

## **Stratford upon Avon Town Transport Group [TTG]**

**Minutes from meeting held at 9.30am - 11am**

**on Thursday 10 August 2023 by Zoom**

**Present:** Rachel Blanchard [RB], John Deegan [JD], Elizabeth Dixon [ED], Richard Lees [RL], Lindsay Macdonald [LM], Caroline Nash [CN], Theresa Parker [TP], Kate Rolfe [KR], Tim Sinclair [TS], Colin Stewart [CS], Imogen Suett [IS], Steve Turner [ST] and Jan Matecki [JM]

**Circulated to Members of the TTG and**

**WCC:** Officers: Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities and David Ayton-Hill, Assistant Director Communities [Transport Planning], Councillors Izzi Seccombe, Leader and Jan Matecki, Transport Portfolio Holder.

**SDC:** Officers: Tony Perks, Deputy Chief Executive, Councillor George Cowcher, Portfolio Holder.

**TC:** Officer: Caroline Nash, Town Clerk.

**Additional information:** <https://www.stratford-tc.gov.uk/town-hall/meetings-held-at-the-town-hall/-stratford-upon-avon-town-transport-group>

- 1 Colin Stewart, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Imogen Suett a Student working with RB at SDC.

**Apologies:** George Cowcher, Andy List, Mark Haselden, Stephen Rumble, Jann Tracy.

- 2 **Minutes:** of 13 July 2023 were approved.

- 3 **Actions and Matters arising:** CS noted that once again there was no representative officer from WCC at the meeting and said that he would enquire how this could be resolved.  
KR spoke about the changes to resident parking permits; their application which had been moved to online and method to obtain visitor permits, which was causing concern and difficulties. Changes were being made for better access, JM has oversight of this, and was meeting County representatives on 11 August to review.

- 4 **Canal Towpaths:** LM reported on the poor condition of the towpaths, particularly Birmingham road to Bishopton, and that he had contacted the Canal & River Trust to see what could be done to improve them. He thought that locally we should be contributing towards this. New homes were being sold that it was possible to walk along the towpaths to town, but it was not

possible for all users. CS concurred that the condition of the section between Timothys Bridge Rd, and Bishopton Lane was particularly poor as this is only a gravel surface, and there are low hanging branches which require bending down to pass. He noted it is Cycle Route 5, and also now advertised as the “Park n Stride” route into the town, from the Park & Ride Site.

LM

LM will chase the Canal & River Trust to see what can be done.

RB

RB will check whether there is any requirement under Section 106 for the Bishopton Houses developer to upgrade the towpath.

- 5 Demand Responsive Transport [DRT]:** After seeing the new IndieGo Plus app advertised. CS had investigated DRT (Demand Responsive Transport) in the county and noted Stratford is separate.

**IndieGo** is a joint venture between Warwickshire County Council, Stagecoach & Liftango. So, is part of the bus network, that covers most of Warwickshire, with consistent branding and web site for all the routes, covering Rugby, Warwick, Leamington, Kenilworth...

**UBUS** is totally separate, run by SDC, and part funded by WCC. With a totally different name and branding.

He noted that if you search on Google for "On Demand Bus in Warwickshire", the rest of Warwickshire services come up, but Stratford or UBUS doesn't!

He referred to a presentation about DRT that WCC Stuart Kocan Payne had made earlier this year to the WCC, Town & Parish Reference Group. There was only one page for UBUS out of 20, with no detail, and no statistical reporting.

CS suggested bringing UBUS under the IndieGo banner, rebranding the buses, and consequently benefiting from all that WCC do to promote it, and allow people to access it, such as the online App. TTG members agreed. JM noted that the app is currently a pilot, but appears to be working well. He agreed to look into the potential to bring UBUS and IndieGo together.

JM

## **6 Strategies and forward plans**

**6.1 Sustainable Parking Strategy:** WCC not present again.

**6.2 South Warwickshire Local Plan:** The Strategic Partnership Working Group has met and will meet again in September. TTG sub-group will discuss and report back.

CS

**6.3 Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan [LCWIP]:** WCC not present again.

**6.4 Towards an Integrated Transport Plan:** Following TTG request, a copy of the brief / scope of the transport work being done in support of the SWLP had been received just before the

CS

meeting. The sub-group will review it and report back at next TTG meeting.

