

Summary of conclusions of GMPRG Local Transport Group Meeting

10/03/2020

Attendees: Anna Brazil; John Cadman (Chaired the meeting); Lynda Cook, South Heath resident; Bob Cox: John Gladwin, CDC Councillor; Peter Martin, BCC Councillor; Karen Pither, GMP Councillor; Barbara Rowett.

Apologies: Jeanette Hedley; Anne Kaneko; Simon Rhodes; **Other invitees:** Robert Gibson, Steve Burns.

Summary:

In the light of recent developments, the purpose of this meeting was to revise the scope of this group and to agree next steps.

The recent developments include:

1. Recent Government announcements about HS2 approval, plus 6 billion pound investment in bus services, plus the increasing public awareness of green issues makes this a good time to proceed.
2. Written support for our objectives from our local MP with regard to facilitation of funding and other matters.
3. Steve Burns, very experienced local bus operator, will advise the group where he can.

As a reminder, the **initial** group objectives were as follows:

1. To identify the demand for improving existing public transport and providing community transport within Great Missenden Parish during peak hours and off-peak hours.
2. To identify possible solutions to meet that demand (eg improved public bus service, provision of community bus, links with existing taxi firms, - Kingshill Couriers, Red Kite, "dial-a-ride", bus/train integration etc, eg PACT + 4x4 winter transport.
3. To get an overview of financial viability of the options, including public bus finances via councils, and the significance of cost to the users.
4. To consult with local transport providers on ways to meet the identified demand.

Revised scope/objectives

1. "Peak" and "Off-peak" solutions will be considered separately since they are different models.
2. School Transport provision and Parking solutions are out of scope.

3. A survey will be conducted to obtain evidence of demand for the viable options available, along the lines of the original objectives above. This is expected to be conducted in May/June. It will be predominantly on-line via GMPRG.
4. The group will attempt to recruit extra people with public transport expertise to take this forward.
5. Sources of funding from HS2 and the Government Bus initiative will be investigated.

Comment/next steps

The previous meeting in November concluded that progress on improving our very poor local bus service via Arriva alone will not happen and therefore the emphasis should be on alternative solutions. However recent Government announcements make this a good time to re-visit improving the bus service as well. The intention is to consult the public on what they would use via a survey. This will be targeted at commuters using Great Missenden station and as many local residents as possible. It will be heavily promoted via Great Missenden and Prestwood Village Associations, Great Missenden Revitalisation Group, The Source, GMPC and other local notice boards etc. It may also be beneficial for residents in outlying rural localities to promote the survey to ensure their needs are being covered, especially for off-peak needs.

This group has the support of GMPC and Bucks CC members, including Public Transport, and local village Associations. Now is the time to get wider public support for achieving the objectives. Without that support, nothing will happen. That will be the focus of the next steps.

1. PVA, GMVA, GMPRG to campaign for extra experienced people to join the group as soon as possible.
2. Circulate proposed survey questionnaire to interested parties for comment.
3. Obtain approval from GMPC and Chiltern Railways for the survey to be conducted.
4. Conduct the survey in May/June, assuming Corona Virus and HS2 works do not prevent this.
5. Peter Martin to investigate funding opportunities via Government initiative and HS2.

John Cadman

Group Leader for GMPRG

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