

RMBC TRANSPORT LIAISON GROUP
Wednesday, 25th September, 2013

Present:- Councillor Smith (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Atkin, Beaumont, Goult, G. A. Russell, R. S. Russell, Sims, Swift, Whelbourn, Whysall and Wootton, together with Mr. A. Wright (SYPTTE), Mr. B. Gilligan (First Group) and Mr. S. Hewitson (Rotherham Community Transport).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Burton, Dodson, Falvey, Hoddinott and Pickering and from Mrs. G. Greensitt (SYPTTE).

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE, 2013

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Transport Liaison Group, held on 26th June, 2013.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

With regard to Minute No. 6 of the meeting of the Transport Liaison Group held on 26th June, 2013, Members noted that, during November 2013, the Governing Body of the Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group will be considering the issue of the relocation of services from the NHS Walk-in Centre, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham to the Rotherham hospital, including the implications for public transport services.

10. UPDATES FROM THE TRANSPORT OPERATORS

(1) First Group – Various service changes were outlined, including changes to Service 22 from the end of October 2013, with a reduced frequency of 12 minutes on a Saturday and a new Sunday service; new buses have been allocated to service 69.

(2) Stagecoach East Midlands – no report.

(3) Stagecoach Yorkshire – Members again expressed concerns about the service reductions affecting services 108 and 109 along the A633 between Rotherham and Rawmarsh; acknowledging the commercial considerations, Members noted that these services are to be reviewed, perhaps with a view to restoring a level of service in response to public demand. Discussion also took place on the changes to the new service 217 in Swinton (Lime Grove), which began during July 2013, to serve the new housing development in that area.

(4) South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE)

Consideration was given to a report, presented by Andy Wright (SYPTTE), describing the following issues:-

- : improvements at the Rotherham Interchange;
- : negotiations about the possibility of introducing a Bus Partnership in South Rotherham;
- : A630 Doncaster Road, Thrybergh – the bus lane improvement works have almost been completed.
- : consultation about carrying cycles on the new tram-trains (route linking Sheffield, Rotherham and Parkgate);
- : the SYPTE is publicising its “inmotion!” campaign, urging people to opt for public transport or cycling to ease congestion; in addition, through the Better Bus Area Fund, there have been promotions at the Job Centre to raise awareness of opportunities for people seeking employment to take advantage of help with the cost of travelling;
- : SYPTE staff were in attendance at the Rotherham Show on 7th and 8th September 2013, to publicise various schemes;
- : two young people from Rotherham’s Youth Cabinet have participated in the making of a DVD film to be used in bus driver training at SYPTE’s Transport Academy and two representatives of the Youth Cabinet attended the Rotherham Transport Users Group meeting on 5th September 2013;
- : SYPTE has revamped its Onboard website, specifically for pupils, parents and teachers.

(5) Rotherham Community Transport – Members received up-to-date details of service timetables and also the Community Transport contact details. An increase in Dial-a-Ride bookings was highlighted, particularly from people living in the south of the Rotherham Borough area. Shopper Bus services continued to be well used, although there had been a decline in the number of passengers travelling as part of a community group, in comparison to the previous year.

(6) Robin Hood Airport – Members noted that construction works are due to begin in respect of the new road which will provide a link from the airport to the M18 motorway.

(7) Northern Rail – no report.

11. UPDATES FROM RMBC TRANSPORTATION UNIT

(1) A57 Worksop Road - discussion took place on the progress of the construction of the A57 relief road, linking the M1 motorway (Junction 31) and Anston and Worksop. The scheme is currently under budget and is scheduled to be completed by February/March 2014, subject to any delay

caused by the Winter weather conditions. There will be an element of night-time working and temporary road closures prior to completion of the scheme.

(2) A630 Centenary Way fly-over, Rotherham (adjacent the bus station and the new Tesco supermarket) – it was noted that the demolition of the fly-over was scheduled to take place during the first three weekends in November 2013. Most of the works will occur at night, in order to minimise disruption to traffic.

