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CARLISLE AREA TRANSPORT ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Carlisle Area Transport Advisory Group held on Friday 24 January 2002 at 11.30 am at The Courts, Carlisle.

PRESENT

Mr J Mallinson (Chairman)

Mr R E F Aldersey	-	Cumbria County Council
Ms D Brewis	-	Cumbria Cycling Panel
Mr W Casey	-	Carlisle Taxi Association
Mr V Dodd	-	Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
Mr G Earl	-	Carlisle Taxi Association
Mr L Fisher	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr J Guest	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr R Hindson	-	Cumbria Police
Ms J Holland	-	Carlisle Parish Councils' Association
Mr H McDevitt	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr W McPhael	-	Stagecoach
Mr D Morton	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr J R D Robinson	-	Cumbria County Council

Officers in Attendance:-

Mr K B Poole	-	Carlisle City Council
Mr D Sheard	-	Cumbria County Council Area Support Manager
Mr J Smith	-	Cumbria County Council Area Engineer
Mrs L M Graham	-	Member Services Unit

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Adams, Mr M Battersby, Mr G Prest (substitute Mr D Morton), Mr M Mitchelson, Mrs C Rutherford (substitute Mr H McDevitt), Mr C Southward, Mr R Watson and Ms J Wyberd.

The Group agreed to consider an additional item of business – the operation and Terms of Reference of the Area Transport Advisory Group.

28. MINUTES

Subject to the:-

- The deletion of the word "local" from the first paragraph of Minute No 21
- The deletion of the words "from the" from line 5 of the second paragraph of Minute No 24

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 2 October 2002 were agreed as a correct record.

Further to Minute No 18 the Area Engineer advised that discussions concerning the Alleygator Project were continuing between the Legal Services Unit and the Home Office. A further report would be brought to the next meeting of this Group. A further report was also required on a report to the previous meeting regarding initial "Potential Modifications to Existing Traffic Orders" and this report would be brought to the next but one meeting of the Group.

Further to Minute 20(1) – Petition - Kentmere Grove - following a request from Mr Aldersey the Group agreed that the Local Committee should be asked to reconsider the situation in relation to the request to close the public right of way leading from Kentmere Grove to Newlaithes Avenue.

AGREED, that Carlisle Local Committee be **RECOMMENDED** to reconsider the closure of the cut leading from Kentmere Grove to Newlaithes Avenue.
(Note – this will have financial implications).

Further to Minute No 21(2) – Parking Petition - Threave Court - Cumbria Police had been asked to provide no waiting zones on match days and this appeared to have eased the problems being experienced by residents of Threave Court.

At the request of Members the Area Engineer updated the Group on progress with the Carlisle City Centre Bus/Rail Interchange Scheme and the proposed crossing at the Kingstown Road/Lowry Hill Road junction. Both of these issues were to be considered further at the next meeting of the Local Committee and the Area Engineer undertook to seek feedback from the Cumbria Cycle Panel on the City Centre Bus/Interchange Scheme. In general it was noted that there was a requirement to feed back issues considered by the Working Group following their consideration by the Local Committee.

29. 2003/04 LOCAL TRANSPORT CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SETTLEMENT – PROGRAMME FOR 2003/04

A report by the Director of Community, Economy and Environment advised Members of the Local Transport Capital Settlement received by the County Council for 2003/04 and requested the views of the Group on the proposed schemes. The Area Engineer reminded Members that the Government expected the County Council to consider, in advance, how traffic space could be reallocated once the CNDR was open; this should include more use of bus priority measures eg bus lanes.

Mr Poole reported the City Council's concern that the points system used for prioritising schemes gave very little priority to works which the general public most often requested eg parking bays and lighting improvements. The Area Engineer explained that such works fell outside the criteria set for the County Council by the Government for works under the

Local Transport Plan and that the Council was in danger of receiving a reduced grant settlement if it did not strive to meet the Government's criteria.

Mr Aldersey pointed out that the lack of parking bays on housing estate roads meant that parked cars would impede the smooth passage of buses thereby disrupting public transport. Mr Dodd advised the Group that the local business community had serious concerns regarding the level of traffic congestion and delays to public transport being experienced in the city at the present time. In order to ease congestion local businesses had suggested that the proposed park and ride schemes should be progressed at a quicker rate than was currently proposed.

On behalf of the taxi community Mr Casey requested that more consideration be given to the use of bus lanes by taxis. (This was an issue which would be considered later during the meeting in relation to the Lowther Street bus gate).

Ms Brewis suggested that a higher priority be given to ensuring safe cycle routes were provided as this would encourage more cyclists to leave their cars at home and thereby reduce some congestion.

