

RELBUS – DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL 2015

Present:

Guest: Michael Veitch, East Lothian Council

Barry Turner (Chairman), Harry Barker, Al Beck, Alison Cosgrove, Shena Jamieson, Barbara Wylie.

Apologies:

Jacqui Bell, Dave Berry, Iain Gray, Morag Haddow, Andrew McLennan, Sheila Sinclair.

Items arising from previous minutes:

- ELC's website should be updated regarding the new tenders that are effective from 4th May. MV indicated he would check to ensure this was the case.
- The bus stop audit was completed some time ago. Operators are responsible for putting timetables in the stop panels.
- MV produced a line map of East Lothian bus services produced in house by the Council. Some detailed errors were spotted, and the point was made that if major changes are made the map will be out of date. It is currently away for printing.
- An update will be given at the Bus Forum on 13th May in respect of progress on production of combined timetables for the principal towns.
- Revised bus stop flags are being made by Lothian Buses in their workshops to their standard, and a specimen will be available for inspection at the Bus forum.
- It was noted that First make no mention of the EL Passenger Charter in any of their recently erected stop information.
- HB gave a brief report on his meeting with First at the offices of Bus Users Scotland on 6th March concerning unreliability and general service levels on the X24/124 Edinburgh/Musselburgh – North Berwick routes. Basically there is little hope of any improvement on new investment and it was noted that even older buses have been moved into Musselburgh depot following the transfer of that depot's seven newest vehicles to Bannockburn depot. Gullane CC have commenced a scheme where passengers note details of delayed and cancelled journeys in local shops/post office. BT asked that this matter be discussed at the Bus Forum.

New ELC contracts wef 4th May 2015

- MV gave a resume of the principal differences, mainly improvements, to services that have been re-contracted.
- HB noted that the service from North Berwick railway station to Church Road and onwards to the Seabird Centre did not have any return journeys – it is a one way service.
- HB noted that times on the 121 Haddington – North Berwick still missed trains at NB by one minute, and also that some journeys on the 120 Dunbar – NB also missed trains – eg 1230 ex Dunbar calls at NB station at 1316 – precisely when the train arrives, and 1504 for the following journey. Indeed only one journey at 1119 connects with a train both ways. (The 0919 is too early for the Seabird Centre which does not open until 1000). It follows therefore that only one journey out of both the 120 and 121 actually connects with a train at North

Berwick. The timetables should be constructed to ensure buses arrive at the station at 0020 minutes past the hour, and if done an hourly service could be provided.

- SJ noted that fares between Haddington and Bolton had increased by 10p, whereas other fares on the 123 Gifford Circle had been reduced. MV will look into.
- HB made the point that we were lucky in ELC to have a Council that was supportive of rural bus services compared to some other parts of the country.
- MV asked that any assistance that could be given by the EL Community Rail Partnership would be welcomed. The first concordat meeting between ELC and Abellio had still to take place.

Social exclusion

- MV identified Humbie, Garvald and Oldhamstocks as priorities in the social exclusion exercise but in the absence of Andrew McLennan full details were not available but will be at the Bus Forum. MV noted that Stenton and Spott had their services reduced to two buses per day (M-S) whereas Innerwick had benefitted from this despite the fact it already has the Perryman 253 service.
- 'BT offered RELBUS assistance in developing ideas for tackling social exclusion through lack of public transport once identified'.

Other matters

- SJ commented that Traveline was unfit for purpose as far as its journey planner was concerned.

Next meeting

- Provisionally arranged for Tuesday 25th August – **please put this date in your diary now** – confirmation will be received nearer the time.