

Thanks to everyone who came to the conversation cafe on Saturday. There were around 20 participants chatting on the the topic of what a good, green public transport system for Carlisle could look like in a free flowing discussion. I have tried to include as many of the ideas and aspects of the conversation from notes kept so please excuse me if I have missed anything.

The sense of urgency and ambition required as provided by the evidence and the need to move quickly away from fossil fuels (see the IPCC report on climate change) set the background for the conversation.

It was recognised that we have to offer an attractive alternative to the 'cars are normal' mindset which is propagated by the car industry through advertising, poor public transport in the hands of the private sector, bad city planning, lack of local control, a general lack of good alternatives, the disproven argument that ' business will decline' with fewer cars and other spurious issues. We need to highlight and promote the social benefits of a positive alternative including cleaner air, cheaper travel, safer environments for families and children (especially near schools), uptake in town centre footfall and business and a generally improved environment.

(Please also see City Beautiful on google for the kind of things that are being done around the world)

Proposals included:

- Park and ride scheme using sites on the outskirts including industrial areas, existing parking in service stations, supermarkets etc for those coming into the city
- Investment in alternatively fuelled buses (electric/hydrogen etc) to bring people into the centre
- A local systems of electric 'cabs' that can use apps to pick up residents in estates at there door to get them onto the main bus routes
- A city centre 'figure of eight' type electric bus route that was regular, cheap, (bus passes? Free?) and efficient to move people around the centre of town easily and efficiently
- Look to examples in other cities both in this country and abroad

- Allow local council/residents partnerships to design and run these services so they are publicly owned and invested in
 - Integrate the system by linking timetables with trains
 - Link bus and train infrastructure i.e. bus station next to the train station
 - Look at alternatives to buses e.g. Use existing infrastructure of Aspatria line to run electric train into town from the south and extend to Kingstown in the north
 - Encourage small electric vehicles for deliveries etc
 - Create a safe and comprehensive network for cycling and walking
 - discourage car use through a moratorium on building new car parks, higher fuel tax, road pricing etc while acknowledging the necessity of vehicles for emergency services and the like.
 - Such an alternative system would help us fight climate change improving a future world for our children. We need to promote the social benefits in health and lifestyle for people in the present including cleaner air, safer environment for families and children, more support for local business and support for continued 'work from home schemes' to reduce travel needs.
- This community approach as would help build a stronger civil society instead of continuing the individualistic model which is excluding so many people and extracts money from our local economy.





