

Public Transport in SWT Task and Finish Group

05.01.21

Attendees: Cllr L Whetlor (Chair), Cllr J Hassall, Cllr D Mansell, Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr D Perry, Cllr B Weston, Cllr K Wheatley

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

No Apologies were received.

No Declarations of Interest were made in relation to any item on the Agenda.

2. Notes of previous Task and Finish Group – 01/10/2021

These were noted.

3. Round table discussion/Follow-up on strands identified

- Councillor Weston raised the issue of contacting the User Group for Bus Users – Cllr Hassall knew Mike Palmer who was involved with this group and could provide contact details.
- Councillor Darch was suggested as a possible contact with the Citizens Somerset group. Also Community Car Schemes could be contacted.
- The idea of a Survey was supported. Suggested questions include;
- User Satisfaction? How can it be improved? Number of Services, frequencies, times of day, Barriers to using it more, How do we expand service, times, accessibility, any other ideas?
- It was suggested to run the survey past the County Council/Transport Commissioner and Bus Company to ensure the survey was not duplicating recent work.
- The need to reach non-users but potential bus users was important and discussion was had on the creation of a Survey Monkey and how it could be marketed on Facebook and various groups. A suggestion was made to involve the Comms Team at SWT.
- Interest was expressed in having a visual map of the bus routes, with key car usage routes in Taunton overlaid on top.
- The funding possibilities of the District Council in this regard and the scope for increased funding opportunities would be interesting to discover.
- More information was requested on the Workplace Parking Levy and how that could be implemented. Planners from SWT were requested to come and help give further explanation as to how this would work in practice if it was recommended.
- Travel Plans – consideration as to whether these are being achieved? Who is checking these are being provided for? Would need to involve County and District as primarily a County Council responsibility.
- Discussion was had on using the issues surrounding Richard Huish College as a micro-study of the broader themes, e.g. expensive costs, lack of service, impact on neighbouring streets, travel plans etc.

- The use of E-Scooters in Richard Huish was positive but further development was needed to broaden the scheme if it was being so positively adopted by young people.
- Gloucester and Exeter had built new bus stations in the past 18 months and these Councils could be contacted to find out more about how they undertook this work. The use of Kilkenny Car Park as a Transport interchange hub was again raised.
- Buses in Langport had apparently utilised chocolate waste and cheese waste to run their services, much like the Bristol scheme that used human waste.
- Officers involved with the District Transport Strategy could be invited to give more information.

4. Next Steps/Work Plan

- The support officer would draft a set of questions for the survey and circulate them to the Group for comment, before possible circulation to Mike Palmer of the Bus User Group and other Officers as appropriate, and then engage with our Comms team and others to circulate it more widely once finalised.
- The support officer would investigate the feasibility of inviting officers to discuss Workplace Parking Levy, Active Travel Plans and the District Transport Strategy to the next meeting.
- Cllr Wheatley and Perry would meet to discuss further and refine the idea for further investigation on the Transport issues at Richard Huish College.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was identified for the 8th February with a reserve date of the 15th February 2021.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.