EXETER CIVIC SOCIETY: HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE (HTSC)

MEETING ON 1 NOVEMBER 2016: DECISIONS NOTE

Present: Peter Cleasby, Cliff Dampney, Keith Lewis, Trevor Preist, Christo Skelton,

Apologies: Peter Nickol

Actions from 23 August meeting

1.   Rail. PC had not yet explored with local rail user groups whether there was useful joint action on Devon Metro. Low priority.

2.   All other actions complete or covered below.

Street clutter survey

3.   Insufficient interest from members for the survey to proceed.

4.   Agreed:

   (a)   There may be value in examining the series of Conservation Area Studies carried about by ECC between 2002 and 2009 to see how far the identified traffic and clutter issues had been resolved

   (b)   As traffic lights were a particular source of street clutter, to suggest to DCC that they might be removed from the following junctions: (1) High St/New North Rd/Sidwell St/Paris St; (2) Cheeke St/Sidwell St; (3) High St/North St/South St/Fore St.

   (c)   To ask the Society's committee to consider whether action was needed on litter in the city's streets.

Traffic congestion and buses

5.   New bus priority lanes were unlikely to be the answer because the low number of buses meant they were underused. Useful measures to propose to DCC might include:

   (a)   Changing traffic light phasing to give buses greater priority (eg outbound routes at the Sidwell St/York Rd/Summerland St junction)

   (b)   Allowing buses to use left turn-only only lanes when heading straight on (eg eastbound at Heavitree Fore St/North St junction).

   (c)   Enforcement of yellow boxes, including more cameras if necessary.

   (d)   Encouragement to bus operators to move further towards cashless payments, to reduce boarding times at stops. This could require payment machines to be installed at stops

Information for bus passengers

6.   Agreed to request DCC to:

(a) review the operation of the new real-time information panels in the city centre so that the 2nd and 3rd pages are displayed for shorter periods, giving greater prominence to the 1st page (next buses due);

(b) extend real-time information displays – not necessarily at the scale of the new panels – to all busy stops in the city.

(c) press Stagecoach to install information inside buses (visual and audible) announcing the next stop.

Categorisation of streets

7. Noted the work being led by the Exeter Cycling Campaign to develop a methodology, based on that used in London, to categorise streets with a view to assessing their potential for becoming traffic-free or traffic-calmed. **PC** to stay in touch.

Pavement parking

8. Agreed we would not offer support to DCC's campaign to ban parking of vehicles on pavements.

Strategic planning for "Greater Exeter"

9. Noted that Trevor Preist's work confirmed beyond doubt that Exeter transport planning could not be pursued in isolation from the wider surrounding area. The development of Cranbrook would exacerbate traffic flows because of the mismatch between houses and jobs. Exeter City Futures were developing ideas for alternatives bus services.

10. The latest BUG newsletter stated that DCC did not intend to seek franchising authority status under the Bus Services Bill. Agreed to write to DCC asking why.

11. Agreed to ask the Society's main committee to take a view on Society involvement in the emerging Greater Exeter planning process.

New bus station

12. Agreed that Keith Lewis should continue to act on behalf of the sub-committee in making representations on issues of detailed design.

Transport Select Committee

13. The House of Commons Transport Committee had launched an enquiry into urban congestion. Agreed to seek clearance from the main committee to submit evidence. Keith Lewis would draft the evidence.

ACTION POINTS:

- **PC** to draft letter to DCC (Jamie Hulland) covering the points at 4(b), 5 and 6, for clearance by the sub-committee
- **PC** to draft letter to DCC (Dave Black) on the point at 10, also for clearance.
- **PC** to refer the points at 4(c) and 11 to the Society's Secretary.
- **KL** to take forward item 13.

PC