

Notes of meeting

<b>Title of Meeting:</b>	Suffolk Enhanced Partnership Passenger Interest Group																																																										
<b>Purpose or Mandate:</b>	A collaborative approach to improving passenger transport																																																										
<b>Date:</b>	01 June 2022																																																										
<b>Place:</b>	Teams meeting																																																										
<b>Times:</b>	14:00 – 15:30																																																										
<b>Attended:</b>	<table> <tr><td>SLB Simon Barnett</td><td>SCC (chair)</td></tr> <tr><td>TG Trevor Garrod</td><td>ESTA</td></tr> <tr><td>AS Cllr Abigail Smith</td><td>Nowton</td></tr> <tr><td>AF Cllr Anne Fleming</td><td>Halesworth</td></tr> <tr><td>BF Cllr Bryan Frost</td><td>Trimley St Mary</td></tr> <tr><td>CP Calum Poole</td><td>SCC</td></tr> <tr><td>CB Cllr Colin Butler</td><td>Lowestoft</td></tr> <tr><td>JW Cllr James Wright</td><td>Rushmere St Andrew</td></tr> <tr><td>DG Cllr David Goodlad</td><td>Rattlesden</td></tr> <tr><td>EF Emma Forde</td><td>ARUP</td></tr> <tr><td>GN Cllr Graham Newman</td><td>Felixstowe travelwatch</td></tr> <tr><td>HG Cllr Helen Geake</td><td>Woolpit</td></tr> <tr><td>IB Cllr Ian Bradbury</td><td>Southwold</td></tr> <tr><td>KR Cllr Keith Raby</td><td>Burstall</td></tr> <tr><td>HK Heidi King</td><td>DWP</td></tr> <tr><td>MI Cllr Mike Irwin</td><td>Martlesham</td></tr> <tr><td>NC Neil Coleby</td><td>Kessingland (clerk)</td></tr> <tr><td>PD Cllr Patricia Derry</td><td>Monks Eleigh</td></tr> <tr><td>PH Paul Horne</td><td>SCC</td></tr> <tr><td>PO Cllr Penny Otton</td><td>Thedwastre South</td></tr> <tr><td>RP Rachel Price</td><td>Sudbury</td></tr> <tr><td>RW Cllr Rob Wombwell</td><td>East Bergholt</td></tr> <tr><td>SC Cllr Sarah Cooper</td><td>Stutton</td></tr> <tr><td>SB Cllr Sheila Burry</td><td>Clare</td></tr> <tr><td>TH Cllr Tom Hatrick</td><td>Falkenham</td></tr> <tr><td>TW Toby Warren</td><td>Chamber of Commerce</td></tr> <tr><td>CW Cathy Whitaker</td><td>Newmarket (clerk)</td></tr> <tr><td>VW Victoria Walker</td><td>Bus Users UK</td></tr> <tr><td>VK Cllr Vivienne Klimowicz</td><td>Stoke by Nayland</td></tr> </table>	SLB Simon Barnett	SCC (chair)	TG Trevor Garrod	ESTA	AS Cllr Abigail Smith	Nowton	AF Cllr Anne Fleming	Halesworth	BF Cllr Bryan Frost	Trimley St Mary	CP Calum Poole	SCC	CB Cllr Colin Butler	Lowestoft	JW Cllr James Wright	Rushmere St Andrew	DG Cllr David Goodlad	Rattlesden	EF Emma Forde	ARUP	GN Cllr Graham Newman	Felixstowe travelwatch	HG Cllr Helen Geake	Woolpit	IB Cllr Ian Bradbury	Southwold	KR Cllr Keith Raby	Burstall	HK Heidi King	DWP	MI Cllr Mike Irwin	Martlesham	NC Neil Coleby	Kessingland (clerk)	PD Cllr Patricia Derry	Monks Eleigh	PH Paul Horne	SCC	PO Cllr Penny Otton	Thedwastre South	RP Rachel Price	Sudbury	RW Cllr Rob Wombwell	East Bergholt	SC Cllr Sarah Cooper	Stutton	SB Cllr Sheila Burry	Clare	TH Cllr Tom Hatrick	Falkenham	TW Toby Warren	Chamber of Commerce	CW Cathy Whitaker	Newmarket (clerk)	VW Victoria Walker	Bus Users UK	VK Cllr Vivienne Klimowicz	Stoke by Nayland
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<b>Minute-taker:</b>	P Horne																																																										

