South Downs College

Transport Plan

Background

South Downs College is one of the most successful Colleges in the south of England. Currently there are over 5,700 students FTE (Full Time Equivalents), together with 720 FTE staff. It is open from 8.00 am until 9.30 pm during the weekday and on Saturday mornings. The College is primarily post 16, with a majority of students ranging in age from 16 to 19, together with a large number of mature students, especially in the evenings. In addition, the College offers to the public, a Restaurant for lunch and dinner, together with Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy facilities.

On a typical weekday approximately 4,000 students attend the College, together with approximately 700 staff.

Because of the quality of the courses available, and it being the College of choice for many students, they travel in to the College from Havant and Waterlooville, Southsea and Portsmouth, and from as far as Romsey to the West, Chichester to the East and Alton and Petersfield to the North.

Staff and Students use various means of transport to get them to and from the College. Cycle and motorcycle, car, bus and train, with the College providing significant subsidies, as set out below, to encourage the use of public transport to and from the College, together with the introduction of a lift share scheme for staff to sign up to.

Issues Arising

As mentioned earlier, the College actively encourages the use of public transport together with a staff lift share scheme to reduce car parking demand on the campus. However, because of the essentially rural location of the campus, in that it is some miles from the nearest town centre, demand for public transport and on site car parking is always high.

Meetings are held regularly with the local neighbourhood group which is part of the Crookhorn Estate Safer Havant Partnership, and comment has been made by this group concerning the extent of estate parking by users of the College and the need to provide more car parking on campus to alleviate this problem.

The College's Transport Plan

The College actively manages student and vehicle movements within the site, especially during the busy periods of the day, to ensure that the smooth movement of vehicles is achieved, and that staff and students on foot, are safe moving about the College campus.

Over recent years, the College has improved its motorcycle parking by relocating and increasing parking to over 100 motor cycles and 130 bicycles, and there are now improved pick up and drop off spaces, together with improved visitor parking, disabled parking and minibus/coach turn around facilities.

The campus currently provides 908 car parking spaces, including 31 disability spaces and 4 public carrier spaces and 6 pick-up and drop off spaces.

As was said earlier, the College actively encourages the use of public transport. This includes the provision for students of subsidised travel passes purchased by the College from Provincial First Bus or Stagecoach (and other operators). Parents (unless in receipt of means-tested benefits) pay a contribution of £70 per term, and the College pays the difference. Explanatory leaflets can be made available, should they wish to be seen. The scheme was recently revised to enable all students 16-18 to apply for a travel pass. At present 2835 students have bus passes out of 5722 full time students (49.5%).

The gross cost of tickets purchased by the College has increased substantially over the last few years as indicated:

2008-09	£609,533
2009-10	£755,523
2010-11	£777,746

Analysis of the level of public transport arriving and leaving the College bus stops just outside the entrance, shows that on a typical weekday, between the hours of 8.30 am and 5.30 pm, there are an average of 21.2 buses per hour with a total of 191 buses stopping during the day.

It is the intention of the College to continue to encourage this of use of public transport by effectively subsidising student transport.

South Downs College 28 September 2011