



**TRANSPORT FORUM  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> August 2013  
COUNCIL OFFICES, SAFFRON WALDEN**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Keith Eden (Chairman), Cllr Alistair Walters, Jeremy Pine, Sue Locke, Kerry Vinton and Murray Hardy (UDC), Paul Garland (Sustainable Uttlesford), Anthony Armon-Jones (Transport Users Group) Robert Sinnott (NCS), Barry Drinkwater (ULODA) and Geraint Hughes (Greater Anglia)

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Paul Gadd (Access Walden/Friends of the Earth), Malcolm Barrel (Uttlesford Community Travel) and Peter Lainson (Uttlesford Access),

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were received and confirmed as an accurate record.

**Action: Murray Hardy to circulate Special Branch Leaflets.** Murray confirmed he had circulated the leaflets, he added there will also be an article in the next edition of the quarterly newsletter, which is distributed to all operators.

**Closed**

**3. UPDATE FROM GREATER ANGLIA – INCLUDING AUDLEY END BUS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Geraint Hughes gave an update on the franchise. The current franchise is due to finish in July 2014. Pending the current review of franchising, the indications are that the current arrangements are likely to be rolled forward. The DFT is in discussion with Abellio for a single trade award, negotiating a franchise extension until October 2016. DFT will be discussing the principles and content which will form part of the new agreement. Abellio will have to respond to the agreement by putting a formal proposal together.

If Abellio fail to come to an agreement with DFT, Directly Operated Railways will step in to run the line as per the East Coast franchise. The Mayor of London is proposing to take over Inner Suburban services on the West Anglia Mainline, namely Enfield Town, Chingford and Cheshunt via Seven Sisters .

Abellio will be consulting stakeholder on its priorities, this could be an opportunity to start refurbishment and carry forward works to the new long term franchise. One issue that is being raised is additional off-peak / evening services from Cambridge to Stansted Airport.

The group asked what the cost implications were for stopping trains at more intermediate stations. This could be significant, and is always considered as part of a business case. Stop/start can be a disincentive for existing passengers.

**Bus Improvement Project** - Close to the implementation date of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013, with services starting on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Marketing for the services will take the form of leaflets, posters, house to house flyers, vinyls on the back of buses and several internet websites. One disappointment is Essex County Council not allowing any additional advertising panels to be fixed on to their existing bus stops.

The Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre is in negotiation regarding the selling of tickets for the new service.

**Bike Project** – Greater Anglia is looking to produce a Bike Strategy and will be conducting a 2 month long consultation. It will start with holding a cycle forum bringing together local cycle groups to discuss ongoing issues along the network i.e. the carriage of bikes on trains, especially at peak times. The aim of the strategy is to look for a different approach, considering the safe storage of bikes at either ends of a journey.

The group discussed the bike hire scheme the Mayor of London has introduced and were made aware of the huge of capital funding spent on the scheme, backed by Barclays. Abellio are considering a small scale investment into a scheme called Bike and Go, where bikes for hire will be available in 50 rail stations including Cambridge, Ely and Ipswich. The bikes would be available at the business end of the customer's journey and costing approximately £3.50 per day.

The group asked if Greater Anglia will be addressing the inadequate number of bike racks at Audley End Station. , They unable to extend the bike racks facility without authority from Network Rail, however, staff at the station have been asked to be lenient with their approach to bike parking.

#### **4. BUS SERVICES UPDATE**

No update made available from Local Bus Team, Essex County Council.

Robert Sinnott advised the group that from September they will be taking on the No 1 service. There is little scope to change the timetable, but all their vehicles are DDA compliant and they will be introducing double deckers. Investing in other vehicles was difficult due to the way the 3 year contracts were awarded and the decline in passenger' numbers.

The group discussed the on going delays at the Thaxted/Radwinter Road junction.

## 5. TRANSPORT USERS GROUP UPDATE

See attached update provided by Anthony Armon-Jones.



UTUG report  
6-8-13.docx

## 6. QUALITY TAXI PARTNERSHIP

The bid made to the Police & Crime Commissioners funding was unsuccessful. The only successful bid was £1,500 towards equipment for the New Street Pastor Scheme.

The group were made aware of the issues surrounding parking issues on Saffron Walden High Street.

## 7. MOBILITY

Sue Locke provided an update via Peter Lainson regarding a recent decision made by the new owners of Stansted Airport – Manchester Airports Group (MAG).

MAG has now decided to introduce an additional arrangement which will allow Blue Badge holders to pre-book access by car/taxi to the forecourt area for both drop-off and pick-up. Clearly this will be very welcome as it significantly reduces the distances involved to the 'check-in' area.

This new 'pre-booked' arrangement will be operated, sooner rather than later, via Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology &/or display of original Blue Badges - some of the detail still has to be worked-out; but it has to be good news?

(For those who fail/choose not to pre-book access to the forecourt, the Blue Badge bays within the existing 'Express' drop-off will, of course continue to be available, as will the free shuttle-bus service from the Mid-term car park drop-off area.)

## 8. CYCLING

Kerry Vinton read out an email received from Paul Gadd regarding the progress of the cycle path. Progress continued to be very slow, with ECC Highways now two months late on their timetable, and the project is getting into danger of

missing funding for next year. Alastair Walters and John Lodge are liaising with ECC Highways at every opportunity.

## 9. STANSTED AIRPORT UPDATE

- Passenger input has increased to 17.7million.
- Manchester Airport Group has two new car park offers, Jetpark and a new Meet & Greet option.
- The deadline for submissions to the Airport Commission on meeting the need for long-term UK airport capacity expired on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013 .
- The Major of London believes the proposals for a new hub airport on the Isle of Grain is the best long term option. Significantly, he has also suggested a new hub at Stansted as a close second=best option.
- MAG is publically focussing on filling its spare 17million capacity at Stansted Airport, but has suggested that Stansted could meet the requirements for additional long-term capacity should the Airports Commission decide that extra long-term capacity is required.

## 10. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Meeting Schedule for 2013

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	10am – 12noon	Committee Room, UDC Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden