

Sheffield Transport 4 All 22nd October 2020
Held by Zoom

Welcome & Apologies

Present

James Martin (JM) – Meeting Chair
Lee Harker (LH)
Craig Williams (CW)
Bluebell Evans (BE) – Better Journeys
Chris Frolish (CF) - SCC Adult Social Care
Simon Middleton (SM) – First Bus
Kevin Sharp (KS) – Stagecoach Bus
Nigel Wragg (NW) – Stagecoach Supertram
David Boden (DB) – TM Travel
Craig Alexander (CA) – Northern Rail
Councillor Ian Auckland (IA)
Councillor Douglas Johnson (DJ)
Paula Turner (PT) – SYPTE
Cate Jockel (CJ) – SCC Transport Planning
Simon Ovenden (SO) – SCC Access Officer
Leigh Bramall (LB) – Counter Context – item 2
Kath Horner (KH) – Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance – item 3
Simon Botterill (SB) – SCC Transport & Traffic – item 4

Apologies

Shel Turner (MT) – Chair (unwell)
Emily Morton (EM) – Disability Sheffield
Craig Harper (CH) – SCC Taxi Licensing

1. Note of previous T4A meeting

Note of meeting on 23rd July (joint with ALG) was agreed.

2. Connecting Sheffield & intro to the 'Transforming Cities Fund' programme

LB was introduced to the meeting: Counter Context has been appointed to assist SCC with communications and consultation on the Transforming Cities Fund programme which is part (the first part) of 'Connecting Sheffield'. LB took us through a presentation.

Points made in discussion afterwards:

IA: comprehensive presentation. Notes need for all infrastructure to be accessible. Hopes that scope for qualitative improvements to bus stops & other street furniture.
JM: concerns about the consultation – surveys are not good for group responses. Flagged the SCR Bus Review survey as a bad example. LB responded that there will be a variety of ways to input & this will include more discussion with T4A/ALG.
JM: noted some issues with the current temporary bus stop arrangements, both in terms of accessibility and with change per se – any change can be very disruptive to some people and the process needs to be very well thought through.

KH reiterated the point about how change is handled: this is really important for people with dementia.

JM asked whether Nether Edge cycle improvements might displace people from bus to bike and impact the viability of the bus service. CJ responded that possible impacts such as this were being assessed. SM thought it was unlikely to be significant.

Presentation will be circulated to the group afterwards along with further info on how to find out more. Thanks to LB.

CF & DJ left the meeting at this point.

3. Sheffield Dementia Action Alliance

KH introduced the Alliance: set up in 2012 with about 80 organisations as members, including SCC, to establish Sheffield as a 'dementia-friendly' city. Sheffield was one of the 1st cities to agree this as an aim. The Alliance is there to include people with dementia & their carers & enable their voices to be heard.

In relation to transport, the Alliance is in discussions with SYPTTE and operators. About 70 bus drivers, community transport & taxi drivers are going to be trained. NW said that Supertram would like to be included too (previously trained staff have left). PT said that SYPTTE staff had previously had some dementia training but again it could do spreading to other staff: she would put Kath in touch with HR.

Driver training discussed. DB noted that drivers get 35 hours of training as part of their CPC & the modules that make it up are long overdue a significant overhaul in his view. They are accredited by JAUPT (Joint Approvals Unit). DB is happy to work with Kath & the Alliance to see how to take this forward.

KH noted that people were travelling less since March, especially into the city centre, & she hoped that covid recovery plans, and any changes needed as part of those, would be designed to build confidence for the future, make improvements for disabled service users and take on board accessibility issues raised to the Mayor's Bus Review.

The Alliance has started work with 'Go Upstream' & the Future Journeys Observatory, where people meet each other for inspiration and to share ideas. There may be an opportunity to run a Sheffield Observatory in November as an online discussion forum.

Collaboration with T4A after today: KH to send any info to JM and CJ. CJ to add KH to the T4A mailing list.

4. Pavement parking – Government consultation

JM is keen that Disability Sheffield/ALG/T4A submit a response to this consultation from the Department for Transport (DfT) which sets out a few options for ways to tackle pavement parking: closing date for responses is late Nov. LH and CW offered to work with JM on this.

There are 3 options in the document:

- 1) Improve the existing TRO system: would be slow & time-consuming. (NB Noted that SCC is using the existing system to progress a TRO to tackle pavement parking on public highway in the city centre).
- 2) Allow local authorities that have civil parking enforcement (CPE) powers (includes SCC) to enforce against 'unnecessary obstruction of the pavement'. This would need an SCC policy to define the 'unnecessary obstruction' that would be an offence. But then could deal with hotspots quickly.
- 3) A national pavement parking ban with exemptions for individual streets where it would be allowed: this would mean that SCC would need to survey all streets & sign areas where parking was permitted – so lots of time & signs.

Discussion:

NW: drawback with (3) is that Sheffield has many terraced streets without parking & if no parking on the pavement is allowed then the emergency services, bin lorries etc will struggle to access. Education is what's needed rather than criminalisation.

IA: how bad is the situation? Is (3) a fix to a problem that isn't bad enough to need it?

JM noted that London Boroughs have option (3) already.

SB noted that this has been implemented slowly over c.20 years. Noted that London has lower car ownership & better public transport, so in a different position.

There are certain locations where pavement parking can be a particular problem: one is bus stops (where shouldn't be parking on or off the pavement) and some taxi drivers are particular offenders in certain locations. SM noted that the operators are working with SY Police, SCC Parking Services & Taxi Licensing to tackle this.

PT noted that pavement parking is complex – e.g. what is the pavement? There can be large forecourts in front of shops & businesses in quite a few places – this is not pavement.

Would Option (2) have exemptions as to who could obstruct? E.g. emergency services? How distinguish between parking and drop-off/pick-up? Delivery drivers shouldn't be able to park anywhere they like for 20 mins. Whereas community transport vehicles need to be able to stop where people want to get on & off.

[Post-meeting note: Further discussion at the Access Liaison Group refined the response]

5. AOB

- 1) The Group sends its' regards to Shel.
- 2) JM reported that he has been appointed as part-time Engagement and Policy Worker for Disability Sheffield. He is happy to continue as T4A Vice-Chair for the moment. Congrats to JM from the group.
- 3) Concrete blocks on Fargate: these are counter-terrorism measures which pre-date & are separate from covid-19 measures. JM has raised concerned about these not being visible which have not been dealt with.

- 4) Future of bus services: DB noted that there is currently Government support - but what happens afterwards? Demand will not immediately return to previous levels. DB is representing Yorkshire on a CPT commission looking at this.
- 5) ORR Accessible Transport Policy: JM noted that this has been updated following a consultation on rail replacement services that the group contributed to, so this is now on a good trajectory.
- 6) Tram: PT noted that SYPTTE is running a survey to see what people think about accessing the tram. NW noted that this year is the tram's 25th anniversary & there would have been celebrations if not for covid. Ref covid, the Government has announced another 3 months' support today. NW also reported that one team is having to isolate due to a positive test – so the timetable has had to be temporarily revised.

6. Next meeting

Dates for 2021 are:

January 28th – this one will be online by zoom

April 22nd

July 22nd

October 21st