



Coventry Partnership Transport Theme Group

17 April 2007 14.00 – 16.00
Elm Bank Oak Room

Present:

Cllr J McNicholas	Coventry City Council
Dilip Chauhan	Coventry City Council
Kevin West	PCT
Nigel Wain	Coventry Partnership
Su Edwards	Coventry Partnership (Minutes)
Bernard Delaney	West Midlands Travel
Christine Eade	Coventry City Council
Gemma Rowan	UHCW
Chris Smith	CEN
Jake Thrush	Centro
Joyce Lambert	NRF Programme management
Duncan Elliot	Coventry City Council
Mike Barnes	Community Transport
Sash Patel	Community Transport
	Community Transport
Joanne Taylor	Neighbourhood Travel Planners
Duncan Ashleigh	Ring and Ride
Jonathan Skinner	Coventry Partnership
Pat Marlow	CEN
Kam Kaur	Older Peoples Partnership

Apologies:

Sara Roach	Coventry Partnership
Lesley Kelly	Voluntary Sector
Nigel Mills	Coventry City Council
Cllr Arrowsmith	
Bob Wilson	Warwick University
Steve Slockett	Jaguar
Keith Waller	UHCW
Barry Connor	Ring and Ride
Tony Lunt	PCT

1. Introductions & Welcome

Cllr John McNicholas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were noted.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed..

Matters Arising:-

Drop Kerbs

At the last LSP Transport Theme Group the question was raised as to whether we could consider putting in dropped kerbs when installing bus stops. Obviously the benefit of doing this would be that people of all abilities would be able to get to bus stops more easily, particularly when Ring and Ride drop people at stops for continuations of journeys.

Nigel Mills has requested that the inclusion of dropped kerbs, and Crossing points where required, should be considered for inclusion in the Bus Showcase handbook. This document is currently being rewritten (led by CCC) and sets out all the standards that bus showcase routes should be built to.

This amendment would require the agreement of all 7 WM districts. I believe there are also safety concerns of doing this:-.

- 1) Most PrimeLines routes are on busy roads and we would not want people Crossing at these points e.g. Ansty Road, Binley Road etc.
- 2) Putting a dropped kerb in front or behind a bus stop has safety Implications i.e. people crossing in front of buses.

These pro's and con's need to be weighed up by the Bus Showcase handbook Steering group and a decision made by all districts. Nigel Mills will keep the group posted on results

Eligibility Criteria for Patient Transport Service

There had been some concerns raised about the eligibility criteria used by the Patient Transport Service. The issues had been raised with Kevin West and we are waiting a response

Action:

Kevin West to respond to comments re the PTS eligibility criteria.

Regional Spatial Strategy

A response to the RSS was submitted supporting the Council response but stressing the need to invest in key Transport initiatives such as Sprint and Park and Ride , and to ensure the environmental aspects are properly considered.

4. Hospital Bus Update

Bernard Delaney reported to the group that Cllr McNicholas had chaired meetings with hospital staff, Bus Operators and the Council to resolve the congestion issues at the hospital. Bernard thanked Cllr McNicholas for his efforts in trying to resolving the problems – which had eased significantly since the last meeting.

The results are that a new route is used for the staff shuttle bus, alleviating the congestion at the front of the site, the emergency gate on Hall Lane is being

used for ambulance access during busy times for quick entrance to the site, car park attendants have been briefed regarding the changes and to assist visitors.

A request for a left filter onto Clifford Bridge Road from the site is being reviewed. This went in on 23rd March 2007.

There is also straight road into the site, instead of the winding route previously and has improved access greatly.

Restrictions on visitors had reduced the traffic on the site as well.

Gemma Rowan passed the group the new timetable for the services at the hospital site.

Chris Smith raised the issue of the road markings not being replaced on the route outside the site after refurbishments, and if replaced it would help with traffic control.

Mike Barnes from Swiftlink raised the issue of parking places for their drivers waiting for staff to end shifts. At present the parking attendants move them on. Cllr McNicholas suggested they could use the same route as the Shuttle Bus. Gemma Rowan offered to meet with Swiftlink to discuss .

5. In Town Without My Car Day

Joanne Rainbow handed out a presentation on this year's plans for the In town Without my Car day., See attached hand out

The date is 27 September 2007. Joanne explained the past events that have been held had focused on the City Centre, this year the event is planned to focus on the outlying neighbourhoods.

Questions arose as to;

Money Available for the event – there is a small amount but if carried out in small groups in communities this will be better used than one major event closing roads in the City Centre;

As work is towards communities based plans it was suggested that Joanne contacted the “Your Neighbourhood Matters” project

Cllr McNicholas suggested that Joanne form a sub group to progress this matter – to include Joanne Rainbow, Chris Smith, Christine Eade and report back to next meeting.

