

## Community Bus Partnership – Route No. 55/56

### Notes of Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015

- The meeting was opened at 6.00pm with a welcome and introductions from the group
- Biddy Small from LCC Transport outlined the position in relation to the new style contract and outlined where we are in this process. Discussions were as follows:
  - The 55/56 will retain the same route and timetable as a starting point for the contract.
  - Centrebus will remain the Bus operator for this contract working to the new style Community Bus Partnership contract.
  - It will be possible for the Partnership to discuss reasonable changes to the route. Changes have to have -56 day notice.
  - The group then had brief discussions around the 'issues' currently identified with the route.
    - The need to get to Grantham v's Melton and the bias of the timetable.
    - The quality of Roadside Publicity (The Operator noted that this had already been identified including timetable design and simplification and the need for on-bus posters).
    - The use of, and lack of, bus stops.
    - Links and potential links with the No 8 bus (a commercial route). It was also noted that No 8 did not seem to be appearing on Leicestershire online information. The Operator asked the group to email [info@centrebus.com](mailto:info@centrebus.com) to report the problem.
    - Joint working with Lincolnshire County Council and cross border services. Biddy assured the group that Leicestershire is in contact with its neighbouring Authorities however they offer very different styles of service with Lincolnshire providing 'Call connect', a bookable service. Extending this service was suggested as part of the recent transport consultation however feedback was that this was not a popular option. The option for reconsidering this will be open to the Partnership.

- There are a large number of young people who use the route and it is important that they are engaged and informed.
  - General Communication along the route, including route maps, on bus posters, email groups, facebook page (perhaps converting the 'save the 55/56' page)
- The group moved on to discuss nominations for the 'core' group to take the partnership forward. Discussions were as follows:
  - Previous experience is not necessary and this does not have to be a permanent role.
  - There are lots of expertise/skills in the room
  - Needs identified from previous work carried out by community members is still available
  - The Partnership will have opportunities for involvement at two broad levels, the 'core partnership' to meet direct with the operator and LCC to take forward decisions on behalf of the community and 'friends' of the route who will support and feed into discussions and decisions in various ways.
  - All signed the register and gave permission for email data to be shared
- Following discussions seven people put themselves forward: Steven Vickers (Buckminster), Jill Arnold (Buckminster), Enid Woodcock (Buckminster), Rosie Thompson (Croxton Kerrial & Branston Parish Council), Sylvia Baxter(Sewstern), Alan McParson (Buckminster), Stephen Lambert (Buckminster) . Joe Starks (Sewstern) also offered to be a youth representative and consult on decisions etc from the route.
- The group approved and agreed that these people would act as the 'core' group to meet and discuss next steps on behalf of the communities.
- It was agreed that these 8 representatives plus the operator and LCC representative would meet in early February. LCC officers will look at the availability indicated by each person and suggest some dates, the date most people can make will be chosen.
- The agenda for the first meeting will include:
  - Deciding 'roles' within the partnership
  - Discussion around the route
  - Communication including:
    - The best methods of communicating the meetings outcomes to the wider community and best routes for the community to speak

directly to their partnership representatives. (Including young people)

- Communication along the route/roadside communication
- The outcomes from this February meeting will be communicated to the wider group via our original channels
- LCC will assist the core partnership group in arranging and running the February meeting
- The meeting closed at 7.20pm – Thanks were expressed to all involved and the group was encouraged to think about future ideas for the partnership and communicate with each other.