



RELBUS Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 21 May 2014

Present:

Barry Turner (chairing)
Morag Haddow (Sustaining Dunbar)
Harry Barker
Cllr David Berry
Philip Immirzi
Ross Prentice

Apologies:

Cllr Michael Veitch
Jacquie Bell (Dunbar C. Council)
Ralph Averbach (Pentcaitland CC)
Allison Cosgrove
Chris Bruce (East Lammermuir CC)
Councillor McAlister
Sheena Jamieson
Iain Gray (MSP)
Gavin Booth (Bus Users UK)
Robin Sinclair
Cllr Michael Veitch
Peter Armstrong (East Lammermuir CC)

1. *Apologies accepted*
2. *Minutes of last meeting approved*
3. *Matters arising*
 - a. *X1 Haddington to Wallyford* - RP reported that although the X1 service had been re-timed slightly so that it now meets 3 trains at commuter times, patronage has been poor, and he is considering withdrawing the service
 - b. *Bus Tendering Process* – BT has written a paper summarizing how the new Dept. for Transport tendering guidelines might be applied in East Lothian. This was to be discussed at the Bus Forum on 29th April, but there was insufficient time. It was agreed that a meeting (RELBUS, Cllr Veitch and relevant officials) be convened to discuss the tendering process in detail as the next round has already begun. BT to send Councillor Veitch a list of points for consideration by a working group providing a framework for discussion.

Action: BT

4. *Bus Forum* - PI reported. The bus charter had been successfully launched. There was some discussion of local issues and the new 110 service. None of the operators had any imminent changes to report. Integrated timetables have been delayed due to problems with the Routewise system, but work on new bus stop flags has been progressing. SEStran has launched a new real-time information app (real-time information boards at bus stops proved too expensive).
5. *Online information* – Council officer Amber Moss has been tasked with improving the public transport information on the council's website. HB has offered to demonstrate examples of good practice

Action: HB

The inadequacy of travelinescotland.com was discussed. This should be the first site identified by a search engine for any queries related to bus times. It isn't. BT offered

to raise this at the next SEStran meeting and asked PI to send him a summary of what might be reasonably expected.

Action: BT, PI

6. *Passenger Charter* – Agreed this needed to be more widely promoted. BT to check that it has been sent to libraries, community centres etc. BT to send it with covering letter to community councils asking them to spread the word, and offering that someone from RELBUS could attend a meeting to discuss

Action: BT

7. *Community Rail Partnership (CRP)* – HB reported that the Y-shaped East Lothian network had been agreed, and was likely to be named the 'John Muir Line'. It has a chance of becoming Scotland's third official community rail partnership (8 are hoped for). Consensus at CRP meeting seemed to be that the trains are OK, but the links and onward information leave a lot to be desired.

8. *Bus Users UK AGM* – HB reported that bus services in other rural parts of the country, particularly Wales, are even thinner than here in East Lothian, and subsidies are being withdrawn entirely in some areas.

9. *Tourism* – agreed that public transport information available to county visitors was poor, and a working group was proposed to look at wider issues of promoting joined-up public transport to take people where they want to go. DB listed some of the issues that need to be addressed:

- a. We don't know the market or the demand pattern (day-trippers, long-stay, local e.g. teenagers accessing Foxlake). May be same demand on Sundays as Saturdays.
- b. Integration – buses should meet trains where possible.
- c. Forward planning e.g. additional summer services should be planned well in advance so they can be included in the marketing materials of local attractions.
- d. Promotion – need to promote in Edinburgh and further afield

BT is to invite interested parties to form a working group to look at these issues, and will draw up a framework for its remit.

Action: BT

10. *Current issues* – Discussion of whether the 113 from Pencaitland to Edinburgh needs an express service. BT will write to Lothian Buses on this.

Action: BT

11. *Press Release* – Noted that there had been good coverage of the Passenger Charter Launch in the local papers and in the trade press. BT is to write a press release following this meeting focusing on the benefits to tourism of an integrated transport network.

Action: BT

12. *Administration* – due to a misunderstanding, people had not had sufficient notice of the current meeting. In future, those attending the meeting will get draft minutes for approval, and then these will be circulated to all community councils and the wider membership within a week. The date of the next meeting will be highlighted at this point.

PI will make the membership list available to the secretary for circulation of minutes.

Action: PI

13. *AOB* – MH raised the issue of the dismal state of the bus shelters, and RP commented that there was not enough room in all of them for service information. BT suggested that this again be raised with ELC with a view to identifying funding for refurbishment of the important hubs at least.

Action: BT

14. *Next meeting* – AGM on Wednesday 27th August at 7pm will be followed by an Ordinary Meeting. DB was invited to give a talk on public transport and tourism in East Lothian citing examples of good practice elsewhere.

Notes taken by MH 21.5.14. Amendments by BT 22.5.14