

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

## **Notes of the meeting with other stakeholders held Thursday 18 December 2008 at 9.30 a.m at the Temple Row Centre, Keighley.**

Present: Councillor Andrew Mallinson, Bradford Ward Councillor (Chairman)  
Councillors Mike Elsmore and Liz Trainor (Silsden Town Council)  
Caroline Young, Rail Project Leader, WYPTE  
Drew Hayley, Northern Rail  
Bruce Andrews and Matthew Collinson, Bradford Council, Traffic and Highways North  
Steve Grisag, Transport Planning with particular reference to disabled access.  
Rachel Edmunds, Assistant Keighley Area Co-Ordinator  
Mrs C. Brown, Clerk, Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council

1. Councillor Mallinson welcomed those present and invited them to introduce themselves. He explained the composition and remit of the Joint Transport Working Group

2. Apologies:

Councillor Mullen (Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council), Councillor Phillips (Silsden Town Council), Mark Deveney (Local Resident), Geoff Earp and Debra Harrison (Network Rail).

3. Overview of Issues:

Councillor Mallinson reported that footfall figures for the station are in the order of 600,000 per year. There are plans to substantially increase the number of houses in both Steeton and Silsden which will increase this footfall number significantly over the next five years.

The two main issues that the group have focused on are disabled access and the lack of parking provision at Steeton and Silsden station.

Councillor Mallinson showed the group photographs of the area around the station which graphically portrayed the difficulties that disabled passengers, passengers with limited mobility and parents with small children have in accessing the platforms at the station. It was reported that it can take a wheelchair user approximately 25 minutes to get from the disabled parking spaces to the Leeds bound platform. The journey is arduous and very dangerous and these passengers literally take their life in their hands to get to the platform.

4. The way forward and next steps

### Short term measures to improve passenger safety in accessing the platforms:

A scheme to improve the junction of Steeton Grove and Station Road was presented. This scheme involves putting in dropped kerbs, extending a short length of footway and repositioning the pedestrian guard-railing closer to the kerb-line. This scheme would

formalise pedestrian crossing points close to the junction. Some funding may be available from the Ward Investment Fund and from Steve Grisag's budget.

It was agreed by Bruce Andrews that the anti-skid markings close to the junction between Station Road and the A629 can be renewed and he will look in to other road marking at this junction to make pedestrian crossing safer at this busy intersection.

The extension of the double yellow lines close to the junction between Station Road and Steeton Grove would require a Traffic Regulation Order and would be costly and take a considerable amount of time to complete.

Bruce Andrews agreed to look at the island at the junction of Steeton Grove and Station Road. The size and design would be considered to make this area as safe as possible for all road users and pedestrians. Steve Grisag offered to work with Bruce Andrews on effective consultation through the Disabled Forum.

Rachel Edmunds agreed to contact Fiona Plane, Rights of Way Officer, to find out if the footway from Station Road to the Leeds platform is owned by Bradford Council. This path is very muddy and there is evidence that vehicles are using it. Members of the group would try to find out who is driving vehicles down this path. Caroline Young agreed to get confirmation from Network Rail that their maintenance teams are not using this as an access.

#### Longer term measures considered:

'Access for All' funding is available for capital projects and the next funding bids need to be submitted before September 2009. There is a limit of £250,000 which requires match funding from other sources. A road and footway scheme that provides a drop-off close to the Leeds platform using the disabled access path, the existing Network Rail access track and the public highway from the wood-yard to Station Road could be considered. Such a scheme would need the co-operation of all the stakeholders. The initial design work would need to be funded prior to a joint stakeholder submission as a capital scheme to 'Access for All'.

Bruce Andrews agreed to look at the area behind the armco barrier on the east side of Station Road from the bridge to the A629 to see if it would be possible to extend the footway down to the disabled access path to the Leeds platform.

Passengers from Silsden who access the station on foot also have to cross the very busy A629. Councillor Mallinson is looking in to the costs and potential funding streams for a footbridge over the A629. This is a large capital project.

Councillor Mallinson circulated three proposed schemes to increase the parking provision at the station, the first two of which having been suggested by Airedale Tree Surgeons, who own the land to the north of the access road to their wood-yard. These proposals would require a significant capital investment which the owners of the wood-yard are not prepared to spend. An increase in parking provision and resultant increase in footfall may overstretch the capacity of the current rolling stock. Increased parking provision may have a beneficial effect on other stations on the Airedale line. The third proposal is a scheme considered by Metro in 2003. All three schemes would build on land that is in the

washland as designated in the RUDP (October 2005). Any scheme to provide additional parking would be a large capital scheme and it would be difficult to access funding if the scheme was a commercial one.

Councillor Mallinson informed the meeting that the joint transport group is going to carry out a survey to ascertain where car park users are coming from and what their destinations are. £500 has been allocated from the Keighley Area Committee along with support funding from the parish councils to carry out this survey. This survey will inform the Local Development Framework and can be used as evidence in funding bids.

#### 5. Other Issues

Councillor Elsmore raised the issue of the co-ordination of bus and train times when travelling from Steeton and Silsden to Leeds. The peak time 903 service that takes passengers from Silsden to the station co-ordinates well with the train timetable. After 9.30 a.m. when passengers with discretionary fares want to travel there is no space in the car park and the off peak Keighley and District 762 and 765 services do not link with train times to Leeds. Passengers miss the train by a matter of minutes and have to wait almost 30 minutes for the next train. Caroline Young agreed to bring this to the attention of the Metro Area Co-Ordinator.

#### 6. Next Meeting

Thursday 5 February 2009 at 10.30 a.m.,  
Traffic and Highways North,  
Errington House, 15 Micklethwaite Lane, Crossflatts, Bingley, BD16 2AY

Cheryl Brown BA, CiLCA  
Clerk, Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council  
01535 636682  
Fold House, 6 The Fold, Lothersdale, Keighley, BD20 8HD  
e-mail: steeburnpc@btinternet.com