(3) Schemes funded by the Local Transport Plan during the period to 31st March 2015 -

: A630 Doncaster Road, Thrybergh – the bus lane improvement works have almost been completed;

A630 Doncaster Road, Dalton and Thrybergh – improvements to pedestrian crossings;

: Main Street, Rotherham – installation of zebra crossing near to the entrance to the Council's Riverside House building, as well as environmental improvement works (most of the works will occur at night, during October 2013, to minimise traffic disruption);

: Junction of the A618 Moorgate Road and Alma Road, Rotherham – junction and pedestrian crossing improvement scheme, due to begin during October 2013;

: various low-cost highway and road safety improvement schemes : including acquisition of an additional vehicle-activated speed sign, for use throughout the Borough area;

: Rotherham town centre – introduction of the 20 mph vehicle speed limit on roads within the Rotherham town centre;

: many of the 'Keep Clear' markings on roads outside schools have been re-painted and enhanced and the parking restrictions will be strictly enforced by the Council.

(4) Schemes funded by the Local Sustainable Transport Fund during the period to 31st March 2015 -

: installation of the South Yorkshire Intelligent Transport System (syITS) and the Urban Traffic Control (UTC) system in and around the Rotherham town centre;

: surfacing of the footpath and cycle path alongside the canal, between the Rotherham town centre and the Rotherham-Sheffield boundary at Meadowhall/Tinsley;

: surfacing of the new footpath and cycle path linking the Waverley development and Sheffield.

(5) Pool Green roundabout, junction of A630 Centenary Way and Main Street, Rotherham – detailed scheme design has begun for the construction of crossroads at this road junction, to replace the roundabout and subways.

(6) Main Street, Rotherham – road closures whenever the Rotherham United football club plays a home match (category C or D); Members noted that a temporary Traffic Regulation Order applies to the road closures of Main Street; the football club arranges and regulates the road closures, with the benefit of a special dispensation from the South Yorkshire Police; Members also acknowledged that the Police presence at football matches will be increased or reduced, depending upon the category of football match being played.

(7) Highway Schemes affecting Rawmarsh and Parkgate - Members referred to a number of proposals under consideration affecting roads between the Rotherham town centre, Parkgate and Rawmarsh (eg: cycle path improvements alongside the A633 Rawmarsh Road and the possible introduction of traffic signals and a bus lane at the A6123 Great Eastern Way and B6375 Taylor's Lane roundabout). The Transport Liaison Group acknowledged the difficult task ahead to try and reduce traffic congestion in this area of Rotherham and noted that proposals are at a very early stage of investigation. The appropriate ward Councillors will be kept informed of progress with any proposals.

(8) Parking Enforcement Vehicle – Members noted that the vehicle and systems were almost ready to begin use, in respect of parking enforcement throughout the Borough area.

(9) Operation of Pedestrian Crossings – in response to concerns about the effective operation of certain signalised pedestrian crossings, Members noted the eventual phasing-out of the use Pelican Crossings, which will ultimately be replaced by Puffin and Toucan Crossings; the Transport Liaison Group acknowledged that there are only limited funds available for the maintenance of these crossing facilities; however, such facilities are sometimes able to be improved and modernised as part of schemes to improve cycle routes.

(10) South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority – it was noted that the current budget deliberations may ultimately lead to the withdrawal of subsidies for some of the tendered bus and rail services.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members noted that there will be public exhibitions about the High Speed Two (HS2) railway on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th November, 2013 at the English Institute of Sport, Coleridge Road, Sheffield.

13. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the RMBC Transport Liaison Group be held at the Town Hall, Rotherham on Wednesday, 4th December, 2013, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

(2) That future meetings of the Transport Liaison Group take place on:-

- Wednesday 19th March, 2014
- Wednesday 25th June, 2014