

# Haslemere Vision : Transport Group

## Notes on meeting 7 held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 at 7:30

**Present:** Nikki Barton, Stephen Bennett, David Boyd, Ken Griffiths, Cyndy Lancaster, Stephen Mulliner, Marianne O'Brien, David O'Brien, David Round, Robert Serman, David Simmons, Richard Workman.

**Apologies:** Paul Megson, Andy Braithwaite.

**Absent:** Sandra McHugh, Chloe Nash, Dominic Walton.

**Chairman:** David Round, who also took notes of the meeting.

**1. Minutes of Meeting 6 (11/12/13).** They had been circulated and were approved. Attention was drawn to the fact that they were, in part, critical of some aspects of the Vision and would be put into the public domain. Nevertheless this was approved. No matters arose. Nikki Barton arrived.

**2. Identifying alternative Haslemere Futures.** Resolution of this subject had eluded us at a previous meeting and it was noted that the Steering Group too had found it hard to advise. The quest to find *alternative* futures was dropped, recognising that many *aspects* of life in Haslemere would change. While none of these might represent significant change, they were likely to occur. It was likely that there would be more business related to tourism, particularly as the Town is now seen as a gateway to the South Downs National Park (SDNP). We would need bus services to the SDNP as well as to NT areas. There were opportunities for electric bikes. There would be more B&Bs serving tourists. Many walkers would see Haslemere as a destination. Many arrive by train from London. We could explore the provision of more cycling and walking routes in the surrounding countryside. Large scale maps or information boards should be provided for tourists. Some of these issues relate more to the Culture Group than Transport specifically.

**3. Commuter questionnaire.** This was revisited. The chairman had previously circulated a first attempt, together with a paper on questionnaires from a specialist (Adam Phillips) who had helped the town before. David Boyd tabled a new version where he had covered all aspects of local travel to the station – not just those who drove and parked. This was welcomed as it would be useful to view all the different ways in which people arrived at the Station. We needed to include **park-and-ride** (even though some thought it unlikely to appeal – in terms of economic viability and attractiveness) and also **Taxis**, and **kiss-and-ride** (to be encouraged!). Nikki Barton said that SCC (Surrey) was beginning to discuss conducting a serious survey of car traffic within Haslemere. We wondered if we should defer to such a more professional study, but the Group decided to continue with it's own plan for a questionnaire which would be highly focussed as a simple "car parking commuter" survey (and the other modes mentioned above). We agreed to create a small group to take this further – David Boyd, David Round and Stephen Mulliner.

(Subsequent to the meeting, Paul Megson (who could not attend the meeting) intended to join too. The original group of 3 actually met Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. We are managing to get the questionnaire both comprehensive and squeezed down to A5).

**Action: Davids Boyd and Round, Stephen Mulliner**

**4. Planning our displays to the public.** This will happen at some time and we were keen to have a stand at the Charter Fair in early May, it being too good an opportunity to miss. We stressed that the Vision as a whole should appear but, if necessary, we should like to appear anyway to test Transport ideas on the public. (The Steering Group met the following evening and agreed to take a double-stand.) David O'Brien kindly agreed to develop ideas on the overall style of what we presented. All of us would contribute work on the displays for the stand.

**Action: David O'Brien and all later**

**5. Outlying areas transport concerns.** We wondered what had happened to the Beacon Hill consultation? DVR to investigate. We were not aware of any particular transport issues concerning the outlying villages. There might be some when the “Syngenta” site was developed – Robert Serman said he would try to find out the position. David Boyd said he might be able to find out if there were any concerns regarding transport to/from schools.

**Action: David Round (Beacon Hill); Robert Serman (Syngenta); David Boyd (schools)**

**6. Buses.** Some time was spent discussing bus services. All of us appreciated they were necessary for the elderly (who choose no longer to drive); for those who do not drive, for school children and also for tourists, but we also observed that buses are not used as much as they used to be and frequently run almost empty. Often they were not used because they do not run early or late enough – or even go to the right places. Some were full in rush hours, but empty during the rest of the day. Marianne O’Brien is an expert on local bus services and she thought that on the whole there was not much that needed to be done to improve them. However, all agreed that the usage of bus services would increase if they were better publicised, and particularly if there were real-time displays at bus stops showing the arrival time of the next bus etc. Apparently bus usage had increased a great deal where these displays had been implemented. This would be the responsibility of SCC rather than WBC.

We had already identified the need to re-design the “*transportation interchange hub*” at the railway station.

It would help if there were more bus shelters. Companies such as “*Adshell*” can supply them free of charge, in return for the advertising they carry. Haslemere was apparently not in favour of using them a few years ago. Maybe the subject should be re-visited.

**7. AOB** The Steering Group having encouraged this, we decided to drop from the circulation list those two members who had never attended meetings nor participated in the email debates.

### **8. Next Meeting**

**No date was fixed.** The sub-group would meet concerning the commuter parking questionnaire, and more guidance was expected soon from the Steering Group regarding our next task concerning the overlap of ideas and options between different Work Groups.

DVR 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014