

COME AND JOIN US AT THE NEXT FORUM

The next Northern Area Forum Meeting will be held at 7pm on Monday 10th March 2008 at The Whitby Mission and Seafarers Trust, Haggergate, Whitby.

The meeting will focus on policing in the Northern Area and will include rural policing issues.

A ballot will also be held to elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the Northern Area Forum so please come along and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Remember transport can be provided.

Want more Information?

If you would like more information about the Northern Area Forum or anything featured in this newsletter please contact:-

Gemma Ryan
Area Forum Support Officer
01723 383564
gemma.ryan@scarborough.gov.uk

Or have a look at the website
www.mycoast.org.uk

Dates for your diary, 2008

Monday 10th March
Policing, Whitby Mission and Seafarers Trust, Haggergate, Whitby

Monday 9th June - 7pm
Moors Centre, Danby, theme to be confirmed

Monday 8th September
venue and theme to be confirmed

Monday 8th December
venue and theme to be confirmed

All welcome. **Transport can be provided.**

Please contact the Area Forum Support Officers to discuss your requirements.

Northern Area Forum Newsletter - Winter 2007



TRANSPORT SCRUTINISED AT FORUM

Over 30 people attended the second Area Forum meeting which was held at Hinderwell Village Hall on 26th November 2007. The meeting focused primarily on Transport with a brief update on the public toilet improvements. The turnout was disappointing, but those who did attend found the forum informative and interesting and appreciated the opportunity to ask questions directly of those responsible for providing key local services.

Neil Leighton from North Yorkshire County Council was there to talk about the Service Centre Transportation Strategy for Whitby and the Esk Valley (including the coast). It forms part of the Local Transport Plan

for the area and is a new way of looking at transport issues and solutions in an area. The stages to develop the service centre strategy were explained. All of the comments and questions from the Forum will feed into the consultation stage.

Transport information from previous consultations and reports were displayed around the room as was information about the improvement plans for the public toilets.

There were opportunities during the Forum to look at the displays and add comments. The aim of this exercise was to update and refresh the information and not to start with a blank slate.

Key Priorities

There were lots of issues that were raised at the Forum. The main priorities to emerge from the Forum were:

- Concerns about the Whitby Swing Bridge
- Better integration of transport services (bus and train)
- The need for an effective traffic management system for Whitby
- Queuing system at Whitby bus station
- Park and Ride
- Parking enforcement/ better signage to Abbey Headland carpark
- Use of concessionary bus passes before 9am
- Better public transport links to the villages
- A desire to see an extended timetable for the Esk Valley Railway
- Church Street Toilets
- Cost of public conveniences

Inside this issue

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For full minutes of this meeting and for regular updates, log on to mycoast.org.uk



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Representatives from a range of organisations were available to take questions from those present, and included **Neil Leighton** (NYCC), **Andy Wilson** (NYM National Park), **Angie Thirkill** (Esk Valley Railway), **Andrew Backhouse** and **Bernard Goulding** (SBC).

The support group will be working to address the issues raised during the question session (see page 3 for more information).



Whitby Swing Bridge

A number of concerns were raised, in particular it breaks down quite often and the load capacity is regularly exceeded.

SBC and NYCC are aware there are issues relating to the bridge. Weight limits and restrictions are currently being looked at. The maintenance contract for the bridge is to be renewed shortly.

Bus and Train services

Are the existing rail services likely to be increased in frequency to enable better correlation with bus services?

The representative of the Esk Valley Railway (Angie Thirkill) highlighted that there was a desire to extend the Esk Valley rail service (currently the Sunday service runs from third week in May to beginning of September). The timetable is being reviewed currently and a survey is being undertaken at the moment. People were encouraged to fill in the survey, so that the information can be fed to all key stakeholders who will be looking at this service in the near future. Angie confirmed that they would like to see a fully rounded service for the Northern Area.

Church Street Toilets

There were a number of concerns raised about the closure and subsequent demolition of the Church Street toilets. It was felt that there is a

need to replace these toilets and it was highlighted they were an important facility for fishermen who used them early in the morning.

Bernard Goulding highlighted that the toilet facilities at Church Street had been very misused. Options for the toilets were considered carefully at the time of closure and Whitby Town Council were given the option to take over the toilets. Suitable sites for a replacement are still being looked at.

Concerns were raised about the increase in the price of the attended public toilets from 20 pence to 40 pence.

Costs are comparable with other tourists areas and the income generated is important for ongoing maintenance and improvements of toilet facilities.

Concerns were also expressed about whether there would be further toilet closures.

It was confirmed that Scarborough Borough Council have no plans to close any more. *It was highlighted that as Whitby is one of the top tourist attractions in the UK, it needs enough toilets as it is an all year round resort.*



Bernard noted that compared to other areas the northern area has considerably more toilets and there was commitment to improve these facilities to meet the needs of tourists (as well as local residents). However, he highlighted that there is more potential to work with private facilities (within bars and cafes, for example), as is the case in other parts of Europe.

For full notes from this and other Area Forum meetings log on to www.mycoast.org.uk or contact Gemma on 01723 369220.

GETTING INVOLVED - DEVELOPING THE NORTHERN AREA SUPPORT GROUP

We had an excellent response following the first Forum meeting and 10 local people have now joined the Support Group, which has been up and running since September.

The group, made up of people from all over the Northern area, has decided on the process for electing the Chair of the Forum and is now busy planning the next Forum meeting in March.

Working alongside local residents as part of the Support Group are service providers including Scarborough Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council, North Yorkshire Police the Primary Care Trust and the North Yorkshire Moors National Park.

The group will be working together to ensure local issues raised through the forums are progressed.

Initial priorities include:

- Writing to Scarborough Borough Council about Church Street Toilets and the cost of attended public toilets
- The lack of disabled toilet facilities at the Whitby Tourist Information Centre (NB Since the Forum this issue has been resolved and the toilets are now fully accessible)
- Looking at the queuing system at whitby bus station
- Collating transport information to feed into the Service Centre Transportation Strategy

Further information about the work of the Support Group is available on the website www.mycoast.org.uk

UPDATE ON THE PARK AND RIDE

Planning permission for the Whitby Park and Ride was submitted to The North Yorkshire Moors National Parks Authority on 10th December 2007.

The site proposed is opposite the Cross Butts Farm on the junction of the A171 and B1460. The plans anticipate that the capacity of the car park will be 450 cars which equates to 4.5 km of queuing traffic.

Every effort has been made to limit the impact on the surrounding environment by the Park and Ride.

For more information please contact Neil Leighton at North Yorkshire County Council on 01609 532373.

The Northern Area Forum Needs You!

The Northern Area Forum needs to elect a Chair and Vice Chairperson.

A ballot will be held at the next forum.

For a nomination form visit www.mycoast.org.uk or phone Gemma on 01723 383564.