It was

AGREED, that

- (1) Carlisle Local Committee be advised that whilst the priorities set out by the Government were recognised, the Group was concerned that those priorities often prevented issues of greatest concern to the local community eg parking bays and lighting being addressed.
- (2) The Group notes that the Government advises that issues such as park and ride and bus priority schemes should be addressed in advance of the CNDR project.
- (3) A report on park and ride be submitted to a future meeting of the Group.

30. CUMBRIA CYCLE PANEL

A report by the Director of Community, Economy and Environment advised the Group of the establishment of a Cumbria Cycle Panel which would give advice to the County Council on cycle related issues. The newly formed Cumbria Cycle Panel replaced the former County Council Cycling Forum and its attendant advisory groups. In future the Panel would be the single body to advise the County Council on its cycling policies on strategies and to advise on transport projects and proposals from a cycling perspective. Ms D Brewis was the representative on the Group from the Carlisle ATAG.

Ms Brewis advised that one of the issues in which the Cycle Panel would be involved was the type of cycle lane to be provided. This was an issue in the Carlisle area and there were concerns about the size in which the cycle lanes recently provided in the city. It was

AGREED, that the report be noted.

31. PARKING ON DENTON STREET, DENTON HOLME, CARLISLE

The Group considered a request by the City Council Member for Denton Holme for the provision of parking bays on Denton Street to enable people visiting the local shops and offices to be able to park without obstructing through traffic. Mr McDevitt advised that there was currently a problem in Denton Street caused by disabled drivers parking on double yellow lines which often caused congestion for passing traffic. A member of the Group suggested that the parking time in the bays be set at 20 minutes however Mr McDevitt advised that the businesses in Denton Holme had not requested a 20 minutes parking time and it was assumed that the current parking time of 2 hours would be preferred.

AGREED, that Carlisle Local Committee be **RECOMMENDED** to consider providing parking bays on Denton Street, Denton Holme. (Note – this will have financial implications) (Copy of report attached)

32. USE OF LOWTHER STREET BUS GATE BY TAXIS

Mr Casey asked that consideration be given to allowing hackney carriages to use the Lowther Street bus gate. As taxis were not currently allowed to use the bus gate this resulted in longer journeys for passengers and longer waiting time for those customers who had called a taxi.

In discussing the request Members noted the number of private vehicles which were currently using the bus gate who were not deterred from doing so due to a lack of policing. In general Members of the Group were in favour of allowing hackney carriages (not private hire cars) passage through the bus gate. Accordingly it was

AGREED, that Carlisle Local Committee be **RECOMMENDED** that consideration be given to taxis (ie hackney carriages only) being allowed to use the Lowther Street bus gate (Note – this will have financial implications) and the Local Committee be asked to note the concerns of the Working Group regarding the number of private motorists currently using the bus gate illegally

33. FUTURE OPERATION OF THE ATAG

The Director of Community, Economy and Environment advised Members that since the Carlisle Transport Steering Group had been replaced by the Carlisle Area Transport Advisory Group there had been a change in the Terms of Reference of the Group. The Terms of Reference of the ATAG were quite specific and related only to strategic issues. There had been some concerns expressed by Members of the Group that issues of general concern regarding the highways in the Carlisle area could not be discussed under the current Terms of Reference of the ATAG. Members of the Group felt that in the spirit of partnership working throughout the city it was important that issues of common interest could be discussed.

The Area Support Manager advised that he was currently in discussions with the City Council regarding the possible setting up of an alternative group to consider issues which

were of joint interest between both Councils. In relation to the operation of the ATAG he confirmed that a monitoring report detailing an update on progress on any issues discussed at meetings of the ATAG would be prepared for each meeting. The Terms of Reference of the ATAG provided for a maximum of four meetings per year and Members of the Group felt that this was probably a sufficient number of meetings even if the Terms of Reference were widened somewhat. Members agreed that there should be a wider involvement of the membership of the ATAG in agenda setting.

AGREED, that

- (1) the Carlisle Area Transport Advisory Group should meet at least 3 times a year with Members of the Group being fully involved with the setting of agenda for meetings.
- (2) A monitoring report providing an update on decisions taken at previous meetings be submitted to each future meeting of the Group
- (3) The discussions regarding a separate meeting between the City Council Executive and representatives from the Local Committee to consider matters of joint interest be welcomed.

34. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED, that the next meeting of the Group be held on Thursday 10 April 2002 commencing at 9.30 am at The Courts, Carlisle. An issue for the agenda for the next meeting would be Cycling and Better Ways to Schools.

The meeting ended 2.05 pm

LMG/LH