

Joint Transport Working Party, Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council, Silsden Town Council & Craven Ward Councillors.

Notes of the meeting held Wednesday 13 June 2007 at 7.30 p.m in the Bowling Pavilion, Steeton.

Present: Councillors Mallinson (Chairman), Hargreaves, Miss Moorhouse, Mullen, Naylor, Phillips, Savage and Mrs Townend.

Mr. R. Lambert, Architect, GLT Architects

Mr. E. Appleton, Traffic Engineer, Sanderson Associates

Mrs C. Brown.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs. Bottomley

1. Mr. Lambert outlined the proposals of the owners of Airedale Tree Surgeons (ATS) to build a car park on land they own at the northern end of Station Road. Two plans were presented as options. The solution to the provision of extra parking on the site relies on traffic engineering skills to address access and traffic flow problems. It was reported that the proposed site is freehold and in the ownership of their clients.

The current access to the Leeds platform, in the opinion of Mr Lambert, does not comply with DDA legislation and it is incumbent on Metro to do something about this situation.

The proposed plans for the extra parking could also help to address this problem.

Part of the Airedale Tree Surgeons site is owned by Network Rail/Northern Rail but is casually occupied by ATS.

Satellite images of the station car park showed how overstretched the parking facilities are.

Mr. Appleton explained some of the problems to be addressed in engineering terms.

There are problems with the existing access road to the site which may need to be widened to accommodate cars passing side by side. A speed survey of the junction with Station Road was carried out and the sight lines have been assessed and found to be satisfactory. Traffic travelling from Steeton Top were travelling at 36.8mph (85th percentile) and spot checks on vehicles travelling from the A629 were in the region of 30mph. There are concerns that at peak times traffic may back up on to the A629 and consequently a capacity analysis will need to be carried out as well as a safety audit.

In summary the owners of ATS do not have the funds to carry out major road-works to progress the plan and as yet they do not have a structured business plan in place. Mr Lambert and Mr Appleton are to approach Metro and Northern Rail to open discussions on the viability of a scheme that would improve both parking facilities and access for disabled/elderly/passengers with small children.

It was noted that there may be some dispute about the land ownership and that the proposed car park would be built on flood plain/wash-land.

It was suggested that a newspaper/television campaign may put pressure on Metro to address some of these problems. This idea will be put on the next agendas of the two councils.

2. The notes of the meeting held 9 May 2007 were agreed.
3. Correspondence from the previous meeting was circulated:
 - Alan Bishop, Rural Transport Network Officer, Metro: Mr. Bishop confirmed that he was not aware of any proposed changes in West Yorkshire that would affect passengers in Silsden, Steeton or Eastburn.
 - Caroline Young, Projects Officer Rail Development, Metro: Agreement to liaise with colleagues in Metro to carry out a survey of rail users at the Steeton & Silsden Station to find out where they travelled from, by what mode and why they chose that mode and station. Ms. Young will inform the group of the timescales for the survey. Ms. Young also informed the group that car parking charges would be a major policy change for Metro and would have to be agreed by the Metro Board and the Passenger Transport authority.
4. Arrange a date for the next meeting.
Wednesday 12 September 2007, 7.30 p.m., Bowling Pavilion, Steeton.

Members of the working party:

Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council: Councillors Hargreaves, Miss Moorhouse, Mullen, Mrs. Townend

Silsden Town Council: Councillors Atkinson, Mrs. Bottomley, Phillips and Savage.

Craven Ward Councillors: Councillors Mallinson and Naylor.

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