

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bus Services Working Party meeting held on
Tuesday 13th August 2024 at 5.00pm
in MakeSpace, 2 Riverside Terrace, Keynsham

PRESENT: Councillors D Biddleston, A Greenfield and M Burton (Substitute for Cllr Cannon)

IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Drury - Town Clerk

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received and accepted from Councillors Alex Beaumont (who connected via Teams to listen in on the discussions) and E Cannon.

12. NOT PRESENT

To note that Cllr D Brassington was not present.

13. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

(i) That the minutes of the last meeting held on 30th April 2024 be confirmed as a true record, with an amendment to include that Cllr Biddleston was elected as Vice Chair to the Working Party.

(ii) That with this amendment the Minutes be signed by the Vice-Chair.

14. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That a Doodle poll be sent out to ascertain a date and time for the next Working Party meeting to be held at the end of September 2024.

15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

In accordance with Standing Order 3(d) to RESOLVE that pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the matter to be transacted agenda item 5 to progress financial & sensitive issues.

16. UPDATE - KEYNSHAM BUS SERVICE

The following was reported:

- Despite months of meetings and exchanges of emails, discussing routes, financials and logistics of setting up a Bus Service, that a week before a major Royal Mail drop to every household in Keynsham (postcodes BS31 1 and BS31 2) that permissions are not granted for the route around one estate in Keynsham South and excluding two pick up points. This information has come to the Council with no reason as to why this decision has been made.
- It has been confirmed that a Section 38 Agreement for the Bloor Development was formalised, at the beginning of the week of 22nd July. This included adoption of the roads. Whilst roads in Somerdale still remain unadopted.
- One of the reasons that the Bus Service was instigated and a submission bid made was due to the fact that Section 106 funding has been allocated for buses to serve this area of town.
- Access to roads within the whole, proposed planned circular bus route have been tried and tested by the Council's appointed Bus Service provider and no issues were highlighted.
- Information from the Council's proposed Bus Service provider reported that he had met with the Head of Transport back in March and he seemed happy with the route proposed. The Bus Service Provider informed the Council that there is already a layby where a bus could wait out of the way, safely and pick up passengers on the estate in question.
- A suggestion was made to remind B&NES Council of their Climate Emergency commitment to zero carbon neutral by 2030 and to highlight to B&NES Council the Government's recognition of loneliness as a major public health issue.
- There are sections of the route that don't have physical stops, the Service is going to operate hail & ride initially. The Bus Service Provider is going to supply a list of locations where a stop could be located. Once supplied, B&NES will look at the locations and confirm if it will be possible to have a flag and case on a lamp column, install a pole, etc. and supply a cost for the work to WESTLocal. There are to be no new bus shelters.
- The Town Clerk will write to the Bus Service provider to get confirmation of the agreed stop locations and finalised prices which are hoped to be standardised similar to Paulton's.
- The Marketing and Communication Officer from WECA has contacted the Council requesting information (130 words only and a photo) on the Keynsham bus scheme, including things such as how the community worked to design the route and additional information that may be important for the community to know. This will form part of a folded leaflet and will explain what WestLocal is, give a route map and timetable which will mention vehicle accessibility and the bus fare. The Town Council's submission needs to be with WECA by the morning of Thursday 15th August 2024, so that it can go to print, then be delivered to the Royal Mail Swindon Mail

Centre, before returning to Keynsham for delivery to all residents before the launch of the Service.

Due to the urgency of this matter and the need for a quick turn around on decisions, so that the correct information can be communicated to our community, and there being absolutely no time to get this matter before full Council those present agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Biddleston, as Vice Chair write to B&NES expressing concerns about the route change and disappointment at not communicating this message before now.

A suggestion was also made that B&NES Ward Councillors contact the Cabinet member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel in respect of this matter.

The meeting finished at 10.40 a.m.

Signed (Chairman) Dated

DRAFT