

<p>Scrutiny Working Group: ACCESS</p> <p><i>To assess the current situation, ascertain, evaluate, and prioritise appropriate tasks in the following areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Physical access into and around Mendip</i></li> <li>• <i>Virtual access to services in Mendip</i></li> <li>• <i>Individual’s personal and professional access needs in Mendip</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Whilst considering the needs of the current and growing population as well as the environmental impact.</i></p> <p>Agreed areas going forward:</p> <p>Buses: PH / JG  Taxis: AB / JG  Cycle paths: ALL  Trains: PH / AB  Bypass: NHW  Electric vehicles/ DRT ssdc project liaison/ liaison with CEEG: DG  Broadband: ALL</p>	<p>Lead Convenor: Philip Ham (PH)  Members: Alison Barkshire (AB), Eve Berry (EB,) Michael Gay (MG), Drew Gardner (DG) John Greenhalgh (JG)  Officer: Kelly Knight (KK)</p>
<p>Time: <b>27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 1.45-3.15PM - Buses / Walking and Cycling</b></p>	<p>Present: KK, MG, PH, DG, AB, EB  In Attendance: KH  Apologies: MP, NHC</p>
<p><b>Agenda</b></p> <p><b>Buses</b>  Bus Back Better discussion  Frome Transport Plan</p> <p><b>Walking / Cycling</b>  Walkers are Welcome Scheme  Working with Disabled Ramblers  Bike Jumble  Electric bikes for staff</p>	

**AOB**

## 1. Bus Back Better

PH advised that there is approximately £3.5 million available across the county for the Bus Back Better scheme. The aim is to prepare a Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the provision of a good service with some alternative routes by October. When you break it down, it is less than £1 million per district. We need to prepare a list of suggestions for improvements.

DG advised he had experience of old, noisy and unsuitable vehicles, having recently used the bus. The services need to be tempting enough for passengers to use the buses.

AB stated that it would be good if the buses could take bikes. AB also raised the query of having electronic signs at the bus stops/shelters to let people know the anticipated time of the next bus. Is this something that can be easily made available?

Some discussion took place around consulting around consulting with County to understand what we can deliver. It was agreed that a collaborated approach, early in the process, would be beneficial.

MG disclosed is the fact that he is a First Group shareholder. MG asked if KK could prepare a response and circulate to the group, with 24 hours to comment. It was agreed that being able to connect buses from Street, Glastonbury and Wels with the trains would be a good idea. KK will formulate a draft response by end of the week, asking for comments in the week after, ready for submission.

## 2. Frome Transport Plan

DG sent his apologies, as he had to leave the meeting.

## 3. Walkers are Welcome scheme

KK advised the group there is a 'Walkers are Welcome scheme', which encourages local businesses to join in making walkers welcome. A log of walking routes within your area can be shared and made accessible online. We are hoping to achieve around 5 towns taking part in the scheme, which might be appropriate for your parish. KK to circulate the details as to how the businesses can become accredited.

PH advised there is a book available, written by Mendip Ramblers, detailing accessible walks in Coleford. AB advised that Mendip Ramblers have a walking group of approximately 20-25 walkers at a time, meeting every Thursday.

#### 4. Working with Disabled Ramblers

Access through fields would not be suitable for anyone with serious mobility issues or disabilities. Some discussion took place around the all-terrain wheelchairs, which are currently available to hire through National Trust. The hire is on a daily basis and it would be possible to identify 2-3 routes that would be suitable. These are currently available through National Trust, however, any routes with a kissing gate or a stile would not be accessible.

#### 5. Bike Jumble

Bike Jumble. This is a forum for bike recycling. Unsure, at this stage, if they will have anything for sale.

#### 6. Electric bikes for staff

AB suggested that Mendip DC should have a pool of electric bikes, for work use. Hayley Warrens was going to carry out a survey, however, she is leaving MDC. KK confirmed it is on her agenda to take forward.

AB asked for an update on the walking and cycling infrastructure work. We should have some data for to discuss by the end of August. KK met with Beckington Parish Council. They have asked for a permissive path to link up with White Row Farm. Unfortunately, it won't be suitable for cyclists.

#### **AOB**

None.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 1.30pm. CDS to be invited to the next meeting.

9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 11.30am. Active and In Touch update.