

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

Notes of the meeting held Wednesday 17 June at 7.30p.m at the Town Hall, Silsden.

Present: Councillor Andrew Mallinson, Craven Ward Councillor (Chairman)
Councillors David Mullen and Hilda Townend, Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council.
Councillors Mike Elsmore and Andrew Phillips, Silsden Town Council
Mr. Clive Hopkinson, Bus Network Co-Ordinator, WYPTE
Mrs C. Brown, Clerk, Steeton-with-Eastburn Parish Council

1. Councillor Mallinson welcomed members of the group and thanked Mr Hopkinson for attending.

2. Apologies: Councillor John Hargreaves, Dave Melling, Senior Policy Officer (Rural) and Rachel Edmunds, Assistant Keighley Area Co-Ordinator.

3. Co-Ordination of bus and train timetables.

Councillor Elsmore outlined the problems with the timing of bus services that do not co-ordinate with the train times, especially the Leeds bound trains. The problem is exacerbated by the car park being full during off peak times and there being no shelter for passengers who have to wait for buses. The negative response from Keighley and District to a request for minor adjustments in the bus timetables was reported. Mr. Hopkinson explained that Keighley and District operate commercial services and Metro can not dictate timetables to them although discussions regarding the timetabling of buses do take place between the two parties.

The bus routes from other locations were also discussed including through Crosshills, from Bradley, Ilkley and from Silsden to Skipton. Problems with the 78a service of overcrowding and the type of vehicle used on the service were also highlighted. The 78a service is a North Yorkshire contract and Mr Hopkinson agreed to talk to their officers about this service. There were also queries as to why the Ilkley buses do not go to Airedale Hospital and why some services do not include Station Road on their routes.

The rezoning of Skipton on the Airedale Train Line does not seem to have had any impact on the number of passengers travelling to Steeton and Silsden to catch the train.

A request was made that if there is a wholesale review of public transport along the Airedale corridor that all of these issues are considered.

Mr. Hopkinson agreed to look at all the issues raised and propose some options to Keighley and District and then get back to the Working Group with his findings, suggestions and any response from the operator.

4. Station users' survey

Councillor Mallinson thanked all the councillors and the clerk who had helped with the survey and the Neighbourhood Policing Team for providing support. The survey had included over 500 responses and there appeared to be different issues raised on the two days the survey was carried out. There has been a lot of interest about the survey and different groups have contacted Mrs Brown for the results of the survey. The data will be collated and the results available for the next meeting of the group. The survey results will also be presented to the Keighley Area Committee for registration with Bradford Council.

5. Highways Project Update

The dropped kerbs at the junction of Steeton Grove and Station Road are almost completed. The steel barrier at the top of the stairs from the Skipton platform had been removed but has been marked up for replacement. The old illuminated bollards that have been installed are to be replaced with new bollards. It was felt that the double yellow lines should be extended on Steeton Grove to allow the safe access of HGVs.

The footway extension work has been re-estimated at £49,000. Councillor Mallinson will query the £3000 design costs and the £2000 supervision costs in the estimate. £30,000 funding is currently

earmarked with another possible £10,000 from the budgets for 2009/10. The scheme should be implemented in this financial year.

The September deadline for the Dft Bid can not be met and it is hoped that a bid can be put together for 2010. The revenue and preliminary design work will cost in the region of £10,000. Councillor Mallinson will approach Councillors Naylor and Hawkesworth and Mr Taylor, Lead Officer for the Airedale Corridor, and ask for help with funding this initial stage of the work. Mr Melling is working on this bid and his knowledge and experience in sourcing funding will be invaluable.

6. Safety and Security at Steeton and Silsden Station

Concerns about safety and security at the station were flagged up during the users' survey. Passengers using the station in the dark are concerned about the isolated nature of the station. There have been instances of vandalism with seats being set on fire. The station is one of the few on the Airedale line without CCTV or effective lighting in the car park. This issue will be raised at the next meeting of the group where stakeholders are invited.

7. Any Other Business

Councillor Phillips suggested the name of a member of the public who could be a valuable contributor to the group. It was agreed that Councillor Phillips should invite this lady to become a member of the Working Group.

8. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 26 August 2009, 7.30p.m., Silsden Town Hall.

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