



## Minutes

### Community Engagement Forum (Eastern)

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Venue:	The Regen Centre, Riccall
Date:	Wednesday 25 November 2015
Time:	6.30 p.m.
Present:	<u>District and County Councillors</u> Councillors Liz Casling (Chair), J Cattanach, J Deans, M Jordan and I Reynolds.  <u>Co-opted Members</u> John Cook, Mike Cowling, Brian Keen, Lesley Senior, and Bob Procter.
Apologies:	None.
Officers present:	Chris Hailey-Norris (Association of Voluntary Service (AVS), and Janine Jenkinson, (Democratic Services Officer, Selby District Council).
Public:	21

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#### 1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

#### 2. OPEN SESSION

The open session had consultation tables from Bee Able, Carers Count, and Sustrans.

Adam Wood PCSO (Selby Rural) provided an update on crime statistics since the last Forum meeting held on 30 September 2015.

The Forum was informed that the following crimes had been reported in the Eastern CEF area:

- 3 auto crimes and a burglary in Riccall;
- incidents of poaching in Skipwith;
- a robbery and incidents of poaching in Cawood;
- an incident of burglary in North Duffield;
- a commercial burglary in Cliffe; and
- a car number plate theft and fuel theft in Balby.

In response to a question from a resident regarding street lights being switched off during the early morning in the Hemingbough area, the Chair advised that North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) was responsible for street lighting and concerns should be raised with the relevant County Councillor.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the updates provided.**

**3. FORUM MEETING – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced, Rupert Douglas, Area Manager (Sustrans), Danny Fitz – George (Carers Count) and Richard Owens, Assistant Director (Integrated Passenger Transport, North Yorkshire County Council).

**4. FORUM FOCUS – ADDRESSING YOUR TRANSPORT NEEDS**

The AVS Officer reported that the Eastern CEF Transport Survey had been widely distributed and as of 24 November 2015, 106 responses had been received.

It was explained that consultation was on-going and attendees were encouraged to complete the survey and provide their comments.

***At this point the Chair left the meeting and did not return. The Vice Chair, Bob Procter took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.***

**5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

Rupert Douglas, Area Manager, Sustrans explained that Sustrans was a leading UK charity that worked to encourage people to travel by foot, bike or public transport more often. It was noted that Sustrans worked with communities, local authorities, policy-makers, schools and universities and other partner organisations to enable people to travel more activity.

The Forum was informed that the cycle route from York to Selby had been a project established by Sustrans to create a traffic free cycle path. The Area Manager explained that Sustrans ran a volunteer programme throughout the UK,

and volunteers helped to maintain the cycle route from York to Selby. Volunteers carried out a range of activities, including: maintaining the National Cycle Network, enhancing biodiversity along cycle routes and leading walks and cycle rides.

In addition, the Area Manager informed the Forum that Sustrans had established an initiative to inspire more women to take more journeys by bike. The Area Manager added that a female cycling group, York Bike Belles had recently been established in the York area.

Richard Owens, Assistant Director, Integrated Passenger Transport, North Yorkshire County Council, reported that in response to the reduction in Government funding, NYCC had implemented reductions to the amount spent in subsidising bus services. It was explained that in future the amount spent on subsidising bus services would be reduced to £1.5 million per annum.

The Forum was advised that commercial operators were continuing to invest in developing their bus services and that 85% of bus journeys in North Yorkshire were taken on commercial services which were not affected by NYCC's budget reduction proposals.

Some discussion took place regarding the repairs to Cawood Bridge. The Assistant Director reported that previously the bridge had operated with a 7.5 tonne weight limit, with exemptions made for public service vehicles. The Forum was informed that a recent assessment of the bridge deck had led NYCC to conclude that a 7.5-tonne weak bridge weight limit needed to be urgently enforced with no exemptions to maintain the structural integrity of the bridge. As a consequence of the weight limit, Arriva were no longer able to operate the number 42 bus service between Selby, Cawood and York.

In response to a query regarding enforcement of the bridge weight limit, the Assistant Director informed the Forum that Trading Standards monitored vehicles travelling over the bridge to ensure the weight restriction was complied with; and to date, there had been approximately 10 prosecutions for non-compliance.

With regard to the completion of the works to Cawood Bridge, the Assistant Director reported that an independent assessment of the bridge would be carried out. He added that this was currently overdue and the Corporate Director, NYCC was aware of the situation and was following the matter up.

Residents made the following comments:

- Some concern was raised about the reliability of the Utopia bus service, due to some buses not running according to the published timetable. The Assistant Director explained that Utopia operated on a commercial basis, and therefore it was in their interest to collect as many passengers as possible and ensure that buses ran on time.
- It was queried whether there was any way concessionary fare passengers could pay a contribution to their journey. In response, the Assistant

Director explained that concessionary fare passengers could choose to pay a full fare, but it was not possible to make a part contribution to a journey.

- Concern was raised regarding overcrowding on some popular bus routes.
- It was queried whether the frequency of the bus service from Kelfield to York could be improved, particularly during the evening, to allow people to access restaurants and social events in York. The Assistant Director explained that Utopia and Arriva operated bus services on a commercial basis, and therefore based the level of service on perceived passenger demand.
- An attendee asked how often school transport and bus service contracts were renewed. The Assistant Director explained that contracts were put out to tender every 4 years.
- In response to a question regarding subsidised bus fares for sixth form students, the Assistant Director explained that NYCC provided financial assistance for travel to students aged 16 to 18 years old, provided they attended their nearest school, sixth form or further education college to their home address.

The Vice Chair thanked public attendees and Forum speakers for attending the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the information provided at the meeting.**

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The Vice Chair informed the Forum that the next Eastern CEF Partnership Board meeting would be held on Wednesday 13 January 2016 and the next Forum meeting would be held on Thursday 10 March 2016.

The Vice Chair closed the meeting at 8.05 p.m.