

Peacehaven and Telscombe Regeneration Partnership

Transport Working Group

4th February 2002 - 4.00pm at the Peacehaven House Project

Present: John Carden - Working Group Leader, Sharon Briggs – North Peacehaven Residents' Association, Jean Couture – local Resident, Barbara Powell – local resident, Jill and Ronald Fry – Peacehaven and Telscombe Access Group, Marcus Dode Sussex Rural Transport Partnership, Norman Bennett – Community Transport for the Lewes Area, and Donald Shier – House Project: Taking minutes.

Apologies: None

Agenda:

Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed as accurate with the following corrections: Parish Transport Grant funding from the Countryside Agency is limited to £10,000 per parish council. If we went down this funding road we could apply for £10,000 each for Telscombe and Peacehaven. The main Rural Transport Grants budget can make grants of up to £250,000 per project (all these include the need for match funding. Marcus Dode informed the group that our local town councils could provide funding for local transport. They can increase their precept to do this). The figure of £120,000 is approximately what it would cost to run another Taxi Rider minibus service for three years.

Matters arising:

Government Study of Transport Systems on the South Coast: Copies of the stage one report and questionnaires were handed round. This booklet provides a form for residents to send their views to the government, on transport issues that affect us living on the south coast. This is a major study of the whole southeast region. There is no time limit for returning the questionnaires. The government office for the South East is keen for everyone to give his or her views. More copies of the report and questionnaire are available from Donald at the House Project.

Partnership Transport Study. Donald has been studying existing surveys and research on transport issues covering our area and interviewing relevant sources of information on transport provision and needs. He is still looking for more people to take part in a focus group of local residents. His report should be completed for the next meeting. Copies of short questionnaires were passed round for people to send him their views on what should be the main priorities for improving transport and any specific improvements that people can think are needed. This is to help him to prepare for the focus group. It was suggested that we should be looking to Asda, Sainsburys and the Coop for match funding for local bus services to their shops. Donald will add them to his list to contact.

At the Your Town Your Say Revisited open meeting, Donald found that many people there had not heard of the Brighton Community Transport Easy Link Service. Some people call this the 'White Bus'. It is different to the Taxi Rider. It is a similar service. People can phone up and book for the bus to collect them and take them to either the Newhaven Sainsburys or the Asda store at Brighton Marina. This service runs on Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. They will be sending Donald leaflets which he will distribute. There was some discussion about the question of whether we should

be encouraging people to shop outside our towns when we could concentrate on improving transport for people shopping locally, at the Meridian Centre.

Members of the group also mentioned that they had not been informed about the YTYSR meeting and had not seen any publicity. 1,000 flyers were distributed around the area, along with posters in shops and centres. Press releases were sent to all local papers.

Some ideas mentioned at the meeting are as follows: There are problems in travelling from here to Hastings by bus, there are no buses to Newhaven after 6pm on Sunday evenings, the taxi rider service should operate in the evenings.

Taxi Rider Buses. It was noted that local residents' associations could become members of community transport schemes, such as the Taxi Rider. Then their members can use these buses. Sharon Briggs will discuss this with her committee at the North Peacehaven Residents Association.

Donald has passed on a number of leaflets on the taxi rider service to Age Concern at Kempton House, to help promote the service to elderly people. It was agreed all round that someone should make these local bus services better known to local residents.

Roads Pavements and Taxis. Donald has arranged for Ian McFadyen to attend the next meeting to discuss roads and pavements. He is the county council's Highways Manager for the area from East Saltdean to Lewes. Initial concerns raised at the meeting include: Grass verges are spreading across pavements and are not cut back, Some pavements are blocked by overhanging branches of trees, others are blocked by persistent illegal parking.

It was noted that there has recently been a steep increase in taxi prices. This issue will be added to the agenda for a future meeting.

Community Transport for the Lewes Area. Norman Bennett attended the meeting on behalf of this organisation. He informed us about what they are doing locally. They do not run any taxi rider type services in our towns. (Eastbourne and County Community Transport provide the Taxi Rider service because they won the contract for this from East Sussex County Council. This is up for renewal in September). They would be very interested in running local transport schemes here and would be keen to work with this group on obtaining funding for these. They currently operate a minibus hire service for groups and clubs, which covers our towns. The kind of services they do run are as follows: A commuter service taking people from the villages along the C7 road from Newhaven to Lewes, taking people to and from Lewes train station, at a cost of £1.70; A school bus service to Rodmell School. This costs £1.00. Most people using this service are from Peacehaven. They are currently working on a funding bid for a dial a ride service covering the Ouse Valley. Other ideas are for evening services to Brighton to enable people to have better access to entertainment facilities not available locally.

Date of next meeting: 4th of March, 4pm at the Peacehaven House Project.