



The Gosport Partnership

" Working Together For The Gosport Community "

Gosport Transport & Sustainability Partnership Minutes Meeting held on 18 February 2008

Attendees	Organisation/representing
Paul Fuller (PF)	Operations Manager, Gosport Ferry Company
Cllr Peter Langdon (PL)	Gosport Borough Council (GBC) Vice Chair of Gosport Transportation and Planning Sub-Board and on Transport for South Hants Committee
Mike Jeffrey (MJ)	GBC Development Services Manager – Transport & Planning
Andy Maclean (AM)	Hampshire County Council (HCC), Transport Team Leader South
Jim Weeks (JW)	CTC Fareham area local rep
Darren Hall (DH)	DSTL Travel Plan Coordinator
Nick Farthing (NF)	Sustrans – Hampshire & IOW
Jayne Rodgers (JR)	Portsmouth City Council, Transport & Sustainability Officer
Tim Houghton (TH)	Groundwork Solent, Executive Director.
Kathy Azopardi (KA)	Groundwork Solent, Community Projects Officer
Apologies	
Jo Hamilton	LSP Coordinator
Paul Robinson	Highways Agency, Influencing Travel Behaviour Manager

1 Introduction

Gosport Partnership

TH gave an introduction on the background to this meeting and the intended outcomes of the new Transport sub-group of the Gosport LSP. Proposed meeting frequency - bi-annual.

MJ: Would not want to pre-determine the direction of the group without further open discussion, felt that key people are missing to enable it to happen effectively. Gosport BC previously had a transport group which met 8 times before ceasing, largely due to frustration experienced by lead figures who moved on to other things.

KA/ PF: Need a clear idea of how all the different local transport sub-groups and initiatives fit together and what they do e.g. PUSH, AIF, PCC Sustainability Action Group, Environmental Business Partnership/ Matisse 'Smarter Working', HEP, SignPost, HATS

JW/ MJ: Highlight need to involve Fareham BC, in working towards solving Gosport probs.

NF: Issue of crossing political boundaries to have any effect – Fareham & Portsmouth.

TH: Possible potential for Fareham LDF and Gosport LSP to work together on transport issues as they already do with ADEPT which looks at financial exclusion across both areas.

Other Suggested other appropriate attendees: Transport providers (First Bus, Southwest Trains – Phil Dominey), GBC Economic development (Linda Dine or Richard Jones), PCT, reps from wider business community/ large local employers, Business Link, Suggest relevant Fareham contacts. Ideally need a Council member (David Swanborough?) and an Officer (Richard Jolly or Andy Viccars), Schools Travel Plan Officer for Hants?

Actions:

- **Groundwork Solent: Map different groups, their roles/ responsibilities and any areas of overlap.**
- **Groundwork Solent: Invite suggested attendees above.**

Draft Terms of Reference

Ref to Gosport's Vision for 2026 from the Sustainable Community Strategy:

'Traffic congestion (especially that related to out-commuting) will be reduced.'

MJ/ AM: Issue with wording implying that traffic congestion can be solved (unrealistic aim) - suggest that wording should be *Will work towards reducing traffic congestion*

NF: Emphasised the value of aiming high and being optimistic.

'Cycling will continue to be a significant form of transport and the number of people walking to work will remain high.'

MJ: Need to tackle myths i.e. that Cycling rates are growing, whilst figures from HCC suggest that they are actually declining.

Q) Where do the figures on declining rates come from? Can they be attained?

TH: Important to have aspirations to improve cycling facilities – addressing reasons for decline or barriers limiting increase in cycling e.g. Newgate Lane – no safe route, cyclists hold-up traffic.

AM: Need to quantify 'significant' – need to measure against facts and figures.

Actions:

- **Mike/Andy: get figures on declining cycling rates.**

Election of Chair

The issue of electing a Chairman will be addressed at the next meeting. Tim Houghton will be acting chair in the interim.

MJ: Felt that neither Councillors nor Council Officers should be on the board or chair the group.

MJ: Suggest a follow-up meeting ASAP with the other relevant parties. Collate the facts and figures (e.g. re cycling rates and also the recent Commuter Study) to create an accurate evidence base prior to meeting.

2 Discussion regarding actions and way forward

NF: - Need to overcome cynicism and resistance to new ideas – tendency to go over old ground of problems and failures. Transport is a vast area and everyone giving up their valuable time therefore must maximise discussion on positive steps that can be taken/ initiatives trialled.

- Need to use existing tools and knowledge – there are opportunities to promote positives i.e. in Gosport 10% of people commute by bike and 10% walk, well above the national average.

NF/ DH: Cycling: scope to look at Cycling Demonstration Town Bid – poss in partnership with Portsmouth/ IOW to produce an area wide bid?
- Do more to promote cycling to schools. Q) establish what's already being done.
-Car Share Promotion opportunities: More to promote e.g. on M27 real time info signs/ A32 corridor – especially with current roadworks.

JW: Must look at changing travel behaviour in order to help tackle congestion.

MJ: Problem is that for every car that stays at home, another one fills its space. Analysis of the commuter study suggested that people are prepared to sit in their cars, control their own space, plus benefits of low high prices and good quality of life on the peninsula outweigh the disadvantages.

- Traffic growth has not grown in the last 15 years despite 30% increase in housing growth.
- Attracting new jobs to the peninsular will have more impact than any transport solutions.
- Need better publicity, the News only ever focuses on negative press stories especially around A32 – affecting ability to attract new business to the area.
- Need to influence behaviour through improving perception.
- Need to do more to influence development control process to encourage sustainable transport options, limit parking etc.

PL: Gave overview of issues. Gosport Population 36,000 of which approx 20,000 out commute on a daily basis. New developments at Daedalus will increase both opportunities and pressures. HMS Sultan proposed closure will potentially increase need to out-commute (due to start closing from 2017). Population amongst youngest in SE England (SEERA area).

AM: A32 = 350% overcapacity Newgate Lane = 250% overcapacity
 Gosport Road = 150% overcapacity M27 = at capacity

Limited funding for transport in PUSH area. Local Transport Plan for Hants LTP 2 (2006-11) = £15m, £7-8 m for PUSH area, of which £4m promised for Gosport. LTP 3 (2011-16) Bids for £50m put forward. Section 106: Currently less than £1m for Gosport/ A32 area

Fareham – Peninsula Action Group/ Transport for South Hants/ PUSH. Looking at alternatives to LRT. Nothing likely before 2016 but possibly a Fast Bus scheme for A32 could happen sooner, business feasibility currently being conducted.

Actions:

- **Groundwork Solent: investigate Cycling Demonstration Town bid**
- **Groundwork Solent: map current projects**

3 AOB

There was no other business.

4 Dates of next meeting

Next meeting to be set within the next month – date to be arranged.