

# WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP (WATAG)

Minutes of General Meeting No 72 held in the W.I. Hall Bridport on Thursday 23 May 2013 at 6.30 pm.

Present: P.Ridler; Valerie Baldwin (Beaminster TC); D.Batten (BBPC); Monica Burt (Bridport 50+Forum) B Cox; R. Edwards; I.Gomez; Freda Hennessey (?PC); Sue Herman (watag); Cll Ros Keyes (BTC/WDDC); Dominic Knorpel (POPP); Mike Nicks; Erica Pretty (POPP); Peter Smith (WATAG chair); John Snow (Yarn Barton); Amanda Wallwork; R. Webster; Alan Williams (WATAG);

Apologies: Bob Driscoll; Christine Everidge; John Green; Tessa Greenway; Trevor Jones; Anna Lovell; Geoff Parr; Philip and Anne Sankey; David Smith; Mark Williams

**1.The Minutes** of the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting were accepted and signed as correct.

**2.Matter Arising:** There were none except those already on the agenda.

**3. WATAG Website:** a volunteer, Richard, has come forward and will talk to Peter. It was suggested there be links to the bus companies' web-sites.

**4. Bus X53 and 31 timetable and loading.** There being no representative of any of the bus companies present, Peter gave a report. There is unlikely to be any change before September and so the pinch points in Lyme will inevitably lead to late buses during the summer and overcrowding. The timetable is constrained by trying to meet trains at both ends of the journey. It has been suggested that the 31 use the Axminster bypass to get to the station and then goes into town to pick up.

Re the X53, Mike Nicks spoke of the dangerous conditions now in West Bay with the road narrowing. He asked whether WATAG had been, as implied by the CC, had been officially consulted and Peter told him that it had not been part of the official consultation.(Since confirmed by BD Chairman at time)

Ros Keyes said that there will now be a survey and asked for a list of recommendations from WATAG.

The X53 will remain only a 2-hourly service during the summer but extra buses may be run in tandem with the most popular buses.

The X53 is a fully commercial service now, but the CC is looking at the possibility of subsidising a winter Sunday service.

The question of fare-paying to keep the buses on the road was raised again.

**5.Bus 47 timetable:** Alan reported that timetables at the bus-stops and the printed ones which are now available, but both have errors. There is no mention of the 47 Sunday service. It was suggested it might be better if WDDC did the timetables.

**6. Revision of route 40** for Court Orchard Residents. It was agreed to check whether registration had gone through.

**Secretary:**  
Sue Herman

tel:01297 489658  
email: [watag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:watag@hotmail.co.uk)

**Chair and Treasurer:**

Peter Smith  
Watton House Farm,  
Watton, Bridport. DT6 5JZ  
tel: 01308 424646  
email: [peter@smithwat204.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:peter@smithwat204.fsnet.co.uk)

# WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP (WATAG)

**7. Dorset Passenger Transport:** Debbie Fiddik had sent the following report which was read by Peter.

- **Consultation and service review:**

Around 3,000 responses were received – a mixture of paper and online.

The consultation responses are being analysed and we are expecting the report from our consultants by the end of the week.

Results from on bus surveys of the subsidised routes are being collated – again, results are due by the end of this week. Options for a revised, subsidised network will be going to Cabinet on 26 June.

- **Bus services:**

Rerouting of service 40 through Court Orchard: As Damory and WATAG both support the change of direction DCC is willing to reverse the route and serve Court Orchard on the outward journey. I have discussed this with Simon Newport and I suggest that we bring in the change at the same time as any others that might come about as a result of the service review. This is likely to be at the beginning of September.

- 

- **Concessionary bus passes: journeys before 0930**

Please email me ([d.fiddik@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:d.fiddik@dorsetcc.gov.uk)) if you believe that any individual journeys have been missed out on the list posted on Dorset For You.

- **Publicity/Timetables:**

It is unlikely that the Southern Area timetable book will be updated before September. First has produced individual leaflets for X53 and 31 as well as the Weymouth town services. The Jurassic Coast mini guide is going through the final proof stages and should be available shortly.

- **Roadworks:**

DCC Highways teams have an ongoing programme for surface repairs to roads in West Dorset - we are trying to find alternative routes where they affect local market services.

**8. Bus and Rail Matters:** with no-one present from either the bus or rail companies there was nothing to report.

**9. Realtime Information:** Alan reported that nothing had changed in regard to the audio descriptions in the buses

Re the realtime information he felt that things were now improving and becoming more accurate for all buses except the 73..

The 253 and 753 have destinations changed incorrectly.

**10. Reports from our Delegates:** there were had been no events attended by those present.

**Secretary:**  
Sue Herman

tel: [01297 489658](tel:01297489658)  
email: [watag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:watag@hotmail.co.uk)

**Chair and Treasurer:**

Peter Smith  
Watton House Farm,  
Watton, Bridport. DT6 5JZ  
tel: 01308 424646  
email: [peter@smithwat204.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:peter@smithwat204.fsnet.co.uk)

## **WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP (WATAG)**

**11. Democratic Moment:** a) Valerie from Beaminster pointed out that on Portland there was an improved service, although buses tended to be empty whereas here we cannot get an improved service. She also said that hopefully the tunnel would reopen in July.

b) First had said they would upgrade buses for/after the Olympics but we still had old ones which added to pollution at some of Weymouth's junctions. Hopefully newer buses should arrive by 2016 with the new disabled access laws. Peter explained that Dorset is not high on the list of buses being "passed down"; we are often at the end of vehicle life prior to scrapping.

c) there was a discussion on the subject of fare-paying to save services.

d) Damory bus 253 is the only Damory one to go into the bus station. The 40 doesn't always run to time so Damory must be asked about it next time.

e) It was suggested that Swyre/Burton and the other coastal villages kept a record of when the X53 was too full for residents to get on. A complete log could then be given to First.

f) Beaminster local area Partnership is still concerned about school buses speeding up Whitcombe. This will need to be brought up with Damory at the next meeting.

g) The 31 is stopping on the A35 in Chideock when it is early instead of in Charmouth and is therefore causing traffic problems

The next meeting is on Thursday July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Secretary:**  
Sue Herman

tel: [01297 489658](tel:01297489658)  
email: [watag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:watag@hotmail.co.uk)

**Chair and Treasurer:**  
Peter Smith  
Watton House Farm,  
Watton, Bridport. DT6 5JZ  
tel: 01308 424646  
email: [peter@smithwat204.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:peter@smithwat204.fsnet.co.uk)