

Transport **MINUTES**

Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Test Valley Transport Action Group

Thursday 24th April 2008 at 3.00pm Conference Room 5, Beech Hurst, Andover

Present:

Vivien Messenger (TVBC)

Janice Broomfield (TVBC)

Peter Robinson (Stagecoach)

Linda Bagwell (John Hanson School Governor)

Janet Whiteley (Stockbridge Parish Council)

Michael Leggatt (Winchester Eastleigh Healthcare Trust)

Melody Mew (Enham)

Tony Seddon (Grately Parish Council)

Caroline Nixon (Friends of the earth)

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies:

Annie Tomlinson (TVBC)

Hannah Baker (HCC)

David Fullerton (Enham)

David Bidwell (chairman)

Dick Hewett (Test Valley Community Services)

Vivien Messenger welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and matters arising

Agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held on 17th January 2008

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3. Concessionary travel – Janice Broomfield

Janice Broomfield presented an update on concessionary travel and explained the new system in place from 1st April 2008. The system had been changed to take into account new mandatory requirements to provide free travel for the elderly and disabled residents on eligible local bus services. Paper prepared by JB outlining the changes in the concessionary Travel Scheme is attached to the minutes.

C Nixon stated it was good that some funding now been made available for community car schemes since previously this had been a problem.

Pete Robinson expressed some concerns that unlike some other authorities TVBC gave free travel even at peak times when buses were already well used. JB explained that due to rural nature of TVBC some residents had limited choice of public transport and may need to access the bus at peak times if that was only one available. Most would chose to travel outside of peak times if they could.

Melody Mew expressed concern that the amount of money was linked to age of population but not to numbers of disabled – could be a particular problem for Enham which has a high number of disabled. Enham's own transport scheme is costly and they will be looking to access more public transport and community car schemes.

Concerns raised over the need for people with learning difficulties to have a companion able to travel with them.

JB said that the scheme would be kept under review and residents would be invited to state how it affected them. The costs of implementing the scheme would also need to be monitored and then informed decisions made about any alterations required to the scheme.

VM reported that station manager had reported people arriving at Romsey station with vouchers but without correct forms for rail pass.

Action JB to check that forms available with vouchers.

4. Romsey Railway Station

VM reported on work being carried out to progress improvements to access to Romsey Railway Station.

A working party consisting of Hampshire County Council and TVBC officers and representatives from the rail franchise group, and network rail has been meeting to

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identify the improvements considered important to improving access to the station. Account has also been taken of the issues identified by local groups such as Romsey 2020, Look at Romsey and Romsey Arthritis Care Group etc.

Recently the County have approved an allocation of feasibility funds to carry out a feasibility study to look at various possible improvements to the station, including access to the far platform, better access by bus to the station, and improvements to the station forecourt and surrounds, and pedestrian/cycle access to the station. This feasibility work should be carried out this Summer.

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership has organised the adoption of Mottisfont and Dunbridge and Chandlers Ford railway stations by volunteers. The station adoption groups have distributed local timetables to residents near the station and helped to publicise services, assisted with litter picking and reporting any problems/faults at the stations etc.

The Community Rail Partnership also hosted a meeting with representatives from various voluntary groups in Romsey with an interest in Romsey station with a view to co-ordinating various projects to enhance the station and with the possibility of setting up a group to adopt the station. They have also organised a free Summer Sunday/bank holiday bus service from Romsey and Mottisfont and Dunbridge stations to Hillier Gardens and Mottisfont Abbey.

5. Cycle Strategy and Network

The revised cycle strategy and network has been approved by the Executive for publication for public consultation. This will take place at the end of May/June.

6. Progress on other transport matters

- M. Leggatt reported that the hospital trust were providing funds for a new shuttle bus between Andover and Winchester hospital along with HCC and TVBC for a pilot of one year. The provision of the bus would be subject to a successful tender bid being received within the fixed funding available. A leaflet would then be prepared with the details.

T Seddon enquired whether there were plans to improve the car parking at Winchester hospital. ML said it was being looked at but there would be no easy answer. Currently staff are restricted in their use of cars to allow more space for hospital visitors/patients.

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- Draft infrastructure and developer contributions SPD published for public consultation on 18th April.
- BridgeStreet/London Street enhancement scheme – been some delays in commencement of scheme.
- Key stakeholders are being consulted on early draft plans for improvements to Andover Bus Station. Public consultation likely to follow in the summer.
- Cycle route along A3057 at Timsbury due to be extended from Hunts Farm to Belbins this summer.
- Feasibility study due to commence looking at improvements to Barge canal footpath in Romsey.
- Andover Town Access Plan should be going out for public consultation this summer. Work has started on Romsey Town Access Plan and will carry out Community Street Audits this summer.

7. Any other business

T Seddon pointed out that two planning applications had now been received for car parks at Grately Station, one by SWT for 124 spaces and a second by a local landowner for 100 spaces. He said the Parish Council hoped that TVBC would consider both applications together.

C Nixon enquired whether consideration could be given to being able to transfer parking tickets from one car park to another within the town since this could be of assistance to those people who were unable to walk long distances and needed access to different parts of the town. VM pointed out that disabled parking was available in different locations to assist and had some concerns that it could encourage people to drive more between different car parks but it could be considered to see if there could be any merit in such a system that would outweigh the disadvantages.

VM informed group of LSP Chairs and Co-ordinators meeting on 28th March which had discussed Hampshire LAA targets for new LAA agreement due to replace old one in June this year.

VM informed group that Annie Tomlinson had attended a Community Development Action Group Workshop looking at the role of the Community Development worker on major new developments in Test Valley. The use of the community development worker to promote travel plans in new residential areas was discussed and it was

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noted at the workshop that transport links are crucial to ensuring integration of new communities. VM suggested a report on Travel Plans in Test Valley be brought to the next meeting. Members of the group were asked to consider any other items they would like to discuss at the next meeting.

VM prepare report on Travel plans for next meeting

8. Date of Next Meeting

The dates for the action group meetings this year are :

23rd July	Small Council Chamber, Dutton's Road, Romsey 3.00pm
22nd October	Conference Room 5 Beech Hurst Andover 3.00pm