

Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership
Transport Working Group
Monday 10th June 2002 - 4.00pm at the Peacehaven House Project

Present: John Carden - Working Group Leader, Barbara Powell – local resident, Jean Couture – local resident, Marcus Dode – Sussex Rural Transport Partnership, Sharon Briggs – Trafalgar and Collingwood Community Association, Steph Wilson – House Project: taking minutes.

Agenda:

1. Apologies: Norman Bennett – Lewes Area Community Transport, Ian McFadyen – East Sussex County Council, John Levett – Eastbourne and County Community Transport, Sheila Chalmers – Age Concern.

2. Minutes of last meeting: were read and agreed as correct.

3. Matters Arising from last minutes: funding options were discussed. Marcus felt the Countryside Agency Rural Transport Partnership would be the most appropriate funding body to approach, as this could provide up to £250,000. This would cover the estimated £120,000 it would cost to run another Taxi Rider service, as detailed in the Transport Study. Countryside Agency Parish Council Grant funding could only provide a maximum of £20,000. An application could be made for Parish Council Grant funding but it was felt this would only be worth doing in tandem with the other Ouse Valley Parish Councils, in order to get enough purchasing power together. However, this could mean the primary focus, namely the regeneration of Peacehaven and Telscombe, could get diluted.

4. New Members of the Group: John is hoping to get Helen Attree on board the Regeneration Partnership – and possibly as a member of this working group. She used to work for regeneration in Brighton and Hove and her experience would be very valuable.

5. Transport Study – The Next Phase:

Taxi Rider Service: the group agreed another Taxi Rider service would be the best option. It could widen its remit, to ensure East Saltdean, North and East Peacehaven were covered. Along with the existing bus, these two Taxi Rider buses (16-seaters) should provide an adequate service. Concern was expressed regarding access for prams etc. – a low-floor ‘curtsey’ bus would address this. The need for the service to operate at evenings and weekends, as highlighted by Donald’s survey and by talking to people locally, was emphasised. People cannot get around the area and many are isolated and excluded. The importance of publicising the service and making sure people get to know about it was stressed. Transport is key in the regeneration of

Peacehaven and Telscombe. John has spoken to Roger French at Brighton and Hove buses and he knows there is a great deal of dissatisfaction with their service. Transport problems have been going on for a very long time. 'Demand-responsive' transport, to link in with public transport services, was agreed as the best solution.

The Next Steps: the county council is currently looking at the Taxi Rider service and so the timing of this proposal is good. Marcus is meeting the Public Transport Team on Friday and he will make the initial enquiries at this meeting. He will propose that they meet the group or invite John to speak to them. The group will wait to hear back from Marcus. John has been talking to the Co-op and will approach them for some funding. They are losing custom, as the No. 14 bus goes right into Sainsburys in Newhaven and there is a bus to the Marina too. John will invite the manager to the group's next meeting. The Co-op and other local employers should be involved in addressing the transport needs of the community.

7. Any Other Business: Brighton and Hove Bus Company Questionnaires have been put on buses asking for feedback regarding the 14, 14A and 14C services. John is hoping to meet Roger French to go through the issues.

8. Date, Time and Place of next meeting: Monday 15th July, 4pm, Meridian Centre (venue to be confirmed – Steph will contact all group members once arrangements have been confirmed).