

Transport **MINUTES**

Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Test Valley Transport Action Group

Wednesday 26 October 2005 at 5.30pm in the Mayor's Parlour, Duttons Road, Romsey.

Present:

Councillor David Bidwell (Chair)
Annie Tomlinson (TVBC)
Judith Cohen (Grateley Parish Council)
Carolyn Nixon (Friends of the Earth)
Linda Bagwell (John Hanson School Governor)
Sheila Ridge (ENHAM)
Peter Kennesion (Houghton Parish Council)
John Perry (Broughton Parish Council)
Dick Hewett (Dial-A-Ride)
Sue Ransome (Braishfield Parish Council)
Philip Liddell (Romsey Chamber of Commerce)
John White (Romsey Good Neighbours)

Guest Speakers:

Peter Syddall (HCC)
Carol Moore (Head of Revenues, TVBC)

In Attendance:

Liz Slade (TVBC)

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies:

Marion Woods (Partnership Manager, TVBC)
John Jacobs (Winchester and Eastleigh PCT)
Jean Lowe (Braishfield Parish Council)
Faith Humphries (TVCS)

Councillor Bidwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the order of the agenda would change as Carol Moore needs to attend another meeting at 6.30pm.

Transport **MINUTES**

2. Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

Action: Annie Tomlinson will attach School Travel Plan information to these minutes.

[For general School Travel Plan information please see www.hants.gov.uk/schooltravelplans. For up to date information on schools in Test Valley see www.hants.gov.uk/decisions/decisions-docs/041012-tvhmap-r1004120514.html. (A hard copy is attached to these minutes).]

Action: Liz Slade to make sure everyone is sent a copy of minutes (not just attendees and those who have sent apologies).

3. Update on changes to concessionary Travel Scheme – Farepass

Carol Moore introduced new free 'Farepass' scheme effective from 1 April 2006 replacing existing travels tokens which can be redeemed with TVBC by drivers until 30 June 2006. Statutory requirement is that each local authority must provide a free bus pass between the hours of 9.30am to 11.00pm within the Borough boundary, for all residents aged 60+ or with a qualifying disability. However, TVBC will provide bus travel (or rail alternative) anywhere at anytime as long as one single journey starts in the Borough e.g. if you change buses in Southampton, the second stage of the journey will not be covered. Peter Kennesion and John Perry requested this be made clear from the outset as public are under the impression they can travel free anywhere in the country.

Disabled customers also in receipt of a means tested benefit such as Housing/Council Tax Benefit or Guarantee Pension Credit also get £40 per annum towards alternative modes of transport (e.g. taxi). The companion of a disabled person also gets free bus travel. Around 18,000 people are entitled to a Farepass/Rail card and they will be notified in phases over the coming months. Passes will be plastic 'credit card' style with photo ID replacing current cards in plastic wallets.

Community transport initiatives, such as Dial-A-Ride are not currently included in the scheme but this is being investigated.

4. Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 Update

Peter Syddall from Hampshire County Council presented an update on the Plan which sets the overall transport policy for Hampshire. The provisional LTP (LTP1) was published in July 2005 and the full LTP (LTP2) needs to be submitted by March 2006.

Four shared priorities are; Accessibility, Congestion, Safety and Air Quality.

Transport **MINUTES**

The plan is split into four main areas although borders are not rigid – North Hampshire, Central Hampshire, New Forest and Solent. Andover falls within Central Hampshire and Romsey within Solent.

Plan covers ways to **Reduce, Manage and Invest** in the transport infrastructure:

Reduce:

- Need to travel e.g. by home working, car sharing, video conferencing, land-use planning.
- Casualties through education.
- Accessibility problems.

Manage:

- By making best use of networks.
- By improving accessibility through better signage and information.

Invest:

- New road schemes
- Better public transport
- Putting in better pedestrian/cycle links.

LTP must fit funds allocated by Government. Draft assumes funding levels of £69 million for Integrated Transport and £79 million for Maintenance. Consultation period for LTP2 ends on 31 October 2005 and Government will announce final funding levels in December 2005.

Annie Tomlinson confirmed that the Council is about to send a response on this phase of the LTP. She also stressed that the following two area strategies are most important to TAG as we fed our priorities up through to County level for inclusion in the bid. A few salient points are highlighted below:

Action: Annie to send a letter to HCC from TAG, highlighting the omission of Grateley Station and support for the other priorities. *[This has now been sent]*

Central Hampshire Strategy

- Covers area which includes Winchester and Andover, has population of ½ million people and high car ownership.
- Andover has good road network and 70% live and work in the town.
- Andover will receive more funding from the MDA.
- In the long term there will be a new bus station and rail and road improvements.
- Congestion is not bad at present, compared to other towns and cities in Hampshire but it will become an issue.
- Safety is always being looked at.

