

Outer West Community Committee Workshop Notes

Venue: Pudsey Leisure Centre Date: 28th September 2016

Summary of the discussion

Bus challenges and solutions:

- An Oyster card system and integrated ticketing are seen as essential to running a modern bus system.
- Clear routes into the city centre required for faster buses and bus priority measures.
- Leeds does not have the flexibility of London which is often cited as having very good public transport and ticketing options. Transport for London can set the fares for themselves and are using contactless cards. Leeds is currently halfway to a smart card system but want to move to a flat fare, which is the next step. We are some time off not accepting cash, although over time less cash will be used to the point where system becomes cashless.
- There have been two recent meetings in Pudsey with the bus operators as a concern that the bus services are not acceptable. The keys to resolving issues with the buses are punctuality, flexibility, frequency and flat fares. If these elements work it should not matter who runs the service.
- Would like a bold, integrated system with clear routes and a mix of journeys with access to facilities.
- Many of the routes are radial i.e. straight into the City, whilst Orbital routes going around the City are very difficult to create viable bus services for.
- One fare system on buses/flat fare travel (London £1.50 for 1hrs worth of bus travel across multiple buses).
- Emulate London's one 'bus' operator (more one bus 'brand' than operator, as operators bid to run the services).
- Monday journeys are slow when all passengers buy their weekly ticket from the driver.
- Concerns over being able travel if card empty and fares not accepted on mode of transport.
- Park and rides required.
- Electric buses (leasing to operators if most appropriate method).
- Bus operators need to be held accountable.
- View that P&R should be for users from outside the city.

Rail challenges and solutions:

- Cottingley – (Western) – access to platform issue.
- More local rail stations (e.g. Armley/Wortley), as historically one in Wortley.
- If additional rail stations are built, need to create longer platforms and trains, to increase capacity.

General traffic issues and solutions:

- Better use of technology to inform journeys e.g. Pittsburgh – driverless Supercars.
- Look to Europe and consider new technologies e.g. electric car hire (Paris/Marseille).
- Workplace car parking scheme - like Nottingham?
- Need to induce people to use public transport.
- Even if highways improved it will just increase car usage and block up in 5 years.
- If space is taken away from cars – need to be signed up to it. Give members some confidence

- More thought needs to be given to integration between housing and transport.
- Businesses interacting in the area – transport an issue.
- Highway maintenance an issue.
- Look at reducing the impact on the wider network when an accident occurs (e.g. on IRR).
- Look to places like Manchester and Newcastle as exemplars and to learn lessons from other cities (UK and elsewhere).
- Consider travel FOR work, not just travel TO work.
- Public knowledge of bus networks and travel opportunities at district/county level is not great.
- Direct, frequent, fast journeys into Leeds (including the bus) providing an alternative for people who drive but should not need to.
- Can smartcard options include operator tickets?
- Real time updates on journeys and alterations (if needed) to all road users.
- Armley gyratory is a congestion hotspot.
- Signalise Five Lane Ends.
- There are too many cars – this causes the problems/issues, concern that increasing capacity will not remove cars, create passenger transport priority measures/lanes.
- Make roads better – induce users of cars to switch modes.
- Safety and security in dark areas – not feeling safe = changes in travel behaviours during winter months.
- Regeneration opportunities (e.g. Kirkstall Forge).
- Look to new technologies (e.g. Uber).
- Look at the potential and impacts of driverless cars.
- Be ambitious – sell the city and attract investment.
- Identify (now) unused infrastructure, and consider reusing it (new lease of life).
- River Aire crossings are bottlenecks, increase capacity of existing crossings and consider additional ones.

Local Pudsey issues raised:

- Concern expressed about the bus services in Pudsey.
- New Pudsey train station car park is often full.
- No bus service from train station in Pudsey.
- Interchange between bus and train at New Pudsey Station – there is no direct interchange at present (requires a 10 min walk). Transport hubs required to provide short point-to-point journey times.
- Walking/cycling access to New Pudsey Station from the south (currently through a field). Suggestion to put in a walk and cycle route to the station. (Further details on this scheme proposal submitted).
- Practical short term solutions to New Pudsey – made more secure / lighting / CCTV.
- Provision of more local railway stations at Wortley? Looking at stations with the £173.5 million although limited to economic growth areas e.g. Thorpe Park.
- The opening of local stations - costs approximately £10 million to build a station.
- Concern expressed about the bus services in Pudsey but also the consideration of additionally stopping and a longer journey time / sensitive about areas and numbers can use.
- Spend the money now – don't want the government to change its mind and to take it back.