**6.5 Bus Strategy:** At the last meeting ED had asked that wording was changed on the WCC Park & Stride website to explain that the towpaths were not for everyone. It's not happened yet but David Ayton-Hill WCC was getting a change done.

**7 Projects - See attached Status Schedule**

- 8 Planning Applications:** An application for 60 dwellings and access at Airfield House, Long Marston, was noted and the further potential to add congestion to the town's roads without a solution.

The plan to enlarge the High School to 12 form entry was noted, again no indication of transport improvements.

- 9 Any Other Business:** KR talked about a 1-year trial of EV charging points via lampposts in Chestnut Walk. ED has concerns about access to public EV charging points as many cannot be reached [Chestnut Walk] and will contact appropriate WCC officers.

**The next meeting is 9.30am - 11am on Thursday 14 September 2023 at the Town Hall**

**Stratford-upon-Avon Town Transport Group (TTG)**

Update: 10.8.23

**Stratford-upon-Avon Transport Project Status**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Last Update</b>
Pedestrianisation of Bridge Street & High Street	Scheme drawn up and consultation completed. Awaiting funding.	SP	19.1.23
Birmingham Road	Phase 2 enabling works are ongoing. TS and CS met Simon Prescott (who has taken over Birmingham Road at WCC) on site to discuss the various comments and proposals TTG have made on Phase 3 of the scheme ( the middle part). SP is reviewing the scheme with a view to make it compliant with LTN 1/20, and side road junctions consistent. Also modelling Western Road left out only, CS proposed Arden St traffic light pedestrian crossing alternative. Design works are ongoing.	WCC	17.5.23
Clopton Bridge / Tiddington Road Junction	Original scheme withdrawn. Awaiting updated proposals from WCC. TTG advised they will be involved. Potential for weight restriction to be investigated (WCC DA-H). Advised this has now been dropped.	WCC	23.12.22 8.6.23
Evesham Roundabout	Once completed, WCC will decide how to connect cycle paths through the junction. Meeting has taken place with residents and WCC. No completion date.	WCC WCC	23.5.23 10.8.23
Alcester Road A46 Roundabout (Shottery Relief Road)	Update required.	WCC	13.7.23
Alcester Road Cycle Tracks	Awaiting concept plans from WCC. Advised this will follow LTN 1/20 guidance. TS advises design complete. Plans awaited.	WCC	13.7.23
South Western Relief Road	Report on viability of sustainable alternatives delayed to link into SWLP.	SDC	20.1.23

Greenway All-weather Surfacing	Work not started due to S106 funds being insufficient. CS has asked WCC why the worst affected half of the route could not be progressed with the available funding. David Ayton-Hill has responded to CS request for update. Additional funding to be sought via CIL process, with decision in April 2024. Meanwhile he has asked the team to explore breaking up the work into sections to get moving on key bits now.	WCC	26.4.23
		DAH	10.8.23
Knights Lane Footway	A solution has now been drawn up, based on a derogation of standard for implementation in the Autumn, but still requires agreement from the farmer. Meanwhile KR has obtained agreement that, traffic signs warning of pedestrians walking in the road and 'SLOW' carriageway markings will be installed as a temporary measure. DAH advised temporary works would be complete by end July. One "SLOW" marking has appeared on the road, nothing in the opposite direction, and no signs. KR has been chasing regularly for months, the TTG agreed this is appalling.	WCC	13.7.23
		WCC	10.8.23
Canal Quarter Regeneration	Meeting with SDC held 15.6.23. TTG outlined concerns about delivery of the vision in the site masterplan (SDP) as land parcels come forward individually for planning approval. Infrastructure needs to be funded and implemented in advance of plans for homes, or it is unlikely to "fit", and will be more expensive. Canal crossings are a key example. SDC officers to investigate options and report back. RB to chase progress.	SDC	15.6.23
		RB	10.8.23
Gateway	Presentation made to TTG 8.6.23. Workshop with Strategic Partnership (SP) held 22 June 23. Concern that initiatives are coming forward individually without a Masterplan for the town to be raised at SP.	SP / SDC	23.6.23
Warwick Road Safety Improvements	Concept proposals circulated to TTG. Works close to start.		8.6.23
			10.8.23