Transport **MINUTES**

- Air quality is not an issue at present.
- Rural areas have low accessibility and problems need dealing with sensitively.

Solent Strategy Area

- Solent area includes Romsey and is the largest of the four areas with a population of 1 million.
- The South East Plan will have an impact, increasing congestion in Southampton.
- There is a good rail link between Romsey and Southampton and Romsey Station improvements are being sought.
- Better routing and signing for HGVs.
- Improved access to ports and cities.
- Encourage people to live and work more locally.
- Romsey Town Centre Enhancement Scheme phase 2.
- Improvements to Park and Ride facilities.
- Extend Bus Quality Partnerships.
- Review of Romsey Movement and Access Study.
- Improvements to pedestrian and cycling facilities.

Pete Syddall then answered questions from the floor as follows:

- The M27 is funded by the Highways Agency.
- Congestion is getting serious in Southampton, Portsmouth and Gosport but, is not a problem in Romsey and Andover.
- It is hoped that Andover will have a new bus station within the next 2-3 years.
- Romsey's rail and bus stations are too far apart and this will be looked at.
- Very unlikely a rail link will ever be re-opened between Andover and Romsey due to costs.

Grateley Station has 118 cars in its car park and local residents have recently undertaken a survey, over a two-week period, of cars parked over and above this number.

Action: Liz Slade to attach hard copy of Grateley Station Street Car Parking Survey to these minutes.

Action: Liz Slade to send copy of these minutes to the County Council.

5. Review of TAG Action Plan

Our two priorities are:

- Travel between rural areas and health establishments.
- Safer routes to schools/school travel plans.

Transport **MINUTES**

Annie Tomlinson has completed the relevant paperwork and forwarded it to Marion Woods (LSP Co-ordinator).

Action: Liz Slade to attach LSP forms to these minutes.

Annie now sits on an officer steering group, along with representatives from Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council and the Primary Care Trust, to look at access to hospitals for patients and visitors. John Jacobs has forwarded a report on 'Access to Health Facilities' and this will be attached to these minutes. The group is focussing on rural areas to and from Andover, Southampton and Winchester hospitals. Councillor Bidwell concerned that Romsey is out of the loop and will pursue.

Stagecoach and Passenger Transport are also on the group and Annie is confident that something positive will come out of it.

Action: Liz Slade to attach John Jacobs report to these minutes.

6. MIDAS (Mini Driver Advanced Scheme)

Item to be deferred to next meeting as Faith Humphries unable to attend. Faith can be contacted at transport@tvcs.or.uk, on 01264 362600 or mobile 07834 680292. Scheme also to be discussed at next Transport Forum to be held at 10.00am on 21 November 2005 at Longstock Village Hall.

7. Southampton Airport Outline Masterplan

Southampton Airport have produced an Outline Masterplan up to 2030 and a series of stakeholder meetings have taken place. The airport is growing rapidly; will double in size by 2015 and again by 2030, coping with around 6 million passengers per year. There will be no second runway although the terminal will expand: there will be a second terminal building, additional taxi standing for planes and more car parking. Improved access to the airport assumes the Chickenhall Lane link road will be built by 2010. Further details can be found at www.southamptonairport.com, select 'About BAA Southampton' and then 'Airport Expansion'.

TVBC Members are about to be consulted before Annie Tomlinson submits comments on the Council's behalf. All comments will be public before Christmas.

Philip Liddell stated that it's important that the airport grows as there are economic benefits. Also highlighted the problems of congestion on the M27 in this area.

Transport

MINUTES

Action: Liz Slade to attach extract of Annie Tomlinson's report to Members to these minutes.

8. CANGO Update

New service started at the end of August in the Romsey area. Commercial bus services 35 and 36 services have been replaced by CANGO. The new service is available for all and the vehicles operating the service have low floors and are wheelchair accessible. Pre-booking is essential. To make a booking call: 0845 6024135 between 8.00am - 6.00pm (Monday to Friday) 8.00am – 4.30pm (Sat). There has been a bit of bad press as the leaflet is a bit confusing but there is a number to ring if you have a problem and Dick Hewett said the staff are extremely caring. Leaflets are available in the Council's reception areas.

Councillor Bidwell reported that, after a slow start, passenger numbers are now picking up.

9. Any Other Business

No other business except we will try and find a larger room next time meeting is in Romsey.

10. Date of Next Two Meetings

Wednesday **25** January 2006 at 5.30pm in Conference Room 2, Beech Hurst, Andover and Wednesday **26** April 2006 at 5.30pm in the Council Chamber, Romsey.