

Report on Transport and Accessibility Forum

Date: 10th February 2016

Venue; St Margaret's Hall, Bradford on Avon

Back ground

During the course of 2015 the Seniors Forum held a number of "Age Matters" events at which members were invited to express their concerns and issues that affect and have impact upon their everyday lives.

These events demonstrated unequivocally that there were major concerns with transport and ability to access areas of the Town in relative safety.

The Seniors Forum decided to devote a single event to the issues surrounding transport and accessibility.

In order to broaden its engagement with the wider community the Seniors Forum hosted the event in conjunction with the Bradford on Avon Area Board and the Bradford on Avon Town Council.

Approach

As many interested groups as possible from the Town were invited to attend and participate in the Forum.

Topics for discussion were identified from the previous feedback received from the Age Matters events.

Key note speakers were invited to address the Forum on subject of ongoing Public Transport Review

Inaugural showing of Disability Film demonstrating problems of access around Town for disabled people

Round table discussions on identified topics with a view to identifying main issues and building consensus on the issues that need addressing.

Attendance

Circa 100 people attended.

The following table demonstrates those groups who attended and actively participated

Members of the Area Board	Bradford on Avon Business
Members of Bradford on Avon Town Council	Preservation Trust
Wiltshire Police	Air Quality Alliance
Fire Brigade	White Stripe
Bradford on Avon Health Centre	20's Plenty
Bradford on Avon Link Scheme	Representatives of Wiltshire Council

A list of attendees has been compiled to enable subsequent feedback on progress to address issues identified

Topics

The following table demonstrates those topics that were identified for discussion along with the relevant facilitator.

Facilitators were briefed prior to the event to ensure consistency of approach.

Topic	Facilitator
Pedestrian Safety	Trevor Bedeman
Disability Access	Eamon McLelland
Air Quality	Peter Dunford
Traffic Congestion	Mike Roberts
School Travel / Walking	Sue Kershaw
River Crossings	Magnus McDonald
Public Passenger Transport	Horace Prickett
Parking	Tony Monks

Feedback on round table discussions was captured on flip chart paper and has been retained.

Summary of Main Findings

The table below identifies the main issues to emerge from the round table discussions.

Main Issues identified
Station Approach and Frome Road Area is in need of being made safer for users of all types and age
A lift is needed at station to allow disabled and elderly to access both platforms
Increase support for Lorry Watch to minimise HGV traffic
Almost unanimous support for one way system to potentially alleviate congestion and improve air quality
Lack of formal crossings on school routes through Town
Broad support for additional footbridge from Library car park to Lambs Yard area at narrowest point of river
Strong support for retaining Town Bus as well as 265 service linking Trowbridge – Bradford on Avon - Bath
Lack of adequate parking in station area and north of the river

It should be emphasized that these were the main issues which emerged and for which there was general agreement that these were the priority issues to be addressed.

There were however a variety of other issues raised and these are recorded in a separate issues list supplementary to this report.

Comment

The whole objective of the Forum was to identify the main issues around transport and accessibility in Bradford on Avon which need to be addressed.

The Forum was well attended by a good cross section of the Town and its representatives. Whilst the attendees do not in themselves provide a mandate for change they did provide a more than useful snapshot of the general views and concerns of residents.

The format succeeded in prioritising the issues and should be viewed with confidence as a platform for driving through positive change.

Next Steps

We should now press for resolution of the issues identified and prioritised

An Action Plan should be drawn up to identify how those issues should be addressed

Any Action Plan needs to be time framed and regularly reviewed to assess progress

Communications are vital to ensure that people know what is happening and ensure wide engagement

Identify any quick fixes to provide positive message and confidence that issues are being addressed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ISSUES LIST

TOPIC	ISSUE
Town Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous for pedestrians • Potentially damages economy • Discourages visitors • Anecdotal evidence of people being hit by wing mirrors
McKeever Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradient is quite steep. • Surface becomes dangerous in icy weather. • Access blocked when area floods
Additional footbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an alternative means of safely crossing river • Better access to businesses and residents in Kingston Mill area
Lorry Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many HGVs crossing Town Bridge • Better support needed for Lorry Watch
Traffic Congestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow of traffic around Town potentially alleviated by a one way system • Long Term Bypass should be considered • Access for Emergency Vehicles
Disability Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazardous steps – consider highlighting • Potential improvements held back by conservation rules • Touch pad signage • Railway Station Area very hazardous • New build to take account of people with disability • Delivery / Construction traffic often leads to broken footpaths and obstruction
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient parking in Town • Potential cuts to bus provision will exacerbate problem • Station car park draws in commuters leaving little space for locals • Annual Tickets take up large portion of Station Car Park • Insufficient short term parking provision

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On street parking in areas away from Town centre leading to clogging of those areas • Insufficient signage for canal car park • Lack of Park and Ride scheme • Lack of parking north of bridge • Lack of enforcement for illegal / inconsiderate parking
School Travel / Walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow pavements • Lack of dropped kerbs • Traffic volume and speed • Lack of signage around Winsley Road / Bath Road area • No school crossing patrol at present • Moving vehicles mounting pavements on Ashley Road and Holt Road • Lack of pavements at junction of Springfield / Holt Road • No safe means of crossing at roundabout on Winsley Bypass • Wine Street / Winsley Road junction due to lack of crossing, speed and visibility • Train station area has no safe access routes for pedestrians • >50% of students and staff at secondary school live outside BOA • New Winsley Road crossing has some hazards e.g. bus stops on zebra crossing
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some contaminants are not being measured e.g. carbon monoxide • Impact on road side café culture • Volume of traffic • Lack of parking on north side of Town • Concerns that a one way system would increase speed of traffic • Any proposed one way system needs to take account of impact on air quality • Secondary school on one side of Town and supermarket on other side leads to more through traffic
Pedestrian Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station Approach / Frome Road area seen as particularly hazardous

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crossing Bath Road is hazardous for pedestrians of all ages• Excessive speed in some areas of Town• Need for better safety monitoring• Narrowness of Holt Road• Parking on pavements blocking access for pedestrians especially elderly and disabled• Budgens area unsafe when trying to cross road close to roundabout
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