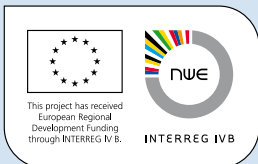




BAPTS

High-quality public transport services for Europe



1ST BAPTS PARTNERSHIP MEETING / SITE VISIT

November **2008**

www.bapts.eu



DARLINGTON HOSTED THE FIRST FORMAL MEETING OF THE BAPTS PARTNERSHIP. FROM 3RD – 5TH NOVEMBER 2008, 24 STAFF MEMBERS FROM 7 OF THE PARTNER CITIES CAME TO DARLINGTON FOR THE MEETING.

Darlington was selected to host this important first meeting because of the comprehensive and rewarded experience the city has made with its campaign on making urban transport more sustainable: Darlington is one of three UK locations chosen to push the boundaries of how to get around. Basically, the aim is to encourage as many people as possible to become creative with their travel choices.

Darlington called their movement 'Local Motion' and it is all about challenging travel habits people have fallen into and getting them to try something new. Even if this means making just one journey a week by bike or bus, or walking those short journeys instead of jumping in the car, it can and will make a difference.



Thus, besides discussing the technical and administrative details of the BAPTS project, the first meeting was also an excellent opportunity to inform the partners about Darlington's work to improve the transport network and to encourage sustainable travel. This included a presentation by pupils from Hurworth Secondary School on work they have been doing with Living Streets to encourage walking.

A number of the delegates visited Bank Top Station to meet staff from National Express and learn about proposals to improve access and information within the Station.

Bank Top Station is one of 31 Stations in England taking part in a national pilot programme to develop and implement Station Travel Plans with objectives to improve access, encourage sustainable travel to/from the Stations and increase rail passenger numbers.

Others took part in a short cycle tour during which they met the head teacher at Heathfield School and visited Cummins Engineering to learn about the work on their travel plan and on improving the health of the workforce.

In addition to discussion on the delivery of the specific work programmes within each partner town or city, there was an opportunity to discuss the transnational elements of the programme, within which there is potential to use some of the core budget (administered by the lead partner, Bielefeld) to fund activities such as 3 – 4 month student placements, 1 – 2 week staff exchanges and an event for politicians from each of the partners.

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