Scottish Borders COUNCIL

BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, 6TH JUNE, 2019

Please find attached an additional document for Item 6 in respect of the minute for the above meeting

6.	**Rural Transport: Area Partnership Priorities**
	Those present at the Area Partnership meeting split into groups to discuss specific rural transport related issues and priorities to be raised at the planned rural transport conference to be held on 28 June 2019. The flyer for the conference and the transport related discussion output document had been circulated for response back by 14 June 2019. Copy of the output discussion attached.

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Berwickshire Area Partnership

Transport related discussion output (prior to 6th June 2019)

Issues:

- Cost of public transport
- No bus service to the Borders College
- No transport to the BGH, Jed Sheriff Court
- Two hours on a bus to Edinburgh and its expensive
- How to get to appointments in different locations / early in the morning – easier to get to Edinburgh than BGH
- Limited bus services and cuts in services
- Borders Wheels struggling for drivers
- Few cottage hospitals
- People are not using public transport
- Transport affects (access to) education

Solutions

- Reston train station should be re-opened
- Border Buses – a fresh approach and community focus
- Make signage to the A1 better / Dual the A1
- Local delivery of college courses
- Outreach services, mobile vans with GPs etc
- Transport needs to be timetabled for times of day when people want to travel
- 'Local transport systems' with community involvement
- Link different models of transport together
- Public transport needs to try match times taken to travel to destinations by car
- Promotion of cycling docking stations / electric cars and share points
- Spaces for trucks to park up in towns and villages
- Try and link services / activities to public transport times
- More events /classes in rural areas

Rural Transport Discussion Outputs (06.06.19)	Comments	Suggestions
Rural bus network How could rural bus networks better meet the needs of users? What role could technology have in providing a better service? Examples of good rural networks?	• Bus services continue to be cut o There is consultation but local views not taken forward • East to West is more of a problem, cannot get West • Must connect to the rest of the transport network • Technology could help getting to the BGH? • Timings – more at commuter times – buses at right time & hospital times • Buses that meet trains • Buses that meet other buses – improve connectivity • Taxi subsidy on popular routes, e.g. Peebles example, hospital transport / GP surgery • Borders Buses App – showed Ayton having 3 different bus services – needs coordination, working together/collaboration • Vicious circle – buses poor so no-one uses them, so numbers fall, so further cuts happen • Buses too big - small villages, narrow roads	• Test/pilot proposed consultations before committing to cuts • Express rural routes? • Appointments in Borders General Hospital (BGH) made by geography • Look at innovative solutions • Link with other services (Royal Mail, couriers, delivery operators) • Difficulty accessing group e.g. after school groups • Need to consult with groups • Cost of transport – expensive • Monthly/discounted passes for teenagers etc.

Community transport
 	
Examples or ideas of flexible and innovative community transport solutions?
 	
Could communities play more of a role in providing transport solutions / opportunities?
 	
Are there other transport schemes we could learn from?
	• Cost maybe prohibitive
	  o Berwickshire Wheels
	    ▪ An opportunity for BW to develop and grow – the cost to the user is very important – must be affordable.
	• West Linton taxi scheme
	• Car share club to BGH
	• Skype outreach service with GP practice
	• The system must be simple – must encourage volunteers
	• Must be sustainable
	• Car scheme – needs coordinated, and need checks in place if a stranger
		• Use Community Fund to test/pilot projects
		• Use bus passes on community transport
		• A hub in each area, which could encourage volunteers – the location of each hub is critical
		• Must have good connections
		• Awareness and publicity is key – we don't do enough of this

Other transport solutions What role could the new SBC e-Car club scheme & other car club schemes, and South of Scotland Economic Partnership, play in improving transport opportunities in the area?	• e-Car scheme – better communication of scheme required, and what is the price comparison (of using own car); hybrids are better solution that fully electric • e-Car scheme – expand to rural areas • BGH – lack of transport • Coordination from BGH re. appointments from similar area, so people can travel together – again needs good organisation • Similar for dental care – Gala or Haddington for orthodontics • Use of school buses at other times	• Where is the electric vehicle charging infrastructure? o No electric charging point at BGH