Saffron Walden, with possible improvements to the station. This may delay the implementation of parts of the trial. The May elections may cause a delay in the ECC administration.

The project will look into providing facilities for customers to purchase tickets in the town centre; there will be a meeting with the TIC and also the town council. The aim is to introduce a six month trial, but look longer term, and if successful to continue with the new operator. The project will look to other similar trials in Hailsworth/Southwold in Suffolk and Dereham/Norwich in Norfolk. The taxi option will be picked by an officer in the north west of the region; they will look at a number of stations across the network.

5. ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Quality Taxi Partnership – ECC funding for further CCTV installation has come to an end. QTP continue to promote the scheme and 5/6 operators have expressed an interest if further funding becomes available. The company, who installed/supplied the CCTV equipment for the vehicles, would consider a discount, if a significant number of operators were interested in having cameras installed.

Trading Standards having been promoting the Buying with Confidence Scheme, the aim is for customers to have a positive experience when hiring a taxi; the responses will inform a policy review.

Mobility – Uttlesford Community Travel will be re-branding and re-launching through their Newsletter. UCT are looking to split their service provision between Gt Dunmow, Saffron Walden and the remainder of Uttlesford, and want to add the UDC logo in recognition for their support, UCT have also spoken to the TIC and SWTC.

The service is investigating real time measures, ensuring drivers can be in the locations where they are needed.

Numbers of hospital journeys have increased from 92 per year to 350/400 per month, they have 33 volunteer drivers supporting the hospital scheme.

It is clear some community groups would not survive without the UCT service.

Cycling – Access Walden continue to lobby ECC regarding the feasibility study.

The cycling group have been awarded £500 from EEC to promote cycling in the district.

The group have concerns around the lack of cycle racks in Saffron Walden.

Buses – The Group has not met since the last Forum meeting because it is awaiting the new action plan, its previous objectives having been met. An update was provided by ECC which is attached to these minutes.

6. TRANSPORT USER'S WORKING GROUP

The chair of the group informed the Forum of his appointment by Cllr Eden, he went on to explain the vice chair he had been working with has now stepped

down. His aims up to now have been to understand what to do and work towards an official launch of the working group, Sir Alan Haslehurst had been invited, and the press will be in attendance. There will be a public meeting for those who wish to volunteer an opportunity to join the group.

He was unsure how elections in May would effect the reorganisation of bus services, and shared with the meeting the good experience he had had with the Audley End connecting bus, until the time table was changed. Anthony made the group aware he had joined the Greater Anglia Customer Panel.

7. STANSTED AIRPORT UPDATE

Airport throughput is currently running at 17.4million, there are signs of a slight increase in passenger numbers.

The sale of the airport should be completed by the end of the month; it appeared that all negotiations have been through Heathrow. The new owners aim to bring passengers numbers up to the levels they were in 2008 (24million) within a decade. The Manchester Airport Group, are a consortium of local authorities, and own Bournemouth and East Midlands airports.

DfT forecasts show passengers numbers will increase to 35million by 2030, by when there will be no more spare capacity in the south east system. The Davies Airport Commission will be considering the best use of capacity.

Forum members highlighted the poor quality facilities at the airport bus station.

8. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Meeting Schedule for 2013

Date	Time	Venue
7 th May 2013	10am – 12noon	Staff Room Meeting Room, UDC Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden
6 th August 2013	10am – 12noon	Committee Room, UDC Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden
5 th November 2013	10am – 12noon	Committee Room, UDC Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden