

Bolsover LSP / CHART LSP Transport Action-Theme Group Meeting
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2006 at 9.30am
Room 4, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield

Present

Steve Cannon (Chair)	DCC
Elsbeth Mallowan	Derbyshire RCC
Jim Neeve	Bolsover LSP
Natalie Price	Bolsover LSP
Neil Boughey	Bolsover District Council
Jill Meeds	Clowne & District Community Transport
Rebecca Pennyfather	DCC
Jamie Singleton	DCC
Malcolm Marshall	DCC
Kath Jephson	Private Sector Representative (Bolsover)
Mark Shewring	CBC
Steve Lee	CHART LSP
Natalie Priestley	CHART LSP
Sue Dixon	CHART LSP

1. Introductions and Apologies

Marie Cox (Involve), Richard Bennett (BDC)

2. Minutes of meeting of Tuesday 4th April 2006

Item 7, paragraph 2, was amended to read “.....from another organisation than Derbyshire County Council ideally. This should be someone”. The minutes of the meeting were then agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Steve Cannon told the group that most of the matters arising are covered as separate items on the agenda, but he wanted to draw out a couple of points as two LSPs working jointly on a particular issue is unique. He said it is important for this group to add value to what other organisations are doing and influence their actions where appropriate. Also, the group needs to bear in mind that funding for Neighbourhood Renewal is to Bolsover, not CHART. Any benefit to the CHART area from the spend will only be due to knock-on from a Bolsover specific project (e.g. if a new bus service for Bolsover overlaps slightly into the CHART area).

4. Transport Theme Group Linkages to the LSPs

Steve Lee explained that the joint CHART/Bolsover Transport group was set up as a result of the CHART LSP Environment and Transport group not fully addressing both elements issues. Since transport fits in with all CHART's other theme groups CHART's Co-ordinating Group will identify issues and pass them back to the relevant CHART Theme group for action.

CHART's Community Strategy action plan runs to 2015, although this may be reviewed in the next two years due to the impact of the Government White Paper.

Natalie Price gave a brief overview of Bolsover LSP, which is broadly similar to CHART LSP and shares many of the same issues.

Kath Jephson said that since there are so many action plans in existence, she had experienced difficulty in finding out specific details about what particular areas are going to get in terms of roads and safety, and asked the group if there was an internet site where all this information is available.

Steve Cannon explained that the Local Transport Plan is available, but that it is a strategic document covering policies, priorities etc and therefore not at the level of detail Kath is looking for.

Kath asked how priorities are decided how areas get allocated resources. She wondered if the LSP could be a vehicle for this.

Steve Cannon advised that Derbyshire County Council have an area-based structure. Investment is the responsibility of a team that assesses problem areas through contact with district and parish councils, community groups etc.

Jim Neeve reported that Bolsover's wish list was well informed by various groups, all of which are represented by the LSP's attendance at the Transport Theme group.

Natalie Priestley explained that communities should raise issues through the Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Forums.

Kath said that in her opinion, the private sector lacked input.

Steve Cannon acknowledged that DCC have had difficulties engaging with the private sector and whenever possible this group would attempt to engage all stakeholders.

5. North Eastern Derbyshire Local Transport Plan

Steve Cannon told the group that DCC have completed their first Local Transport Plan (LTP1) and are now on their second (LTP2), which covers the five years from 2006 to 2011. It is a strategic document that has changed in nature from being guidance to instructions, and much of the content is to satisfy DfT to ensure funding is forthcoming.

Annual funding is currently between £18 and £20million, although this is not adequate, as £12million is spent on maintaining existing roads and footpaths, leaving only 40% for new schemes.

The Plan is an over-arching document with themes (critical areas):-

Safety – there are too many vehicle related injuries/deaths in the county.

Accessibility Planning – councils have been asked to look at accessibility in a more objective way by identifying specific needs, although DCC have been doing this for some years anyway. This area has high revenue spend (rural and evening bus services) and the budget is tight, but capital spend is lower.
Congestion – this is becoming a much bigger problem, particularly in Chesterfield.

Environment – air and noise pollution associated with traffic is increasing.
Maintenance of current assets - ongoing.

Major schemes over £5million are funded through a separate regional process. DCC has to compete with other East Midlands Authorities and competition is intense.

Additionally there is the Transport Innovation Fund, part of which is the Congestion TIF that provides funding to look into road user charging.

LTP1 is currently being assessed by Government, and the initial draft report is very promising. The results should be out by Christmas 2006 and DCC will be graded on these. They will also feed into the CPA and will affect funding.

Malcolm Marshall told the group that the Cycle Network Strategy is being developed. He said that LTP2 is working well for this aspect as it provides more money for cycle networks and for major repairs to rights of way. The ROW Improvement Plan (see item 9) identifies larger schemes.

Kath Jephson felt that there is a connectivity issue with cycle paths as they are not well linked.

Malcolm explained that this is because opportunities to purchase land etc have to be grasped as they arise, rather than in a specific order, but that eventually the paths should all link up.

Elsbeth Mallowan said that the cycle network is extremely beneficial as it is relatively low cost, reduces congestion and is healthy.

Neil Boughey updated the group on Bolsover's LDF and how it links to the Community Strategy. The document is currently at preferred option stage with a deadline for consultation of 11th December 2006, and it is available to view on Bolsover DC's website.

A leaflet summarising the main points is also available and Neil agreed to provide Kath Jephson with a copy.

Action: Neil Boughey to send a Summary leaflet to Kath Jephson.

6. Accessibility Planning

Jamie Singleton explained that accessibility planning was about making it easier for people to access services that maintain or improve their quality of

life. The Government uses software that sets standards for health, education, employment etc, and DCC have now started using this software.

The LTP annex contains the Access Strategy showing countywide accessibility levels, however, details of small areas are not shown therefore input from local groups is needed to help identify any discrepancies.

DCC have already established linkages with the PCT, Education Department and the district planning authorities and discussions are underway with consultants about how public transport for Shirebrook will work.

Rebecca Pennyfather advised that DCC are planning for the next stage by developing action plans for all the areas they are looking at. Projects are being analysed to see how sustainable they are in the long term and so far 27 initiatives have been identified for the next five years, although others can be added along the way.

The types of projects favoured are those which will benefit young people, shift workers and people in rural areas, in terms of access to healthcare and employment. Issues on DCC's list include informing and influencing how community transport operates, land use, making the best use of existing services and improving the information available to support all of these.

Action: Rebecca to provide Steve Lee with Accessibility Planning Action Plan for circulation to the group.

Please use the link below to access the document.

<http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/Images/A3%20Annex.pdf>

There was further discussion around the bus services to Chesterfield Royal Hospital, namely that some people were still not able to reach it in DCC's target time of 90 minutes. Jamie said that DCC are aware of this and other instances, but that the figures balance out when averaged across the county.

Kath Jephson asked if car parking was covered by accessibility. Rebecca responded that the Access Survey is aimed at people who do not have a car.

Steve Cannon said that the new emphasis is not only on buses, but also spatial planning which needs to ensure that new housing developments are near to services and vice versa, with encouragement towards using community transport.

Jamie said that the strategy is about taking services to people and this could include mobile shops, banks etc.

Kath expressed concern at this and reported that 75% of the business sector is made up of small businesses that would be unable to make a living in such a way.

Steve Cannon said that maintenance of access to town centres was also essential as these drive the economy.

There was further discussion around the issues of car parking, commuting to work and shops and the historical reasons why this area has many small rural villages.

7. Action Planning Away Day

Draft Plan – Steve Lee reported that the plan had been drafted in the Bolsover LSP format with targets for two areas. Point 3 should set the agenda for future meetings by means of setting homework for members and generating presentations. Actions are initially to March 2008 and are intended to be realistic and achievable.

Steve talked the group through the plan. He asked to be notified of any additions members felt necessary and explained that Natalie Priestley is available to support partners with action plans.

Priorities for 2006/07 – The group felt that the CHART LSP action plan format was more user-friendly and asked the LSPs to redraft the plan together. This would make it easier to identify priorities.

8. Representation

Membership – Steve Lee read out the list of invitees and asked the group if this was a good representation. It was agreed that there were insufficient representatives from the community and business sectors.

Action: Steve Lee to contact DC&BL to ask for a representative to attend on their behalf.

Other suggestions for members included Alliance SSP, bus companies and Central Trains, however Rebecca Pennyfather advised that there will be a new train operator from November 2007 when Central Trains' franchise ends.

Action: Rebecca to send Steve Lee a copy of the midlands train franchise for circulation to the group.

Please use the link below to access the document.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_railways/documents/page/dft_railways_611833.pdf

Election of Vice Chair – the group concluded that ideally this person should be able to cover both LSP areas and not be from one of the Councils. It was agreed to defer any decision until the next meeting.

Action: Election of Vice Chair to be on agenda for next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Derbyshire County Casualty Report 2005 - Steve Cannon reported that the Derbyshire County Casualty Report 2005, which explains accident trends based on injury accidents from figures provided by Derbyshire Constabulary, has been published and is available for viewing on DCC's website.

The general trend seems to show that accident rates for children and pedestrians are higher in deprived areas. Resources are currently targeted to these areas and to nurseries and schools to try to reduce levels, but the majority of casualties are drivers of vehicles, their passengers and motorcyclists.

Delegated Grant Fund - Steve Lee told the group that the CRT have asked CHART to publicise the Delegated Grant Fund which is available in European Wards, many of which are in the Bolsover area. CRT should be contacted with any project ideas.

Wheels to Work - Elspeth Mallowan told the group about European funding for Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire for the Wheels to Work project.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Malcolm Marshall advised that the Rights of Way Improvement draft plan is out for final consultation. Responses are required by 11th March 2007.

10. Date and time of next meeting

The date and time of the next meeting will be notified shortly.