



**Worthing Together Transport Sub Group
23rd November 2005
East Worthing Community Centre**

Note of Meeting

Attendees:

Ian Richardson, Worthing Council of Community Association
Roger Foregard, Federation of Small Business
Bob Symtherman, Councillor Worthing Borough Council
Ken Costello, Worthing Borough Council
Richard Wells, Principal Transport Planner, West Sussex County Council
Bill Leath, Team Leader, Transport Co-ordination Group, West Sussex County Council
Ian Gwenlan, Principal School Transport Officer, West Sussex County Council
Nicky Bleakley, Project Officer, School Transport, West Sussex County Council
Jeff Lake, Arun, Adur and Worthing Primary Care Trust
Clare Gardiner, Community Planning Officer, West Sussex County Council

Apologies:

Sally Dovey, Rural Transport Partnership Officer, West Sussex County Council

1. Introduction – Why we are here

Clare Gardiner, welcomed all and explained that this group is being established as a sub group of Worthing Together, to provide focus and direction for Worthing Together, around transport issues. Allowing Worthing Together to consider how they can contribute to improving transport in Worthing.

2. Sharing Knowledge of established transport network/partnerships in Worthing

Roger Foregard, stated that Worthing 1st, does have a Transport Infrastructure Group, lead by Lyn Roberts of A to B taxis. Roger suggested that we would need to work closely with this group, in order to avoid duplication and join up relevant activities as appropriate. The Worthing 1st group is primarily made up of business from the Worthing area, and there

could be added value in linking and exploring any common activities that may be appropriate across the two groups.

Ken Costello, reported that there is also a Quality Bus Partnership for Worthing, which focuses on working towards increasing the number low floor buses and the provision of real time information systems, for three corridor routes that include parts of Worthing

Ken Costello also mentioned that as part of the Masterplan process some investigation into transport provision in Worthing had already taken place, and it was expected that some innovative solutions to transport issues would be suggested within the Masterplan. The Masterplan is due to be published in February 2006. These solutions may be ideas that the LSP would like to support. Therefore, Ken felt it may be worth considering the outcomes in the Masterplan prior to formalising the transport work programme for Worthing Together.

Bill Leath, was able to share with the group brief information about a number of strategic initiatives taking place in West Sussex, that impact upon transport in Worthing:

- ❖ Health transport re-configuration project, exploring the transport needs in relation to health facilities from Surrey down to the coast of West Sussex
- ❖ A project to agree a concessionary fare scheme for older people across West Sussex is almost complete.
- ❖ West Sussex County Council have agreed to reduce bus fares for 5-16 years olds to 25% of the adult fare, and for 16-19 year olds in full time education to 50% of the adult fare.

Nicky Bleakely, explained that ten schools in Worthing have in place excellent travel plans, which has meant that have gained extra funding to implement their plans. Another ten schools have plans in draft or are developing plans at the moment. There is only one school that has not expressed an interest in developing a travel plan.

3. What can Worthing Together contribute to Improving Transport in Worthing

The group briefly considered the issues Martin Downey had presented to Worthing Together, as possible areas of focus for the LSP, along side the three priorities put forward at the stakeholder event on the previous day. A more detailed discussion regarding transport issues in Worthing followed. The emerging themes were:

Lack of bus provision in the evenings and weekends

The need to encourage all to walk and cycle more (Local Area Agreement work stream)

Re-trial of the night bus scheme

To lobby central Government regarding the A27

Ian Richardson, raised concerns regarding the many areas of Worthing that have poor or no bus services. However, some of the current services are to receive an increased frequency of service.

It was recognised that bus provision is not always possible because of the financial pressures upon bus companies. The group felt that it would be beneficial to invite transport providers to join the group, in order to develop more innovative solutions to transport issues for the town, with a real emphasis on working together to develop new ideas.

Prior to making contact with any transport providers the group will gather relevant available information, to allow an overview of transport provision to be formed and identify possible gaps. Once a reasonable level of understanding in the group has been reached. Transport providers will be invited to join the group and work together to develop innovative solutions to issues.

Roger Foregard felt that there could be benefit in encouraging small business to develop join/coordinated travel plans. Roger suggested that the idea of having a dedicated champion/coordinator to enable small business to work together to improve transport provision for staff, should be considered. This type of initiative could contribute to improving congestion within Worthing.

Jeff Lake, briefly mentioned a stream of work that is evolving as part of the Local Area Agreement for West Sussex, aiming to promote walking and cycling in schools, workplaces and communities to develop a healthier lifestyle, which Worthing Together may wish to take an active role in.

Robert Symtherman, proposed that Worthing Together should make an immediate approach to the Worthing CDRP, to re-launch a trial of late night bus service in Worthing Town Centre. The group agreed that this idea should be considered in the round, but not to rush ahead on any one idea at this time.

All agreed that Worthing Together should take a lobbying role, to provide their support to the case for an improved A27.

4. Next Steps

Discussion also took place around the remit and Terms of Reference of this sub group. It was agreed not to elect a chairman, but for Clare Gardiner to facilitate the group. Recommendations and proposals will be made by this group to Worthing Together for their endorsement and action.

Ian Gwenlan, stated that he did not feel he needed to be a permanent member of this group, but would provide advice when relevant.

Richard Wells suggested that we use the Worthing Together Annual report to structure our next meeting, ensuring that we build on the emerging issues discussed today whilst we consider all the possible areas of focus.

Clare Gardiner will produce a paper for Worthing Together's next meeting in January on behalf of the sub group explaining the membership and how this group intends to make it's future recommendations for action to the LSP.

Actions:

Clare Gardiner to produce note of meeting

Clare Gardiner to compose a paper for the next Worthing Together meeting on 24th January on behalf of the sub group.

Ken Constello to share any EDAW findings with regard to transport issues to date.

Ken Costello and Bill Leath to establish current transport provision and pull together relevant data/evidence of unmet transport needs for the Borough.