

MINUTES TO SPALDING & PETERBOROUGH TRANSPORT FORUM PUBLIC MEETING 24TH JANUARY 2008 AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS PRIORY ROAD SPALDING LINCS.

APOLOGIES: Nigel Carlisle (EMT), Simon Pashley (EMT), Liz Williams, Lynn Capes, Diego, Chris Briggs (LCC).

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING Copies were available and accepted by those present.

MATTERS ARISING:

Park Road and Station Footbridges – no progress. Concern that this is a health and safety hazard. For example when Union of South Africa steam trains have gone through both bridges have been full. Both bridges in very poor condition. Jerry Swift - commercial director of Network Rail has been approached and the outcome is that Network Rail has no money to spend. We question this! EMT are to get the painting of the station below canopy level redone as it was done to such a poor quality. The canopy is being left as this is Network Rail's responsibility. It is a grade two listed building, but it seems very difficult to get any movement upon its maintenance and restoration. The good news is that Community Service Volunteers are interested in cleaning up station and a local trust is being approached to obtain funding for tools for this purpose. Also Lord Taylor has offered bulbs to plant at the station, but planters are required.

Dial –a-ride , we are not happy with the loss of this service and the limited alternatives such as Call Connect.

Rules regarding extended rest periods to be enforced on bus drivers puts many rural bus routes under threat as they may cease to be financially viable.

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT BRIEF FOR SPALDING AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

This was presented to the meeting. This has already been presented to Dept of Transport, East Midlands Development Agency, East Midland Trains, Lincs County Council, Network Rail, Peterborough City Council and South Holland District Council.

Issues – Spalding is thriving but train service is deficient: frequency; hours of operation; days of operation; speed; services to London; more stations – namely Deeping St Nicholas, Pinchbeck, Donington and Holland Park all possible locations. Spalding station is underdeveloped and under utilised.

Facts- South Holland one of top ten fastest growing areas. 1981 to 2001 population rose by 23%. SHDC plans 3170 additional dwellings between 2004 and 2021 (550 per year). Plus Holland Park will provide 1450 homes. Spalding accounts for 28% of the local population. Peterborough is a major growth area. Lincoln to London via Spalding is wanted. Road traffic is growing at 2% per annum. Regional draft policy is for 0% traffic growth by 2026. 16% of population does not have access to a car. This area is one of the top 5 districts to have a large proportion of the population as pensioners.

Case – potential for rail travel not realised. Additional stations. Longer period of train operation to include evenings and Sundays. Spalding station's development potential. Expand job potential of population. Rising population. Unsustainable road traffic growth. Need to reduce CO2 emissions. Feasibility study needed.

Objectives – Examine business case for re-opening stations; busservice to Holland Park; all day train service; commercial development of station; impact of freight. Freight will increase

staffing of stations and signals and therefore may have a positive effect on potential service expansion.

Study Area – Spalding Sleaford and Peterborough.

Scope – Bus; Cycles; Freight Trains; Roads and Travel Plans.

AWARDS FOR ALL:

£4600 grant received but money effectively spoken for and being used in accordance with grant.
£12000 needed for feasibility study – against the clock as this needs to be started by October 2007.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COMMITTEE

- 2ND October meeting with Renaissance trains revealed their efforts to establish a Cleethorpes to London route via Spalding by 2009. With it linking to Stratford this has the potential via Eurostar to travel to Paris and beyond all by rail.
- 16th October Travelwatch meeting with the Minister of Transport. Her message was clear that to get Deeping St Nicholas station open would need the full support of local people and local councillors and officials to provide impetus.
- Railfuture meeting at Ely provided useful information and contacts for the future as we shall see at our AGM
- Meeting with John Hayes with absenteeism of EMT and Railtrack was still very useful as he continued to provide his support and advice on our issues.

RADIO OCCUPANCY AND MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Radio station and cafe still happening, but slowly. Model Railway Club has not joined our membership to date.

TOWN FORUM UPDATE

Louise has had difficulty attending due to dates changing without notification. At last meeting she asked again for updates from SHDC on station and footbridge reports together with clarification on SHDC's responsibilities.

CORRESPONDANCE

Letter from Pedals read out regarding arrangement of joint meeting with Steve Williams or planning officer to discuss the use of section 106 money for transport improvements both currently and in the future.

AGM

Saturday 19th April 2008 11am to 4pm including buffet. At Council Chamber, Priory Road. Guest speakers David Wetzl, vice chair of Transport for London plus a Travelwatch representative.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT OPEN MEETING

The floor expressed a preference for meetings to commence 7.30pm on Thursday evenings.

CLOSE