

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation & Environment Committee of the Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Stocksbridge on Tuesday, 3rd December 2024

PRESENT:- Cllr. J Wood (Chair), Cllrs. M Whittaker, K Davis, A Law, R Crowther, K Davis, J Grocutt, J Staniforth

1. Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Wilson.
2. Exclusion of Press and Public
There were no items for exclusion of press and public.
3. Declarations of Interest
There were no Declarations of Interest.
4. South Yorkshire Bus Franchising Consultation
The Clerk reported that correspondence from SYMCA regarding the South Yorkshire Bus Franchising Consultation had been previously circulated for members in order that a response to the consultation could be composed at this meeting. Councillors discussed the current issues. The following comments are to be submitted to SYMCA:-

Councillors welcome the long term planning noting that for the passenger base to increase there needs to be emphasis on reliability and reasonable frequency.

It has been rumoured that the train proposals for a service to Deepcar/Stocksbridge is no longer going to be undertaken. Councillors stressed the importance of a train link as the area suffers from very poor connectivity.

Members wish to suggest that as part of the tender process profitable, mid-range and non profitable routes are packaged together in order to retain commercial appetite.

Councillors question why bus fares in South Yorkshire suffer more increases than in other areas. Passengers should also have the ability to purchase tickets prior to embarking on the tram system and additional conductors should be on the tram routes at peak times in order to obtain fares from all passengers.

It is also requested that consultation is carried out with local people on suggestions for the routes, as local knowledge could prevent some inappropriate routes being utilised.

Stocksbridge has benefitted from the Fox Valley Shopping Centre for the last 10 years, it attracts visitors from across the city and further afield. The Town Centre is also undergoing regeneration, of £24m headed up by the local MP, and the Town is the gateway to the Peak District and was voted 2nd best Town Walks in the country. The Upper Don Valley is currently undergoing major house building. The major issue holding back the economic recovery of the town currently is the lack of public transport connectivity, a matter that we hope the bus franchising will address.

There being no further business the meeting closed.