

## **TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE**

### **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### **NOTES OF A MEETING ON 05.12.2018**

**Present:** Cllrs. Mulholland & Mrs. Gooch, Sue Ferguson. Non-council members: Spencer Goddard (TSH), Jeremy Smith (Wittersham PC.), Brad Bradford (ABC), Graham Tiltman and Denise Curtain (Rolvenden PC), Stephen Pay (KCC Public Transport), and Julie McCollum taking notes.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. C Knowles

#### **Minutes.**

**AGREED** with the one addition: A question was asked, about whether the Rolvenden Rocket (RR) could be used by non-Rolvenden residents, the answer was 'yes' it could be. Although when the scheme had been first introduced this was not the case.

**Matters Arising.** None.

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.**

Welcome and introductions were made. Stephen Pay, KCC Public Transport Planning and Operations Manager. Stephen has accepted the invitation to become a member of the Community Transport Sub-Committee.

#### **2. UPDATE ON NEW HUB BUS.**

3.

Spencer Goddard gave an update on the KCC grant which has been received. He is now in the process of applying for KCC phase 2, the deadline for this is 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Following issues over delivery of the brand new mini bus an alternative supplier was found. There are some issues with former company to get the deposit back (£8K) but Spencer is confident that this will be refunded.

TSH took delivery of the new bus last week; it is sign written with Community Transport Scheme, the schemes new telephone number and TSH details. With this bus now in service TSH has 3 vehicles in use; all 5 seaters with disabled accessibility. A bus timetable is under development.

A Co-ordinator had been employed by TSH but has recently resigned. A job advert will be placed to secure someone for 18 hours per week. This will be funded by Awards for All. This employee will liaise with all local groups providing community transport. As this meeting progressed it became clear this role should be reviewed as it seems likely that a full-time position, for at

least three years, may be needed. The co-ordinator would need to work with all groups involved in providing community transport within Tenterden and the outlying villages.

Brad Bradford reported that Wye and Woodchurch are already signed up to pilot a scheme along the same lines as the RR. He would like to see 5 mini busses running this pilot and stressed that this scheme is a welfare initiative rather than specifically for community transport.

**ACTION:** TSH to appoint a new CTS coordinator. Spencer Goddard to liaise with KCC to see if funding is available to make this role full time.

#### 4. **Tenterden Taxi Bus.**

Stephen Pay provided a summary of the feedback from the 'Big Conversation' and an overview of what KCC are doing. The Big conversation discussed three alternative approaches to meeting the needs of community transport: demand responsive, a feeder service, and a taxi bus. Feedback suggested that 'demand responsive' wasn't favourable; the preferred option was for a scheduled service.

Stephen provided details of 'Tenterden Taxi Bus' (a copy of the summary is available from the Town Hall). The principle of the taxi bus is to make use of existing 'Home to School' mini buses. Using the vehicles during the day, when they are currently not being used. They would provide a registered scheduled service. This is a yearlong trial but KCC would like it to be sustainable so there may have to be a charge in order to keep it going beyond the first year. Feedback suggest that the public are not keen on paying for a service that is currently free so the service will be free, to bus pass holders, for the first year. Charging would then be consistent across each of the services. The Tenterden Taxi Bus is due to start in June 2019, but public consultation may be need in some instances.

All the schemes need to compliment rather than compete with each other. It was agreed that it would be sensible for each service to come under the same brand so that people know where to go. The possibility of TSH running the Tenterden Taxi Bus on behalf of KCC. Licensing could be an issue and an alternative licence category would be needed if TSH was to run a scheduled service.

**ACTION:**

- 1.** A working group to be set up with Spencer Goddard, Stephen Pay, Graham Tiltman and Denise Curtain. A decision needs to be made about who will coordinate this, with a focus on an administrator to centralise the booking for all local services with one website and one point of contact.
- 2.** Stephen Pay and Spencer Goddard to liaise prior to the next meeting. To discuss licensing issues with a scheduled bus service, and to decide what additional bus service is required.

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

Jeremy from Wittersham PC. Update on School Transport. An executive decision was made to allow all pupils who applied for a bus pass to Homewood school, this year, to be granted free bus passes. They will be issued to them for the next 5 years. However, there is still an issue over which is the nearest school: Homewood or Rye. The same problem will arise next year with the next intake of new pupils going in to year 7. A meeting is due to be held with KCC to try to resolve this. Stephen Pay confirmed that KCC were now following government guidelines on the issuing of school bus passes, in the past this was not always the case.

Clarification is needed as to whether a D1 classification is needed, on a driving licence, to act as a volunteer driver of a mini bus.

**Action:** Graham Tiltman to email Stephen and Brad for clarification about D1.

**6. NEXT MEETING.** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2pm.