

Great Yarmouth Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group

Minutes

Wednesday, 25 January 2017 at 14:30

Present :

Councillor B Coleman (in the chair)

County Councillors Castle and Plant

Mrs J Beck (Director of Customer Services), Mr D Glason (Group Manager, Growth), Mr I Parkes (Senior Infrastructure Growth Planner), Mr T Armstrong (Infrastructure and Economic Growth Manager) , Mr D Wardale (Project Engineer) and Mrs S Wintle (Member Services Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received at the meeting.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14 July 2016 were confirmed subject

to an amendment to item 6 in relation to the connection at Gapton Hall to state that there had been no desire from the bus company to run the scheme.

4 GREAT YARMOUTH RAIL STATION TO MARKET PLACE IMPROVEMENT AND HIGH LEVEL PLAN FOR CONGESTION SCHEMES

The Committee received and considered the Officer's report which detailed the progress on the delivery of some key transport interventions in Great Yarmouth funded from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) Growth Fund.

Great Yarmouth Rail Station to Market Place Improvement

Norfolk County Council's Senior Infrastructure and Growth Planner reported that work had been undertaken to devise a scheme which accords with the emerging Town Centre Masterplan.

Members attention was drawn to paragraphs 1.4 and 1.5 within the report which highlighted issues Members might like to consider in relation to the balance of priority between the different modes and how some of the money could help to lever in other funding to renovate the remainder of Vauxhall Bridge.

In discussing the items the following issues were raised :-

- The linkage between the Town Centre Masterplan and the proposed consultation
- Narrowing of lanes at North Quay - Clarity sought as to reason for proposal
- Volume of traffic
- Higher volume of car traffic than pedestrian and cycle traffic

The Group Manager Growth advised that the Town Centre Master Plan showed this proposal at a strategic level and the detailed Great Yarmouth Rail Station to Market Place improvement plans were aligned in relation to content but would have separate consultation processes.

The Project Engineer advised that the consultation process would be open for a four week period commencing from 13 February until 10 March 2017. He sought clarity from Members as to whether they wanted the consultation plans to be amended to show a less of a narrowing for general traffic on North Quay at it's junction with the Conge.

High Level Plan for Congestion Schemes

The Senior Infrastructure and Growth Planner reported that the NALEP Growth Fund also included Great Yarmouth Town Centre congestion relief projects and the A149 Asda junction / Fullers Hill in relation to congestion

improvement schemes. He advised that the bid had been successful and in total some £3.3m has been allocated to congestion relieving schemes. Members attention was drawn to paragraph 2.4 which advised Members that there was significant funding for large schemes that have had no previous feasibility or development work. This meant that a lot of work needs to be carried out as soon as possible to be able to construct these improvements to the NALEP funding profile.

In discussing the report the following issues were raised :-

- Councillor Plant proposed that a potential roundabout be created at the junction of the Gapton Hall Retail park to alleviate congestion, and the Senior Infrastructure and Growth Planner advised that he would look in to this matter.
- Pasteur Road retail properties access / exit routes
- The need for the entrance in to the town centre (via Nottingham Way) to be addressed
- The need for adequate signposting
- Highways England were to investigate the possibility of an installation of a walkover on Middleton Road, Gorleston. It was suggested that there was a need for a pedestrian crossing within the same vicinity.

Councillor Castle suggested that a mini bus tour be arranged for the Committee to establish areas in which monies could be spent in and around the Town Centre. The Director of Customer Services agreed to arrange this visit on behalf of the Steering Group.

With regard to the £2.4m allocation for Sustainable Transport measures, the Senior Infrastructure and Growth Planner reported that issues and opportunities had been discussed and agreed by Officers of the Working Group in order to devise a list of possible improvement schemes. These schemes would then be considered by the Working Group and brought back to the Steering Group.

The Infrastructure and Economic Growth Manager drew Members attention to paragraph 2.12 of the report and pointed out that the NALEP funding was becoming more difficult to transfer forward to the next financial year. Therefore, there is a pressing need to complete the work and a need to prioritise projects and spending.

RESOLVED :-

(1) That the Steering Group note the contents of the report and agree the Great Yarmouth Rail Station to Market Place Improvement plans subject to amendments to make the proposed plans more vehicle focused.

(2) That the Steering Group note the contents of the report in respect of the congestion and Sustainable Transport schemes.

5 THIRD RIVER CROSSING

The Group Manager Growth and Senior Infrastructure and Growth Planner provided Members with an update on the Third River Crossing position, he advised that the project had been successful in bidding to the Local Majors funding pot for £1.2M. A full business case was due to be submitted by the 31 March 2017 with an outcome anticipated before the Summer recess.

6 BUS LINK TO PASTEUR ROAD

The Steering Group received and considered the report in relation to the Bus Link to Pasteur Road.

County Councillor Castle advised Members that Iain Rankine of First Bus had attended a meeting of the Yarmouth Area Committee and that the following points had been made clear to the Committee :-

1. Such a service at least in the first instance would require some form of support – some form of financial contribution from businesses, school or via a council subsidy
2. Infrastructure would need to be put in place in terms of safe stopping places on Pasteur Road and Gapton Hall Road
3. It would be totally impractical for buses to enter the retail parks themselves i.e. access would need to be from the main roads

County Councillor Plant reported that the relevant Bus Companies had been spoken to on numerous occasions with regard to this matter and to date no further action had been taken, he stated that there was a need for a bus company to run a trial period of the proposed linkage prior to any funding being considered.

County Councillor Castle stated that only 45% of residents within his ward area had car ownership, therefore the need for a linkage bus route was imperative to be able to access out of town retail units.

The Senior Infrastructure and Growth Planner advised that this matter could be investigated as part of the Sustainable Transport Schemes, it was therefore suggested that the matter be deferred until the next meeting.

RESOLVED :-

That the matter in relation to Bus link to Pasteur Road be deferred to the next meeting of the Great Yarmouth Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group.

7 REVIEW OF TOWN CENTRE

The Steering Group received and considered County Councillor Castle's report in respect of a review of Town Centre time limited, 24 hour and anomalous free on-street parking.

The Director of Customer Services reported in relation to Taxi Ranks and that most recent issues surrounding Trafalgar Road, Great Yarmouth were being investigated and that consultations were underway with Taxi Drivers.

County Councillor Plant stated that there was a need for a definitive cost to be calculated in relation to this matter and requested that a map be brought back to the Steering Group highlighting the areas that needed to be addressed.

The Senior Infrastructure and Growth Planner reported that a review of Town Centre time limited, 24 hour and anomalous free on-street parking could be added to the identified needs list in relation to the transport scheme.

RESOLVED :

That the Steering Group propose a scheme to review the parking situation, devise a new regime and determine traffic orders necessary to make the changes, is considered in the list of schemes for prioritisation under the £2.4m allocation for Sustainable Transport measures.

8 GREAT YARMOUTH CCTV CAMERAS

The Director of Customer Services summarised a report from Jonathon Newman, General Manager for the Town Community Safety Company (Great Yarmouth) Ltd which asked the Steering Group to consider recommending to Norfolk County Council the continuation of funding for Great Yarmouth CCTV cameras.

In discussing this matter, it was pointed out that available monies from car parking surplus had reduced considerably, and that it was felt the proposals would not meet the criteria for funding.

RESOLVED :

That the proposals be sent to the Civil Parking Enforcement Board at Norfolk County Council for consideration.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Group Manager Growth reported for information on a Highways England Public Consultation that was due to take place in March 2017 in relation to a series of significant schemes along the A12, including Vauxhall, Gaptown and Harfreys Roundabouts..

The meeting ended at: 16:00