

Minutes of the Vale Public Transport Group
April 11th 2018 at 10 am
Venue: The Town Hall, Pershore

Present

Julian Palfrey - Chair (JP)
Helen Whitwell (HW)
Bob Gillmor (RG)
Phil Ralls (PR)
Colin Tether (CT)
George Glaze (GG)
Geoff Ransted (GR)
Clive Bostle (CB)
Maurice Hughes (MH)
David Day (DD)
Brian Johnson-Thomas (BJT)

1. Welcome

JP welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Hordern, Terry Joy, Bev McCordall, Marie Johnson-Thomas, Derek Potter and Patricia Steel

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, March 12th, 2018

These were agreed.

4. WCC - Update on meeting held April 5th, 2018

JP updated the meeting in relation to a meeting of VPTG representatives held at WCC HQ on 5th April 2018. JP, HW, CB and CT were present. WCC representatives were Paul Smith, Stuart Payton and latterly Martin Rowe (rail services).

It was noted that the VPTG were the only group of its kind within Worcestershire.

Bus information at stops was discussed. There was variation in responsibility for provision and maintenance - PCs as well as bus companies. The need to work together with PCs and WCC was highlighted. Cut backs in funding had not occurred. Costing were available for routes on the WCC website - whether this was per route or as a total was unclear. A review of the Hopper was due to be undertaken. Discussion took place over the Bus Services Act as well as bus/rail integration. Marketing/promotion issues were discussed - eg Blossom route. It was agreed that letters would be sent to all PCs on the Hopper route outlining the potential loss of the service. CT had produced possible amended routes. (CT to forward). The Plumline contract was also up for consideration.

Martin Rowe had indicated that HS2 would cause major road works with potential delays on the M42. Thus rail services were a priority in the Worcestershire area for this reason as well as potential business. Bus pass issue was raised-the difficulty of on-line for many people. It appeared, however that renewal by phone was an option. WCC had indicated their intention of improving the on-line renewal.

Discussion took place over a follow-up meeting and potential actions from WCC. JP indicated it had been a good starting meeting to establish contact.

5. Bus issues

A - New services - update and issues arising including timetables.

Timetable distribution of the amended 50s had been erratic despite best efforts. Connections with the X50 from the 53 were tight and problematic. (GG) The group had still not received passenger loading figures – these would be chased.

JP indicated that the group had a good working relation with NE. It was important to realise that there had been considerable gain in services.

B - Other bus services issues including the Hopper and Plumline.

See discussion above under Item 4.

6. Train issues

A - Update on meeting with Harriett Baldwin, MP.

This had taken place on April 6th, 2018. She was very supportive of maintaining the train service as well as improving the station with new car park facilities using Wychavon land opposite the station. Nigel Huddleston, MP had raised the issue of the poor service in Parliament at the end of March.

B - Reliability and service level issues - response to Hopwood letter

A letter had been sent to Mark Hopwood of GW - a holding response had been received so far. It was noted figures from CPLG relating to usage were sales figures - and may not be representative of usage. It was agreed further letters to Harriett Baldwin and Nigel Huddleston would be sent. Discussion took place over the statutory requirements relating to staffing and facilities at railway stations (Schedule 17). This applied to Droitwich, and Malvern as well as others. The question of the poor facilities at Evesham was again discussed in relation to this.

7. AOB

Nil.

8. Date of next meeting

May 9th 2018, 10 am at Pershore Town Hall