

Stratford upon Avon Town Transport Group [TTG]

Minutes from a meeting at 9.30am - 11.30am

on Thursday 10 July 2025 by Zoom

Present: Aaron Corsi, George Cowcher, John Deegan, Elizabeth Dixon *Secretary*, Ian Fradgley, Jenny Fradgley, Stuart Green, Mark Haselden - Acting Chair, Richard Lees, Caroline Nash, Jacqui O'Hanlon, Louisa Slator, Steve Turner.

Circulated to Members of the TTG and

WCC Councillors: George Finch ,Interim Leader; Edward Harris, Chair; Nigel Golby, Transport Portfolio Holder; Stuart Green, Cabinet Support for Transport.

WCC Officers: Mark Ryder, Strategic Director for Communities; David Ayton-Hill, Assistant Director Communities, Transport Planning.

SDC: Officers: Tony Perks, Deputy Chief Executive; Councillor Susan Juned, Leader

Town Council: Caroline Nash, Town Clerk; Councillor Dani Hunter, Mayor.

Member of Parliament: Manuela Perteghella

Additional information can be found on the Stratford Town Council website,
<https://stratford-tc.gov.uk/town-transport-group/>

- 1 Mark Haselden, Acting Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that he would be the Chair as Colin Stewart was travelling home. County Councillor Stuart Green was attending as the WCC Support to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning. Jacqui O'Hanlon, RSC would join the meeting later.

Apologies: *Steve Albon, Lorraine Grocott, Dani Hunter [Mayor], Andy List, Lindsay Macdonald, Kate Rolfe, Colin Stewart, Jann Tracy.*

- 2 **Minutes** of 12 June 2025 were approved after a change that Caroline Nash had not attended.
- 3 **Actions and Matters arising and not on the Agenda:**
Buses: Data had been received about the shortage of Stagecoach buses, particularly on 23 June with 23 cancellations. It's a combination of factors:
 1. On going national shortage of bus drivers. (Drivers from Devon brought in Mon-Fri and put up in Leamington Hotel).
 2. Sickness and holidays leave.
 3. Regular bus breakdowns. Largely an elderly fleet other than a handful of new electric buses recently on the X18/15.
 4. Remote Northampton based Stagecoach Midlands management.
 5. Road congestion in Stratford, Warwick & Leamington leads to cancellations and heavy delays.
 5. Warwickshire is not a commercially attractive area for bus operators, so little incentive for investment.

6. Stratford Stagecoach depot is only an outstation of Leamington depot. It only has fitters from Leamington in the morning and then unmanned. If a bus has problems or breaks down, they have to get a fitter from Leamington or a contractor. That could be anywhere between Solihull to Moreton in Marsh, Chipping Campden, Evesham or Redditch.

Trains: No feedback from Geoff Grant or Vicky Mumford after out last meeting. To be followed up.

ED

4 Transport Strategy & Action Plan

Town by-pass: GC said that it was crucial that the SDC study for a by-pass was undertaken. This was being overseen by an external company for WCC, and a meeting has been requested with Mark Ryder, Executive Director of Communities including Transport. The preferred option was expected in the Autumn.

JD expressed concern that there had been a complete change of brief.

Parking: AC confirmed he is still waiting to get a County & District meeting arranged.

Cycle Racks: Progress on the provision and installation of the cycle parking at the recreation ground was requested. Check with LC

Park & Ride: The towpath is still blocked and has been followed up by SDC who on 19 June had a response from Canal & River Trust, which included -
"The landslip does affect our timings of when we can utilise the S106 funding. The current status is as follows: Our 3rd party works team are working with the adjacent landowner who will be fixing/stabilising their section first. Due to nesting birds the adjacent landowner will be completing their works in winter. Next year CRT can target the removal of soil and reinstatement of the towpath, and it looks like 2027 we can spend the S106 funds on a general improvement to the towpath."

ED

Journey Planning: AC advised a consultant has now been appointed, and the plan is to get the brand sorted by the end of the year which will fit around the new BID website.

5 South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP): SDC is still going through the consultations, the direction of travel should become clear in late summer, with further consultation in Autumn.

GC

Leaders of the Bearley-Wilmcote Proposal: A Threat to Stratford asked for TTG support. We said the matters they raised had been considered during the consultation period, we do not support a development at Bearley-Wilmcote and sent them a copy of the TTG response to the consultation.

6 Projects: See attached schedule

7 Planning Applications: The Bordon Hill Appeal has started and SDC hope for a decision by October 2025.

8 Jacqui O'Hanlon, RSC had not joined the meeting by 10.35am when it finished.

9 **Any Other Business:** *Accessible Stratford, Climate Action, Cycle Forum, Neighbourhood Plan, Stratford-Upon-Avon BID, Strategic Partnership, Stratford Society, Technical Sub-Group, Town, District and County Councillors*

The meeting ended at 10.35am

Extra: MH and ED stayed online and waited for Jacqui O'Hanlon to join. She has kindly agreed to join the TTG meeting on Thursday 9 October 2025.

