

## **NOTE OF RELBUS MEETING**

**Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012, 7pm, Town House, Haddington**

Present:	Barry Turner	Chair
	Philip Immirzi	RELBUS Members/Press Contact
	Judy Miller	Sustaining Dunbar
	Ralph Averbuch	Pencaitland Community Council
	Peter Hamilton	Pencaitland Community Representative
	Shena Jamieson	Humbie, E&W Saltoun & Bolton Community Councillor

### **Item 1 – Apologies**

Colin Barnes, Barry Hutton, Morag Haddow, Jacqui Bell, Peter Armstrong, Councillor Michael Veitch, Iain Gray MSP.

### **Item 2 - Minutes of last meeting (13/9/12)**

Accepted with minor change; Peter Hamilton attended on behalf of Pencaitland Community, not as a Community Councillor.

### **Item 3 – Matters Arising**

Finance – Two offers of financial support for RELBUS have been received – from Dunpender and Pencaitland Community Councils. East Lothian Council has not been approached yet.

ACTION – BT to approach Tom Shearer at ELC about possible funding.

Local Bus Survey – Humbie, East and West Saltoun and Bolton Community Council has prepared a draft report of the local bus survey carried out following issues with the 123 service. The data collected from over 300 residents is currently being analysed to produce conclusions and suggestions for service improvements and a finalised report should be ready for the next RELBUS meeting.

ACTION - It was agreed that when the report was completed it would be publicised on the RELBUS website.

Other Data Sources – It was noted that ELC carries out a regular travel survey of its employees.

ACTION – BT to ask ELC if RELBUS could have access to this data will report back at next meeting.

### **Item 4 – Consultation Paper**

It was noted that the Consultation Paper concentrated on bus passengers, and did not cover bus service issues. It was suggested that the focus should change to bus services and availability, which are more of a priority in rural areas, including the lack of rural bus services, non-commercial and commercial services, and connections between both and other hubs.

Agreed - Both passengers and services were important, and that scope of the Consultation Paper would be widened to include availability and connection of bus services in rural areas, including the possibility of public consultation to determine the services that local people need. More context would be included in the paper, making more explicit the concerns about lack of services in rural areas. It was noted that whilst many of the ideas already put forward in the Paper could be put into action fairly quickly, service issues would take much longer.

ACTION – PI/JM to redraft the Consultation Paper to include the issues raised above.

## **Item 5 – Current Bus Issues**

Route 113 – The routing of this service in Edinburgh means that many passengers use this bus for short trips in the city, leaving Pencaitland bound passengers waiting at the stop. Lothian Buses is continuing to run double-deckers on its evening 113 service, but is monitoring this service and may address capacity issues with a more frequent service.

Route X24 – First Service, North Berwick to Edinburgh. There have been complaints about the quality of vehicles on this route; the buses are old and noisy.

**ACTION** – BT to contact First to find out why East Lothian services get old buses all the time.

## **Item 6 - Items for Bus Forum on 27<sup>th</sup> November**

The following items were put forward for inclusion on the agenda for the ELC Bus Forum:-

- Bus surgeries/consultations – including a general East Lothian bus passenger's survey.
- Local issues – where is the best place to raise detailed local issues?
- Co-operation between local bus operators.
- Service provision in rural areas – on demand? Public use of school buses?
- Better integration – integration of bus/bus, commercial/supported and bus/train services.
- Connectivity to hubs from remote rural villages (hub and spoke?)
- Use of ELC Green Buses – can better use be made of them?
- Publication of travel guides and timetables, unified timetable to be produced by ELC? Comprehensive timetables at bus stops and website similar to National Rail.
- Adoption of bus stops by Community Councils/local groups
- Complaints procedures and compensation – how should complaints to RELBUS, ELC and Operators be co-ordinated? What is the best way to make the operators aware of the issues?
- Bikes on buses
- Common charter for bus companies, ELC and RELBUS to sign up to.
- Quality partnerships

**ACTION** – BT/PI/JM to draft prioritised list of agenda items for Bus Forum Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November. All items above will be included in the redraft of the Consultation Paper.

## **Item 7 – Any Other Business**

Supported Services – There was discussion about how ELC should use its resources, over £800,000, to meet local rural transport needs; should the money be spent on supported routes or should other measures be investigated such as on-demand buses using either dedicated buses, ELC Green Buses, or even the return of the Post bus. It was suggested that people living in rural areas who do not have access to private transport would use a regular once a week service to a major settlement. It was also suggested that smaller 12 seat buses might be more suitable for rural services, and that greater public use could be made of school services. It was generally hoped that the future ELC Bus Forum would have some influence over service provision.

Sustainability Issues – ELC has a long-standing policy to encourage people out of their cars for sustainability reasons; this is also stated as a priority in their policy on new housing. However, in practice there does not seem to be much joined up thinking, with many newer housing estates, particularly in rural areas, lacking bus services.

**ACTION** – BT to contact Amber Moss at ELC re. public transport conference outcomes.

### **Item 8 – Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed to hold meeting every 2 months. The next meeting will be in early February, date to be fixed after the ELC Bus Forum on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

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Note of meeting prepared by JM 19/11/12, revised 26/11/12.

Comments received and included from BT/PI.