

Report Purpose:

Update from Community Transport Sub Committee

Author:

Town Clerk

Updates

The Town Clerk has put in a funding bid to the shared prosperity fund for 'Macc Ride Revolution' a bike loan scheme for £100,000. Decisions should be made by late October.

The Committee met on 8th August and the notes are below.

Community Transport Sub Committee Notes

8th August 2023

Present:

MTC Cllrs James Barber, David Edwardes, Ruth Thompson, Alift Harewood- Jones.

Invited: CEC Cllr Chris Hillard

1. Cllr James Barber was elected as Chair.
2. Cllr David Edwardes was elected as Vice Chair.
3. Review terms of Reference were reviewed and amendment added as follows:

Updated Scope and Purpose

Added point 6: Experts will be invited to the meeting as and when necessary, by the working group.

4. Review Actions from last meeting.
 - **Continue to promote the buses in Cheshire East and Flexi transport.** The Town Hall Team promoted £2 bus fares on social media and flexi transport. £2 fares continue and Flexilink will be invited to the meeting so the group can understand their offer. The Nantwich community transport runs and is funded very differently through the Department of Transport. A consultation for Flexilink will be taking place over the next few weeks.

Regular targeted routes on set days every week seem to work well e.g., from Knutsford to Handforth Dean. Discussed, is this something the Town Council could do with buses potentially to Lyme Green and Barracks Mill from town centre, however this is recognised as contentious. DE and LS to see how much a bus maybe.

- **DE to try and get data on buses.**

Group members to think about data they would want so we can fashion the questions.

- **Bus station improvements will hopefully be done as part of Britain in Bloom.**

Rangers have refurbished the pocket park and wildflowered the outside and it looks much better.

- **TC to approach CEC about what they spent their highways budget on.**

JB feedback that the budget was very restrictive. DE says it will be slightly easier hopefully this year. DE spent his budget last year on filling 42 pot holes.

- **To approach Elov to do a study about lending electric bikes to people to try** Russ from ELOV is on holiday. CH gave us his information, with his experience of selling bikes of all kinds including e bikes.

Things the group must consider about bike schemes and loan schemes:

Who will take it up?

How will we drive it?

How can you make it accessible to the people you want to change the opinion of.e.g. school mums, people on lower incomes, work with employers to see if they have a responsible cycle to work offer

Bike theft is an issue and servicing loan bikes can be an issue.

RT met with Peak Cycle and he said more people want bikes but they are a particular demographic.

Chris says open day does not always work but it might work at Nature Needs You. Peak Cycle is moving to main square in town and will be doing an event in town. RT work with peak cycling on packages for utilitarian cyclists

Actions:

- LS will coordinate answers to cycling question from members and feedback to Chris and Russ.
- LS and DE to explore buses to Barracks Mill and Lyme Green (just to see the costs).
- LS continues to explore the free bus day (like the free car park day) would be aiming for Christmas. DE will help. Explore that Red Bus too DE to find out if it is accessible.

- Please let LS know availability for next meeting 19th or 26th September.

5. To meet every 6 weeks.