**The next TTG meeting is from 9.30am - 11.30am
on Thursday 11 September at the Town Hall.**

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Transport Group (TTG)

Update: **15 July 25**

Stratford-upon-Avon Transport Project Status

	Project	Status	Action	Last Update
1	Pedestrian priority of Bridge Street & High Street	WCC presented a proposal for High Street at the last Strategic Partnership meeting. A working group including CS and ED has been set up and is looking at options for potential implementation of a pilot this summer. CN reported that a report had been commissioned by the Town Council, District Council and BID for a Threat Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for the town for events and permanent infrastructure. Proposal now accepted by Strategic Partnership, AA discussing with businesses. Meeting 14/07 with WCC, discussions ongoing.	AA MH	12.6.25 15.07.25
2	Birmingham Road	Updated final plans now include more cycle path connectivity as requested by Cycle Forum and TTG. CS noted that the bus layby adjacent to Costas is to be removed according to the plans, which will require buses to stop in one of the running lanes. TS had previously been requested to clarify why this was being removed, because currently it is used to station buses for driver handover, timetable catchup, etc. No response has been received, LG requested to clarify urgently. Update about continuing works. No information about the bus layby.	LG LG	8.5.25 15.07.25
3	Clopton Bridge / Tiddington Road Junction	Original scheme withdrawn. WCC Councillors have met officers, who outlined the project to replace the pelican crossings outside Cox's Yard with	WCC	12.6.25

		a signal controlled junction. Timing expected after B'ham Road. WCC is now controlling this scheme. Phase 1 construction is targeted for Autumn/Winter 2025, subject to receipt of favourable traffic modelling and Streetworks Permit approvals.	KR	15.07.25
4	Evesham Roundabout	Now open, WCC to decide how to connect cycle paths through the junction. WCC still to commission design work. SA to investigate. Stephen Rumble WCC says is work in progress. We've commissioned feasibility design for a scheme to better connect the new route alongside the relief road to the existing cycle lanes on Evesham Rd and to connect down to the disused railway line that runs from Luddington Road towards the town. The design is quite well advanced but needing some input from other disciplines to complete the design and prepare the cost estimate. Peter Corkill will almost certainly be in touch with you in due course in relation to our work to bring forward a cycle scheme on Alcester Road	WCC SA SA	14.12.23 12.6.25 15.07.25
5	Alcester Road A46 Roundabout (Shottery Relief Road)	Meeting 28 Feb. arranged by our MP, confirmed this work will start once Birmingham Road is complete. Meeting of County Councillors with WCC officers suggested this is no longer the programme. CS to write to MP Manuela to get clarification and push for completion.	WCC CS	8.5.25 12.6.25
6	Alcester Road Cycle Tracks	Stephen Rumble presented proposals to TTG at 11.7.24 meeting. CS wrote with simple suggestions to accommodate LTN1/20 requirements at junctions on 12.7.24. No response. Councillors to chase. Plans have been shown to Cycle Forum and there will be consultation. Connection to A46 OK, but connection to town is still an		

		issue. AL to discuss at meeting with three Councillors. No further news and no meeting yet with CC's.	AL AL	12.6.25 15.07.25
7	Western Bypass	Route options study has started in two stages. TTG requested to input. Initial meeting held WCC, SDC, Atkins.	CS MH	8.05.25 14.07.25
8	Greenway All-weather Surfacing	Phase 1: Milcote to SuA works complete, however the surface which was understood to be bonded all weather tar & chip, appears to be loose unwashed round gravel including significant fine material and dust. It has been noted it is difficult to wheel through on bikes, push chairs. S106 wording, which specifies a "sealed all-weather surface on the Greenway between the site and Stratford-upon-Avon, to make the route suitable for cycle commuting and other utility journeys from the site." Which clearly is not what has been constructed. Still unresolved. KR, CS, AL and ED have met, and formalised reply to WCC's latest response, which included quotations from various user groups, demonstrating that contrary to WCC's assertion, the surface meets no user needs and is dangerous.	WCC	12.6.25
9	Canal Quarter Regeneration	Waiting for a decision after the site is bought.	SDC	8.05.25
10	Gateway	Work commissioned for Arden Street Car Park.	SDC	8.05.25
11	Warwick Road	Complete. Cycle Forum had been discussing extension into town using existing wide paving in front of Grosvenor Hotel, with TS. Works are mainly signing. LG requested to chase. Request from LG again	LG	8.05.25

12	Tow Path improvement, Bishops Lane to Timothy's Bridge Rd.	S106 Funding available from Bishopton Housing development. SDC negotiating with Canal & Rivers Trust to do the work. Third Party insurance claim is the hold up. GC requested to follow up possibility of SDC doing the work to remove the landslip and recharge land owner. See Minutes item 4.	SDC GC	12.10.23 8.05.25
14	Banbury Road cycle route extension to Sonnett Park.	S106 funding received from development. Feasibility study being undertaken	WCC WCC	20.3.24 8.05.25