

MINUTES OF RELBUS MEETING HELD ON 24th FEBRUARY 2015 AT THE TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON
7pm

Present:

Barry Turner, Chairman, Morag Haddow, Gavin Booth, Harry Barker, Sheila Sinclair (North Berwick Community Council), Alastair Beck (Humbie, Saltoun and Bolton Community Council), Dave Berry (Councillor, North Berwick), Garry Donaldson (Cockenzie and Port Seton Community Council), Shena Jamieson (Humbie, Saltoun and Bolton Community Council).

Apologies:

Michael Veitch, Jackie Bell, Alex MacAulay, Alison Cosgrove, Ralph Averbach, Ross Prentice, Iain Gray, Andrew McLellan

1. The **minutes** of the previous meeting were agreed.
2. Matters arising: as Cllr Veitch was not present, no update on the following issues has been received and will carry over:
 - a. Public Transport info on ELC website
 - b. Bus stop audits
 - c. Line map of services
 - d. Combined timetables for main towns

Action: MV

3. **Passenger Charter:** It was noted that Perryman's and Lothian Country Buses are displaying and promoting the passenger charter on their buses. However, following First's new timetables that were introduced on 12th January 2015, there is no mention of the charter on their timetable and other publicity. This will be directly raised with First at a meeting on 6th March by Harry Barker and Gavin Booth (see below).

Action: HB & GB

4. **Community Rail Partnership:** A meeting had been held earlier in the day. The CRP is putting together its board which will probably consist of a core board with additional members specific to individual areas of action/responsibility. Harry Barker advised that he had indicated he would stand as board member responsible for bus co-ordination as the RELBUS co-opted member. It was noted that First Group had retimed its X24/124 journeys from North Berwick to connect with trains at North Berwick station, but there had been no publicity whatsoever, and the station is not detailed as a timing point in the timetable.

Action HB

5. **Tendering update:** Unfortunately ELC Transport Officer Andrew McLellan was unable to be at the meeting as expected due to his wife being taken into hospital, and therefore this aspect was not discussed.

- 6. Social Exclusion:** This subject had been on the agenda of the latest Bus Forum but lack of time prevented a full discussion there. It had been agreed at the Bus Forum that Andrew McLellan would instead make a presentation to RELBUS but as noted he was unable to attend. There was however a round the table discussion and the concept of the possible alternatives that might provide some sort of service, but without the thoughts of the Council, it was agreed this matter be taken forward to the next Bus Forum and placed high on that agenda. Barry Turner will seek to raise discussions on transport and social exclusion at the six Area Partnership groups.

Action BT

- 7. First Group X24/124:** Following a number of complaints about the standard of service including unreliability, condition of the buses, and reduction of through buses to Edinburgh by 10 journeys per day, Harry Barker is to meet with senior First Management on 6th March at the offices of Bus Users Scotland in Edinburgh along with Gavin Booth, Director Bus Users Scotland. The meeting was requested by First management following them coming into possession of comments emphasising the poor opinion in which First are held by some members of RELBUS.
- 8. Other current bus issues** David Berry reiterated that the lack of a single transfer point in North Berwick made no sense, and we should seek to work with the council and operators to identify a 'bus hub' in North Berwick.
- 9. The date of the next meeting** will be announced shortly and will probably occur shortly before the next Bus Forum.

HB 25/02/15

Post meeting note:

Morag Haddow reported that as previously agreed she had used the £50 donation from Dunpender Community Council to purchase a banner to raise awareness of RELBUS at events. It was used at Sustaining Dunbar's Gathering In event in October where several people came forward to discuss the work of RELBUS, and is available for use at future events.