Item No.	Item Description	Relevant business considered, facts noted, the decision taken and its rationale
1	<b>Welcome</b>	
a		SLB welcomed people to the meeting. Those attending were invited to provide details of their role in the chat.
2	<b>Introduction &amp; purpose of meeting</b>	
a		First meeting of the Passenger Interest working group of the Suffolk Enhanced Bus Partnership. 430 invitations were issues to advocacy groups and town/parish councils. It is one of four working groups which provides input and representation at the Forum which in turn develops proposals for the Board to consider, fund and promote.
3	<b>Strategic schemes</b>	
a	Passenger Charter	A joint Suffolk/Norfolk charter is being developed and both Essex and Cambridge/Peterborough authorities developing their charter from the same source. Charter will describe what passengers should expect from a bus service.

b	Levelling up	<p>CP - A bid to government being developed for capital improvements  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus</a>) to include scheme to redevelop the area occupied Sudbury bus station and provide town centre on street bus facilities.</p> <p>SLB – confirmed Levelling up funding is only for capital projects</p> <p>GN – would the Sudbury bus station proposal include consideration of the bus/rail interchange. CP confirmed it was a key item in the proposal.</p> <p>General discussion on funding/improvements for bus improvements included.</p> <p>VK – asked if there was potential for bid to provide bus services for areas without any. This funding only available for capital expenditure and not revenue, bus services remain commercially operated.</p> <p>SC – concerned at short timescales to place bid, CP advised the bid had tight timescales and was an intensive process to meet government requirements.  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus</a></p> <p>PD – raised concern that demographics of Suffolk made it unlikely that many places would justify traditional style bus services. SLB explained the national policy on concessionary passes which limited County Council's options.</p> <p>KR – reiterated the issue of villages without a bus service. SLB noted that some new services were being introduced by local operators and these changes, would be notified further after the meeting.</p> <p>PO – is there opportunity to reintroduce a carers bus pass. This would require funding but SLB to consider this as an option.</p>
c	Bus reliability	<p>The EP looking to improve bus reliability with signal priority, bus lanes and moving traffic enforcement (MTE). SCC looking to take on MTE from the Police for 2023 once the appropriate approvals obtained from government.</p> <p>MI – suggested improved reliability by introduction of express bus routes in some locations and need to include bus improvement measures when developing schemes.</p>

d	Network review	<p>TG – asked if the bus corridors identified in the BSIP document were the only ones under consideration. SLB commented that the review with Operators will look across the network to see how to make routes more viable. DfT deadline for review 1/7/22.</p> <p>AS – are there any plans to trial services which were not viable previously but may be more popular now. SLB There are no plans at present as Bus Operators are having to contend with increased costs and a decline in patronage on existing routes. There may be opportunities to utilise Connecting Communities further as new contracts are negotiated.</p>
e	Audit of bus stop assets	SLB – following the imposed break due to Covid, the audit of bus stop facilities to recommence to confirm the picture of what is currently available and where improvements are needed (when funding available)
f	Suffolk on Board	SLB – the Enhanced Partnership is currently hosted on Suffolk on Board <a href="https://www.suffolkonboard.com/buses/suffolk-enhanced-partnership/">https://www.suffolkonboard.com/buses/suffolk-enhanced-partnership/</a> a working group to meet from w/c 6/6/22 to identify an EP branding.
4	<b>Strategic issues from the meeting</b>	
a		<p>VK – to provide Parish feedback after meeting to SLB via <a href="mailto:bus.strategy@suffok.gov.uk">bus.strategy@suffok.gov.uk</a> this email account available for all feedback.</p> <p>SC – to email feedback after meeting re bus related issues</p> <p>HG – asked if CIL funding could be used. SLB advised this source of funds managed by District councils usually providing roadside bus infrastructure and not available as revenue.</p> <p>SLB – what other funding opportunities exist? SLB funding sources always being investigated and working with Districts/Boroughs on S106/CIL opportunities.</p> <p>EF – there is a fundamental need for passengers' views and to engage with those people who could but do not use buses.</p> <p>JW – would it be possible for parish councils to provide funding to subsidise routes or for older passengers to voluntarily decide to pay for travel. SLB parishes can contact bus operators directly to discuss opportunities, but annual costs of a service are high. Passengers have it within their gift to decide not to utilise their concessionary travel pass.</p> <p>PD – Timetabling of some services (e.g. weekly) do not provide adequate time for passengers to undertake all shopping/appointment activities. SLB is happy to receive details of such timetables and to discuss with operators.</p>
5	<b>Passenger representative at forum</b>	
a		<p>JW volunteered to represent group at Forum</p> <p>Post meeting SC also volunteered.</p>

6	<b>Schedule of future meetings</b>	
a		The next meeting will be arranged for August/September.