

Minutes of the Pershore Public Transport Group
31st March at 10.15 am
Venue: The Town Hall, Pershore

Present

Julian Palfrey-Chair (JP)
Helen Whitwell- Great Comberton (HW)
Bob Gillmor-Mayor, Pershore (RG)
Geoff Ranstead-Eckington PC (GR)
Clive Bostle -Evesham PTG (CB)
Terry Joy-Evesham (TJ)
Bev McCordall-Drakes Broughton PC (BM)
Brian Johnston-Thomas- Wick and Pershore Times Travel correspondent (BJT)
George Glaze-Eckington PC (GG)
David Day Fladbury PC (DD)
Patricia Steel-Defford and Besford (PS)
Ian Southcott-Drakes Broughton (IS)
Paul Osborn-Pershore Town Plan Team

1. Welcome

JP welcomed all to the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Tucker, Chris Hordern and Marie Johnson-Thomas.

3. Proposed merger with Evesham Group

BG had produced a draft Constitution - Vale Public Transport Group (Appendix A). Discussion took place over various points including Objective 3 - facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

It was agreed to fix a date for the AGM as well as the accounting year at the next meeting of this group.

4. Bus issues

A - Update re funding

Nigel Eccleston of First had confirmed Worcs CC funding was secure until September. He was still in discussion with the CC. Any proposed service changes for September would need notice by early July. It was agreed a meeting with Nigel Eccleston was indicated for May with a prior meeting over the various bus route proposals affecting the 551 and 382 - see 4b below

B - Drakes Broughton comments and proposals

BM had produced two papers which had been circulated entitled 'The combined 551/382 bus service between Worcester and Pershore, Comment following Drakes Broughton Parish Council Meeting on March 2nd 2017' (Appendix B) and 'Comparison between current and proposed 382/552 service between Pershore and Worcester at 15th February' (Appendix C). Discussion took place over the issues with the 551 and 382 services, including timing, routes as well as the community bus. The group fully supported the view that any new service should not decrease the current level of service.

The various routes would be discussed at a pre-meeting before meeting with Nigel Eccleston of First.

C - Update from Eckington-382

Nigel Eggleton had indicated that the funding for this route was secure until September 2017. GG was pursuing the community bus to fill in the midday gap on the current service with a meeting fixed with the Pershore volunteer centre for April 11th. There was to be a public meeting for Eckington to assess support for this on the 13th April. There was the potential for a 4 month trial using funding from various sources.

Further discussion took place over concessionary passes, fares on the community bus as well as the issues of Section 19 – dial a ride-as opposed to a regular fixed service.

D - Fladbury

Fladbury PC had written to Nigel Eggleton over the lack of service and was awaiting a response. JP was due to attend the AGM later in April. Discussion took place over the impact of the X50 service on the 551. RG indicated that a potential revamped 382/551 service could increase services to Fladbury as well as other places such Wadborough and Drakes Broughton.

E - Other bus issues

PR raised the issue of lack of response to complaints. Stopping points for the X50 was also raised.

5. Train services

A - Report from Public meeting, 16th February

BJT had produced a report 'Notes of a public meeting on the future of Pershore's Train Services' (Appendix D). JP outlined the background with the lack of an hourly service, impact of franchising of the service as well as funding issue relating to double tracking. Other issues included the link road as well as the perennial car park issue. The latter appeared to be no nearer resolution. Worcester Parkway plans were outlined with planning due to start soon and potential completion 2019/20.

In view of the seriousness of the situation and the necessity to ensure Pershore was not disadvantaged and indeed benefitted from increased services and facilities over the next few years it was agreed that this should be conveyed to the local MPs, DOT and GW in writing as well as with meetings. It was noted that a meeting had been arranged with Lord Faulkner, Chairman of the CLPG for April 7th.

6. Worcestershire LTP

Various responses had been submitted.

7. Worcestershire CC funding

Adrian Hardman had provided £500 for the potential development of the community bus serving Eckington.

8. AOB

A - The lack of bus timetables in Broad Street was noted. CT and CB suggested a small group look at the issues of displaying these with involvement of Worcs CC.

B - The possibility of a meeting with Cresswells over potential routes was raised.

C - It was noted the Worcs CC elections were due on 4th May. It was important to keep transport issues highlighted with candidates as well as publicly.

Date of next meeting 26th April 2017 - location TBC