

Integrated Transport Thematic Group Meeting

Wednesday 20th January 2010, 2pm, Committee Room 1

Attendance

Chair: Cllr Martin Forshaw (WLBC), Roger Bell (OPSTA), Martin Trengove (CVS), Denise Knowell (LCC), Tim Gornall (LCC), Steve Coveney (CLPCT), Ian Gill (WLBC), Peter Bradford (WLDC), Tina Iball (WLBC, representing Gillian Whitfield).

1. Apologies

Tony Moreton (LCC), Andrew Varley (LCC), Geoff Wilding (Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Page 1 – it was decided that the Ormskirk Partnership should not need to attend meetings as they are a group in their own right.

Page 3 – publicity drive for the community car scheme not yet completed.

Other than these amendments, the minutes of the meeting of 14.10.09 were agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

• Connecting Communities Rail Report

Peter Bradford reported that a response has been submitted but a reply has not been received to date. A feasibility study has been done regarding a railway station in Skelmersdale which concluded that a business case needs to be looked at. Ian Gill highlighted potential funding left over from the Investors in Business fund, which could be utilised for a demand study in partnership with Mersey Travel. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of development at Burscough Curves or Skelmersdale.

• WLBC bus bike rack

Tim Gornall informed the group that considerable effort had been made to track the rack but unfortunately it has not been located.

• Skelmersdale rail link business case development.

Tim Gornall provided the group with notes provided by Richard Watts (LCC), please see accompanying document.

Roger Bell has been invited to present to the task group in relation to Burscough Curves. Cllr Forshaw stressed the importance that someone also attends to speak for Skelmersdale as this is the better option for the benefit of the borough and needs to be considered by the task group.

Action Peter Bell: To forward email details of the task group to Peter Bradford for action.

Action Gillian Whitfield: To invite Richard Watts to the next meeting.

4. Action plan progress: review and update

Please see accompanying action plan document. Completed actions have been removed from the plan and listed at the end of the document.

Action Denise Knowell – Send a copy of the Parish Council transport article to Roger Bell.

5. Update on Phoenix Business Plan Development

The funding received from the LSP has been spent on the following:

1. A study of the employers in Skelmersdale.
2. A study of the voluntary sectors in Skelmersdale.
3. Development of the business plan.

Since development of the business plan public transport does appear to have improved in Skelmersdale and has filled the void left by Click services. However, services in the early hours still need attention.

The Kick Start bid was submitted in July 2009 but still awaiting the outcome, which is expected early this year.

6. Sustainable Communities Act

Nothing to report

7. Information Exchange

Nothing to report

8. Any Other Business

Roger Bell informed the group that Mersey Travel commissioned consultants to undertake a Demand Study which is now complete, however the results report very low demand levels. This will need to be looked at should Skelmersdale rail link be progressed. Roger considers demand to be much higher than reported and requests any studies which informs where people are commuting from. Ian Gill suggested the Retail Study.

Action All: Any information to Roger Bell.

Action Ian Gill: To speak to David Jones at Mersey Rail about this matter.

The Community Rail Partnership has a Community Rail Strategy going out for consultation, proposing a new hourly service between Ormskirk and Preston. It is hoped that a better service may be introduced by the end of the year. The key aims are to maintain 2 peak hour trains followed by a train every 90 minutes. It was recommended that trains tie in with those going to Liverpool.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Meeting to be scheduled in around 6 to 9 months time, although this can be brought forward if anything happens on the Phoenix Project.