

Transport Group Minutes: Town Hall Thursday 5th January 2012 10.00am

Present Ian Heggie, Chris Gregory, Martyn Luscombe, Kate Rolfe, Elizabeth Dixon , Jenny Fradgley, Roger Davies

1 Apologies Yvonne Widdowfield, David Elliston, Julie Crawshaw, Robin Sankey, Keith Lloyd

2 Minutes approved (clarification that St Martin's/St Andrews's referred to commuters parking in these residential streets)

3 Matters Arising – The Ambassador's course should be extended to other groups such as Garage Staff and street cleaners. However concerns were expressed that many staff work shifts and are part time so cannot easily attend Ambassador courses. Hence, simple leaflets and maps could be given to garages to help answer visitor's questions. CG said he would take up the issue of street cleaners through his staff.

4 It was decided not to invite JD to join the group, but to ask him – together with other technical specialists -- to provide expert advice when needed.

5 Up date on Lucy's Mill Bridge. WCC consider it difficult to locate a bridge on the town side of the existing bridge, but could see no reason against a bridge on the Welford side of the road bridge. ML emphasised that Voice is still at an early stage and are waiting for a Sustrans report (due second week in January) before deciding what to do and whether to seek funding for a full feasibility study.

6 High Street TROs. Consultations still in ongoing. TG is ready and willing to engage in discussions to help move things forward. The Historic Spine Group should also be involved. BiDs needs information about the timetable for changes to existing TROs in order to keep businesses informed and to answer any questions raised.

7 Colin Davies, during a recent walkabout of the town centre, was concerned that Stratford had not yet removed 'dangerous' railings from the street scene. KR said she would follow this up and get it onto the WCC agenda.

There was also a discussion related to the Colin Davis suggestion that the central island in Bridge Street should be extended to run along the entire street. Pedestrians could then cross one lane at a time, effectively creating an element of 'shared space' (as in Waterside) in this important town centre street. KR said she would bring this issue to WCC's attention to start a process of discussion leading to possible implementation.

8 Parking tariff. Since YW was not present this item will be moved to the next meeting and expanded to include an update on car park names and signage, together with progress on the web site update.

9 Traffic volumes in SuA. IH read out significant data from recently received WCC traffic counts. He will e-mail these to the committee and this item will be on the next agenda for discussion.

10 Bus parking in Bridge/Wood Streets. CG has been in contact with both bus companies and WCC re the long standing congestion caused by busses at the confluence of Bridge Street and Bridgefoot

/ Waterside. All are willing to come to the next TG meeting where an exploratory discussion can take place to seek possible ways to resolve this difficult issue.

The 'Redrow site' was discussed in respect of the 7 bus layovers being provided there. Possible user charges and feasibility of bus companies using them were discussed and will be raised at the planned meeting with the bus companies.

11 Signage along Historic Spine. De cluttering is a hot issue. A list of offending signage along the Historic Spine has been drawn up and KR has been working with WCC to work out a timetable for removal over the next 2 years. It was suggested that the list should be proactive and any extraneous signage should be added to the list for rapid removal. TG & HS groups have a role to play in monitoring signage.

There are major concerns re the location of the broad band BT boxes. The BT box by Halls Croft is under enforcement and will eventually be re-located. The BT box in College Street is more problematic and will need considerable work to achieve its re-location. KR is working tirelessly on this. It was decided that when such street furniture comes to planning more care should be taken in checking the location before permission is given. Permission should not be automatic.

12 New footbridge at SuA station. The new 'easy access bridge' proposed for Stratford Station was broadly welcomed, but concerns were expressed that although remedial work at the station is welcome it should be sensitive and reflect the value of the Victorian Station to both the railway company and tourism in the town. Grave concerns expressed re the lack of a disabled toilet. It was suggested that a 'Friends of Stratford Station' should be explored to see if the rail company and Friends can partner to the benefit of both. JF said she would put a list of interested people together and CG said he would facilitate an initial meeting once contacts had been drawn up.

13 Cycling issues in the town. JF said this issue should go to the next agenda as LWM (Lead Ward Members) would be looking at this issues and residents' parking as possible issues for Ward Watch and will report back at the next meeting.

A.O.B.

- Blue Badge charging – BB pay in private car parks in the town but not in SDC car parks or on the street. BB pay on the Rec. car park but have an extra 1 hour free parking. This seems a good approach and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- CG asks where SDC had got to on the renaming of the town's car parks. YW will answer at the next meeting.
- The Teddy Bear Museum is still on the town's web site and there is evidence that visitors are still trying to find it in Greenhill Street! Who is responsible? Do we need a functioning tourism body?
- Bishopton Parkway has been speaking to ED re accessibility issues. CG would like to be kept informed.

Next meeting at the Town Hall Wednesday 15 February 2012