



**MOVING HASTINGS FORWARD**  
QUALITY BUS PARTNERSHIP

## **Minutes for the Bus Quality Partnership Meeting held on Friday 7th December 2007 at Hastings Town Hall at 2.00 pm**

Present:

Councillor Tucker (Cllr RT)	Cabinet Member Hastings Borough Council
Councillor Lock (Cllr ML)	Lead Member for Transport & Environment East Sussex County Council
Neil Instrall (NI)	Stagecoach Operations Director
Don Benn (DB)	Passenger Transport Manager East Sussex County Council
Paul Harding (PH)	Stagecoach Operations Manager
Rasoul Shahilow (RS)	Head of Parking & Highways, HBC (RS)
Jon Wheeler (JW)	Transport Strategy Manager East Sussex County Council

Apologies:

Paul Southgate & Keith Hayward

Minutes Prepared by: Michelle Hills

### **1. Introduction**

Councillor Tucker chaired the meeting

### **2. Matters arising**

Bus Users

- Stake Holders meeting should continue to take place bi-monthly
- Evening buses from Conquest Hospital
- Havelock Road Bus Stop-lack of space. JW stated it is not in the programme to bring forward, but we can bring forward if 106 agreement funding is available. Cllr ML asked **JW to find out about cash and the programme and report back**. DB said this was top priority due to high use of this stop.
- Link Road-Cllr ML said this is likely to be referred to the Minister and he requested that **JW arrange a meeting re buses in Link Road**.
- Ore Valley- NI expressed disappointment with the design, **JW to chase up the matter**

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- Warrior Square-Stage 3 Safety Audit completed with minor adjustments.  
There are problems with loops as they too close to the signal, they need to be further out, **JW to report back**

### 3. **Minutes of the QPB Stakeholders Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Discussed and agreed that meetings should continue bi-monthly

### 4. **Parking Issues**

DB said that parking enforcement in Hastings is better than anywhere else within the County and said that this good work should be continued  
There are Parking Provisions to both side entrances from London Road to Norman Road. NI stated that he has sent a letter regarding the matter as he believes the Scheme is a car led design and not public transport led. Cllr ML said that a balanced view in the process should be exercised. Cllr ML said that any design should consider the outcome of the Economic Impact Assessment.

### 5. **Highways**

PH confirmed that they do not get adequate information regarding Highway Works much better than before. He commented that it seems that the Highway Works are taking a long time in some cases such as the Marina; he has sent a letter in.

JW said that during construction of the project, a void appeared within the carriageway. This has contributed to delays in completing the project. JW added that this is a three year programme and they intend to give progress of works on three monthly intervals.

NI said that the Traffic Commissioner wants to know if there are any issues.

### 6. **Quality Bus Partnership Action Plan Leaflet**

RS distributed the Draft Quality Bus Partnership Action Plan. It was generally felt that the leaflet was easy to read and eye catching. It was agreed to thank the Designer for the work. It was also considered that the views of Bus User Stakeholders be sought on the leaflet as the work of this group in feeding back any issues with the service has resulted in the reduction in the number of letters/bad publicity being published by the Observer Newspaper Group.

### 7. **PIP**

JW circulated progress report. Table provided punctuality for period 7. It was agreed this is to be evaluated over a number of periods to see what the problems are. DB said that they will have somebody travelling on the buses; writing down problems if they occur on route as they need to identify any problems then Borough & County can work together to improve punctuality

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Cllr ML-advised all three partners accept their responsibilities in this partnership and will work together to improve.

JW said that the next stage is deciding prioritization of routes. Timetable could be a problem. Both ESCC and Stagecoach have contributed resources to the survey. Cllr ML said that he had a Surgery last Saturday and his constituents were happy

## **8. Bus Stop Improvement Programme**

JW said that design work on 20 bus stops will start next year. DB said that this work will include Route 20 to the town and Queens Road and Havelock Road. It is expected that the design work on 20 bus stops is to start in January 2008 and will be completed over the next two years.

## **9. School Children & Child Fares**

DB said that Kent Freedom Passes have cost Kent County Council £1.3 million, meanwhile we have battled in Hastings to have half fares. School buses in Hastings are subsidised in the order of 142k per year. This is not the case elsewhere within the County. There is a need to assess impact on the service of any cuts. Cllr ML said that Local Area Agreement should consider the matter. Within the Agreement transport related are 167, 177 and 178 where 167 is congestion in the morning travel, 177 is the local bus passengers starting in Local Authority Area and 178 is the bus service running on time

## **10. Any Other Business**

DB commented that ESCC is facing budget issues over the next three years and the level of reduction in transport will have a serious impact. The use of Parking Services surplus generated from On Street Parking Enforcement has had a significant impact in the Bus Services in Hastings.

Cllr ML acknowledged the effect that the budget constraints may have on the service provision but said that the financial constraints that ESCC is facing should be recognised.

## **Proposed Future Meetings Dates**

**The next meeting will be on Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 at Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Queens Road, Hastings at 2.00 pm.**

## **Distribution List**

- Councillor Tucker, Cabinet Member HBC
- Councillor Lock, Lead Member for Transport & Environment ESCC
- Neil Instrall, Stagecoach Operations Manager
- Stagecoach Operations Manager (Paul Harding)

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- East Sussex County Council Passenger Transport Manager (Don Benn)
- Rasoul Shahilow, Head of Parking & Highways, HBC
- Jon Wheeler, Transport Strategy Manager, ESCC
- Hastings Borough Council Transport Planner Vacant
- Paul Southgate, Stagecoach Managing Director