

Transport **MINUTES**

Website www.yourtestvalley.com

Test Valley Transport Action Group

Wednesday 26 April 2006 at 5.30pm in Crosfield Hall, Romsey.

Present:

Annie Tomlinson (TVBC, acting Chair)
Vivien Messenger (TVBC)
John Jacobs (Winchester and Eastleigh PCT)
John Perry (Broughton Parish Council)
Carolyn Nixon (Friends of the Earth)
Sheila Ridge (ENHAM)
Hannah Baker (HCC attending in place of Jim Soutar)
Dick Hewett (Test Valley Community Services)
Barbara North (Winchester and Eastleigh PCT & Chairman of LSP)
Derek Overfield (Chair of Health Action Group)

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies:

Councillor Bidwell (Chair)
Jean Lowe (Braishfield Parish Council)
Judith Cohen (Grateley Parish Council)
Linda Bagwell (John Hanson School Governor)
Peter Kennesion (Houghton Parish Council)
Marion Woods (Partnership Manager, TVBC)
John White (Romsey Good Neighbours)
Jim Soutar (HCC)

Annie Tomlinson welcomed everyone to the meeting and took the chair in the absence of Councillor Bidwell.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed as complete and accurate record.

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Dick Hewett reported back on Farepass Scheme. He and John Perry had discussed the scheme and clarified the scheme's provision.

Dick Hewett attended a Transport Operators' meeting on concessionary fares and considers TVBC's scheme to be more generous than other schemes in Hampshire covering dial-a-ride, car schemes, the Broughton Community Bus and Cango with no time limit. Generally agreed new scheme seemed to be good with a few exceptions such as rural areas which could only be served by taxi.

3. Core Strategy Issues

Viv Messenger referred to previous meeting's presentation on the Core Strategy and sought the group's views on the transport issues to be considered in its preparation.

Some of the group members had not received the letter regarding this prior to the meeting and not all understood what was required. They requested some more background and information in order to prepare before the next meeting.

Action: Viv Messenger to clarify before the next meeting.

4. Update on LTP

Annie Tomlinson outlined some previous issue the group had raised as concerns and provided an update on progress:

- Accessibility in Andover – several walkabouts had been carried out with HCC, TVBC and the local community and money has been allocated in the LTP to address concerns in London Street, High Street and Newbury Street. Links from the station to the town for pedestrians and cyclists are being looked at and a bus from the MDA linking the bus and rail stations during peak times is being considered.
- Accessibility in Romsey – a similar accessibility audit is being considered for Romsey.
- Access to Health – this was now included as a pilot in the LTP and first meeting had been held.

John Perry considered that focus had been on urban areas and many issues in rural areas were not addressed such as provision of dropped kerbs in villages. He sought clarification over whether legislation relating to access for the disabled included the pavements leading to facilities such as village halls. (Broughton Parish Council have prepared an audit highlighting problems in the village).

Hannah Baker explained pavements were not covered by this but Annie Tomlinson pointed out that there is some money in the LTP for village initiatives which could

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include minor alterations of this nature. In general the LTP focussed on urban areas where greatest return for investment could be achieved but rural areas were catered for.

John Jacobs felt that the general service provision and means of rural communities to access facilities needed to be addressed. He used the example of Tytherley and Lockerley being in the catchment for Stockbridge Surgery but felt issues of employment, retail and other services also needed to be considered.

Carolyn Nixon suggested bus services for Romsey Station should be introduced. John Jacobs said more integrated ticketing would be useful. Annie Tomlinson explained issue of Romsey Station and provision of a bus service is being looked at; problems were complex and would take time to resolve.

Derek Overfield felt dedicated buses to supermarkets would be useful as had been introduced elsewhere.

5. Progress on Community Plan

Barbara North introduced herself as chairman of the LSP and stated she was attending meetings of each of the LSP action groups. She considered that the amount of progress being made by the group was greater than indicated in the report-back on the Community Plan. The progress on the health pilot study, she felt, was a good example of the success of the LSP.

6. Update on progress regarding access to hospitals pilot

Annie Tomlinson reported that she and others had met for the first time to discuss access to Andover and Winchester hospitals, to acknowledge the problem of access and lack of existing resources to address it. Identified there would be no single solution and it was important to get a good understanding of the problem. A draft questionnaire has been produced, and work is being done assessing missed appointments and those being moved to different areas.

Derek Overfield considered the numbers travelling from Andover to Basingstoke was increasing and should also be addressed.

Annie Tomlinson explained many issues could be looked at such as other hospitals/access to GPs etc but group intended to focus on one issue initially.

John Jacobs was concerned that Andover hospital was only served by three buses.

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John Perry said simple re-routing of bus service 68 would help. Annie Tomlinson requested he sent her details so this could be considered by the group who would look at access by bus.

Barbara North also suggested Councillor Bidwell write, as Chair of the Transport Action Group, to Wilts and Dorset regarding the possible re-routing of service 68 to serve Winchester hospital. Annie Tomlinson stated this would be reviewed as part of the health accessibility study.

The group welcomed and supported the news of ongoing projects and in particular, the progress being made on the health pilot study.

Action: Annie Tomlinson to send John Jacobs a note of the meeting of the health pilot study.

Action: Annie Tomlinson and Viv Messenger to provide a list of acronyms to enable the group to be more familiar with transport technology.

7. Any Other Business

Dick Hewett explained that, as a member of the Romsey Healthcheck Group (now Romsey 20/20), he would be putting together a list of transport issues and liaising with the LSP group to check which had funding already and which would need funding from elsewhere. Viv Messenger said she would be happy to attend any 20/20 meetings if required.