

# RELBUS MEETING MINUTE 21 JUN 2012

Victoria Inn, Haddington

## Committee changes

We welcomed new members and agreed the following changes:

The chair will pass to Barry Turner, and Peter Armstrong will be Vice-Chair. Philip Immirzi will continue to look after communications, manage the membership list and support the chair. Barry Hutton (Pencaitland Resident and transport consultant) has agreed to help out with responses to formal consultations, surveys and analysis and help us improve our evidence base.

## Roles and responsibilities

We agreed that we would share the responsibility for keeping in touch with Community Councils. We will take it in turn to visit each CC at intervals, at least once in the next year should be achievable. Community Councillors, who are also RELBUS members may be in a position to give updates more frequently.

In the days and weeks ahead we agreed to put together a plan of action for the next period. We hope to be able to comment constructively on the new **East Lothian Council Local Transport Strategy**, which is due to go out for consultation soon; to get feedback on the outputs from the recent mini conference on Community and Supported Transport and continue to lobby for a **Bus Passenger Forum**, among other things. Several other initiatives have been mooted including a **Bus Passenger Charter** and possibly running surveys to collect information about bus services, satisfaction, demand and infrastructure.

## Strategy and direction

We agreed that, with the limited resources at our disposal, RELBUS would refocus and concentrate its activities. We also agreed that while the focus was on buses, the context for this was people's travel needs, ie public / community transport. These needs can be met by a number of different means. In this regard we will liaise as appropriate with other groups, including among others **Rail Action Group, East of Scotland** and Sustaining Dunbar, which has helpfully supported RELBUS in its infancy. While our objectives include improving services, our broader aims are about connecting communities across the whole of East Lothian.

We will endeavour to use **Community Councils** as a route to channel day to day problems and issues, directing bus users to ELC (for supported services and community transport) and the operators themselves (who will often try and make amends). We can also provide information on how complaints can be made more effectively and escalated, directing people to organisations like **Bus Users UK** and the **Bus Passenger Platform** if operators fail to satisfy complainants.

The RELBUS committee itself will refocus its efforts on lobbying and **influencing stakeholders**, the Council, elected members - MSPs and Councillors and not least the bus operators themselves. We will also work with Sustran, wherever this is practical and make good use of our

membership of Bus Users UK.

### **Cycle of meetings**

We agreed that the committee would initially **meet every 2 months, on the 2nd Thursday**. We will meet centrally, in Haddington.

RELBUS meetings should continue to be open to members and non members, and there should be a standing invite to political representatives.

### **Finance**

We agreed to write to CCs for a small subvention of **£50/year** to assist with administration, leaflets and campaigning materials.

We hope that this small contribution will be good value for money. We hope this will help us to make a positive and forward looking contribution to on-going debates about bus services, public transport and transport generally.

### **Date of next meeting**

13th September 2012

### **Attendance (apologies)**

Peter Armstrong

Colin Barnes

Philip Immirzi

Morag Haddow

Barry Turner

Barry Hutton

Jacqui Bell

Judy Millar (apologies)