ACTION to form sub-group and report back progress to next meeting – Joanne Rainbow, Chris Smith, Christine Eade.

6. Routeforward Update

Christine Eade showed a DVD of the people involved in the scheme and the progress they have made, with several members now successfully able to use the routes planned for them independently.

Christine also reported that Routeforward is developing a succession strategy . There is also links being forged with Henley College and Coventry University to include travel training in the course work.

Travel Coventry have been very supportive of the work

Routeforward are working closely with The University, looking at the roles of Neighbourhood Travel Planners – with undergraduates on placements and post graduates carrying out evaluations. There is also support from Centro with the development of the manual.

Routeforward was gaining recognition Nationally as a best practise model.

Travel planners are now offering limited support for Older people to encourage them onto public transport where necessary. These could be people who have moved areas, or had long term illness and need to learn the new routes they will use.

It was reported that there have been excellent feedback for all families involved, even those reluctant to become involved initially.

Paperwork is being developed regarding issues logs, tool kits and a bus campaign.

The issues log will be distributed with the minutes.

Travel Coventry has agreed to support the Buddy Pass and there is a new design for the pass. They have also looked at having a “safe haven” at the travel shop in Pool Meadow and staff will be trained to support users.

The Terms of Reference – to include a succession strategy and will be back on each agenda.

Chris Smith commented on the benefit of this to older people and how he is in conversation with CENTRO and would like to take the ideas and Video to the Blackpool conference.

Dilip Chauhan reported that a 5 year strategy is being prepared and is to be reported to cabinet later this year.

Cllr McNicholas commented that the video showed how much had been achieved and how lives had been improved as a result of the Routeforward project

6. Council Taxi Contract

The Council is one of the largest Contractors for Taxi services in the city to transport young people on behalf of the Council.

Disability training of Taxi drivers has been an issue raised by Lesley Kelley and the Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership. Currently only new drivers are required too undergo training

Dilip Chauhan is proposing to include the need for driver training in the new Council Contract.

The Contract has been deferred to March 2008 to allow for training to be put in place.

Dilip wants feed back on the contract which he will circulate.

Cllr McNicholas suggested we include it on the next Transport Theme group agenda.

8. Partnership Board Transport Forum

Nigel informed the group of the Partnership Board Transport Forum at the Welcome Centre Friday 11 May 2007. A draft agenda was handed out. See attached

9. Voluntary Sector Issues

None

10. CEN Issues

None

11. Review of Improvement Plan

Nigel went through the plan and informed the group that the Local Development Framework targets are not yet available.

There is an issue regarding the Accessibility Planning – a new person needs to be appointed to carry out the work as previous person has left.

We need to talk to the Children's Partnership about involvement of Children and young people in transport issues.

Nigel needs to talk to Chris Smith re how we can influence Transport design

12. Communication

The CET had published an article on Cllr McNicholas leading improvements to Hospital Buses in his role as chair of the Transport Theme group.

The Transport Forum is another opportunity for publicity.

13. Any Other Business

NRF team are holding an event on Monday 23 April 2007 to celebrate 1 year of the projects. This will be held at Henley Green Community Centre.

Jake from CENTRO asked about the Sustainable Community Strategy. Nigel responded regarding the white paper and revisions to existing strategies, groups possibly merging and at present the information is not clear. This will return to the group when a more comprehensive response is available.

Travel Planners have identified some issues due to the log that they complete;

- 1) Homelessness and access to transport systems. Homeless people cannot have Travel Passes due to the need to have a fixed address. Cllr McNicholas asked for this to be raised with him outside the meeting as it would need to be discussed with the PTA.
- 2) Illegally parked vehicles impeding access travel routes.

Nigel spoke of the Cultural Partnership regarding access to entertainment, where possibly Ring and Ride and Passenger Transport could be invited to put on special buses to support events. This would be raised at a future meeting

14. Future meeting dates:

Thursday 7th June – 11.00am – 13.00pm Tamarisk room, Elm Bank
Wed Aug 8th 3pm -5pm
Wed Oct 10th 2-pm – 4pm

15. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- ❖ Walking and Cycling, Clean Air updates
- ❖ Accessibility Planning
- ❖ Route Forward Updates
- ❖ City Centre Parking Updates
- ❖ LDF
- ❖ Sustainable Communities
- ❖ Taxi Council Contract
- ❖ In town With Out My Car Day
- ❖ Right of Ways
- ❖ Traffic Management