



Minutes

Community Engagement Forum (Southern)

Venue:	Eggborough Sports and Social Club, Eggborough
Date:	Thursday 10 December 2015
Time:	6.30 p.m.
Present:	<u>District and County Councillors</u> Councillors M Jordan (Chair), C Pearson, C Lunn, and D Peart. <u>Co-opted Members</u> Dave Perry and Dennis Tredgett.
Apologies:	None.
Officers present:	Chris Hailey-Norris (Association of Voluntary Service (AVS), and Janine Jenkinson, (Democratic Services Officer, Selby District Council).
Public:	14

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. OPEN SESSION

The open session had consultation tables from North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Highways, North Yorkshire Fire Services, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT), British Gas, Heritage Lottery, Policy Officer and Community Officer from Selby District Council (SDC) and North Yorkshire Police.

3. FORUM MEETING – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced, John Laking, Policy Development Manager, (Integrated Passenger Transport, NYCC), Rupert Douglas, Area Manager, (Sustrans), Jackie Mook, Chief Officer (Age UK Selby),

Linda Slough, (AVS, Selby District) and Katrina Talbot, (Tadcaster Volunteer Car Service Association).

4. FORUM FOCUS – ADDRESSING YOUR TRANSPORT NEEDS

The Chair asked each of the Forum speakers to outline the type of transport provision their organisation provided and how it met the travel needs of residents.

John Laking, Policy Development Manager, (NYCC) explained that in response to the reduction in Government funding, NYCC had implemented reductions to the amount spent in subsidising bus services. It was explained that in future, the amount spent on subsidising bus services would be reduced to £1.5 million per annum. The Forum was informed that a public consultation process regarding the reduction in public transport funding had been undertaken and public information sessions had been held throughout the District. In addition, the Policy Development Manager reported that 85% of bus journeys in North Yorkshire were taken on commercial services which were not affected by NYCC's budget reduction proposals. He informed the Forum that commercial operators were continuing to invest in developing bus services.

Linda Slough explained that AVS operated a Community Transport service. AVS currently operated two mini buses using 19 volunteer drivers. The Forum was informed that the team of volunteer car drivers used their own vehicles to transport clients to various destinations and clients paid the driver a set mileage rate to help towards the running cost of the vehicle. Clients were usually people unable to use public transport easily and used the transport scheme for a variety of reasons including: doctor and hospital appointments, social events and shopping trips. The Forum was informed that AVS hoped to continue to work with NYCC to develop the service it provided.

Rupert Douglas, Area Manager, explained that Sustrans was a leading UK charity that worked to encourage people to travel by foot, bike or public transport. Sustrans worked with communities, local authorities, policy-makers, schools and universities and other partner organisations to enable people to travel more actively. The Area Manager explained that Sustrans worked to develop the National Cycle Network throughout the County. The Forum was informed that currently there was no cycle network provision in the Southern CEF area and he would welcome the opportunity to work with NYCC and Selby District Council to develop the cycle network.

Jackie Mook, explained that Age UK Selby District, was an independent charity that provided a wide range of services to meet the needs of older people living locally. Age UK currently ran a transport service using two mini buses to take older people to social events and shopping trips. The transport scheme aimed to reduce older peoples' social isolation and loneliness. The service was currently funded by NYCC, however the contract would be put out to tender in September 2016.

Katrina Talbot, explained that Tadcaster Volunteer Car Service Association worked closely with AVS to provide a community transport service. She

highlighted the importance of volunteer drivers to enable the provision of community transport to expand.

5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Attendees raised the following comments and questions:

- Does the voluntary transport service run throughout the Selby District?

In response the AVS Officer confirmed that that the AVS service did operate throughout the District, but it was solely dependent on volunteers and more volunteer drivers were needed to provide a more extensive service.

- An attendee informed the Forum that there was a voluntary transport scheme operating in the Snaith area. In response, the Policy Development Manager (NYCC) advised that grants from NYCC were available to support the scheme and other similar schemes in the District.
- It was noted that the Age UK bus service was underused in the Thorpe Willoughby area and the Parish Council had promoted the service to residents.
- In response, to a question regarding the withdrawal of funding for transport to faith schools, the Policy Development Manager (NYCC) explained that NYCC transport services met its statutory obligations, and provided financial assistance for travel to pupils who lived over 3 miles away from a school, provided they attended their nearest school. Non-statutory funding, for pupils attending a preference school had been withdrawn.
- Would the bus service to The Holy Family Catholic High School in Calton continue to operate?

In reply, the Policy Development Manager (NYCC) informed the Forum that the service was operated by Arriva, on a commercial basis and he was therefore unable to confirm that the service would continue. He agreed to contact Arriva to discuss the issue.

- How was the AVS Community Transport scheme advertised?

Linda Slough explained that the service was promoted in partnership with NYCC, through social media, newsletters, mail-outs, local press and often through word of mouth.

- Would Sustrans be involved in the Tour de Yorkshire event next year?

The Area Manager explained that Sustrans focused on non-sports cycling and aimed to encourage people to take more journeys by bike. However,

he confirmed that Sustrans would be involved in the Tour de Yorkshire event to promote the profile of cycling.

- It was pointed out that there were many unused canals and waterways in the southern CEF area; a resident asked if there was potential for Sustrans to develop these areas into cycle network routes.
- A resident asked what could be done to establish a cycle network in the Selby area. In response, the Area Manager (Sustrans) explained that a network study would have to be undertaken to establish the cost and feasibility of developing a network. Once completed, funding would be required to deliver the cycle network scheme. The Area Manager agreed to discuss the potential of developing a cycle network with SDC and NYCC.

The Chair thanked the public attendees and Forum speakers for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To note the information provided at the meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING

The Chair informed the Forum that the next Southern CEF Partnership Board meeting would be held on Thursday 14 January 2016 and the next Forum meeting would be held on Thursday 17 March 2016.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.
