

Stratford upon Avon Town Transport Group [TTG]

Minutes from meeting held at 9.30am - 11am,

on Thursday 16 November 2023 by Zoom

Present: Rachel Blanchard [RB], George Cowcher [GC], Elizabeth Dixon [ED], Ian Fradgley [IF], Jenny Fradgley [JF], Mark Haselden [MH], Richard Lees [RL], Andy List [AL], Lindsay Macdonald [LM], Jan Matecki [JM], Theresa Parker [TP], Kate Rolfe [KR], Tim Sinclair [TS], Colin Stewart [CS], Steve Turner [ST], Jann Tracy [JT].

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 Susan Juned, Leader and 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,

Apologies: Caroline Nash [CN],

- 2 **WCC Transport Portfolio Holder (Jan Matecki):** JM gave an outline of the IndieGo service across the county and UBUS which is being reviewed.

In discussion, differences of opinion emerged as to the reason for the change of funding. It is understood that SDC will continue to fund UBUS until WCC take over the funding in the summer. JM left the meeting.

GC/JM

- 3 **Minutes:** of 12 October 2023 were agreed.

- 4 **Matters Arising:** CS had met Jan Matecki, who agreed to facilitate a meeting with David Ayton-Hill, to review WCC priorities in Stratford, and TTG input. RB still chasing canal towpath works.

JM/CS

- 5 **Warwickshire Buses / UBUS:** CS referred to the paper "Warwickshire Buses / UBUS - Paper to WCC & SDC (draft for agreement)" that was circulated with the agenda. The draft was

generally agreed. TS noted that bullet 1 (livery and bus branding) had been raised by WCC with the local bus companies, however, there was no appetite from them to pursue this at this time.

CS suggested that the further bullets would be easier, and travellers would find it easier to use, if consistent branding was adopted. He suggested a WCC discussion with West Midlands Travel (who did this in 2018) would be beneficial if it had not already occurred.

Following item 2, the group sought clarification on the differences in funding for IndieGo, IndieGo Plus, and UBUS.

It was proposed to ask a representative from WCC buses department to attend the next TTG meeting to clarify these issues.

CS/ED

ED reminded the group it was essential to talk to current users.

- 6 Town Centre Cycle Parking:** Andy List presented a paper about the need for town centre cycle parking written by the Cycle Forum. [Attached]. It was agreed that the TTG would support this, and that CS would seek to get it on the Strategic Partnership agenda. These are relatively low cost, and several funders are possible.

CS

7 Strategies and forward plans

7.1 Sustainable Parking Strategy: WCC not present again. A small working group of the TTG is looking at this, as there has been no action since the June 2022 Options Assessment Report.

KR

7.2 South Warwickshire Local Plan: George Cowcher advised there would be a delay for studies to be completed, and to consider potential new government procedures. Three transport studies are being done.

7.3 Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan [LCWIP]: This should be ready for the end of January.

7.4 Towards an Integrated Transport Plan: No further action currently, however it was noted the transport work being done for the Local Plan is high level and does not fulfil this function.

7.5 Bus Strategy: See item 5.

8 Projects - See attached Status Schedule

TTG expressed grave concern that the funding for Alcester Road Cycle Improvements (Project 6) had now been pulled to be used instead to cover a shortfall in the government funding for the Warwick Road safety improvements. TTG requested CS to put concerns on record and that Project 6 has been waiting over 9 years!

WCC

- 9 **Planning Applications:** Ian Fradgley said the application the nursery at the Rosebird had been withdrawn but would be re-submitted.
- 10 **Any Other Business:** This is the last meeting for **Rachel Blanchard** who is leaving SDC for a new location and job. Our **thanks** to her for all that she has done on our behalf and as a very efficient link with SDC. A replacement will be found. *Check with Matt Neale.* ED
- Stratford Station Ticket Office:** Concern expressed that this is very often closed. TTG to seek clarifications. CS
- Stratford Society, JT** raised awareness about rubbish from Debenhams site when building starts if the High Street is closed.

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

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Transport Group (TTG)

Update: 16.11.23

Stratford-upon-Avon Transport Project Status

	Project	Status	Action	Last Update
1	Pedestrianisation of Bridge Street & High Street	Scheme drawn up and consultation completed. Awaiting funding. Request to look at splitting the work to create quick win, eg. High Street Pedestrianisation first. SDC looking at implementation summer 2024.	SP SDC /WCC	19.1.23 SDC
2	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
3	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
4	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
5	Alcester Road A46 Roundabout (Shottery Relief Road)	Update required. Whose responsibility is it, and when will it be started?	WCC	13.7.23

6	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
		Advised funding had now been pulled to be used instead to cover a shortfall in the government funding for the Warwick Road safety improvements. This project has been waiting over 9 years, and a lower cost solution was proposed by the Cycle Forum several years ago.	WCC	16.11.23
7	South Western Relief Road	Report on viability of sustainable alternatives delayed to link into SWLP.	SDC	20.1.23
8	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.	WCC	26.4.23
		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. CS reminded DAH 13.9.23. Response 9.10.23 suggests half may potentially be done before Easter. TTG discussed concerns around WCC not carrying out work when funding is available, especially on a simple piece of work such as this.	DAH	10.8.23
9	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"	WCC	13.7.23

		marking has appeared on the road, nothing in the opposite direction. Signs now in both directions, but partially obstructed by hedge growth!	WCC	14.9.23
10	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.	SDC RB	15.6.23 10.8.23
11	Gateway	Presentation made to TTG 8.6.23. Workshop with Strategic Partnership. Public consultation 19 Oct to 1 December.		
12	Warwick Road Safety Improvements	Concept proposals circulated to TTG. Works close to start, a requirement that funds need to be spent this year.		8.6.23 10.8.23
13	Tow Path improvement, Bishops Lane to Timothys Bridge Rd.	S106 Funding available from Bishopton Housing development. SDC negotiating with Canal & Rivers Trust to do the work.	SDC	12.10.23