

Mrs. I King
39 Essex Square
Harnham
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP2 8JA

Date: 13th September 2005

Our Ref: JTT/12.05.06.510

Dear Mrs. King

Bus Stops in Blue Boar Row, Salisbury

I am writing in response to your recent letter to Salisbury District Council, dated the 10th August 2005, concerning the above subject. Firstly, may I apologise for not providing a response to your letter sooner and that I hope you are feeling no continuing ill effects as a result of this situation.

For your information I have seen a copy of the response sent to you by Wilts & Dorset Bus Company in relation to this matter. Wilts & Dorset Bus Company are responsible for deciding at which bus stops their buses stop to allow passengers to board or alight their buses, this includes the changes they have made in light of the increased demand for Park and Ride stops.

Since the receipt of your letter I have been monitoring the situation at the Harnham bus stop in Blue Boar Row with regards to the problems of overcrowding and confusion you report within your letter. I must confess though that personally I have seen little evidence of these problems occurring at this stop. With that said though there was one Tuesday and one Friday in particular when there was a slight problem with lots of people waiting for buses at this stop. There is no specific reason for the problems on the Tuesday in question other than to say that the most likely contributory factors were that it was a market day and it was also the school holidays. The reason for the problem on the Friday in question was that Wiltshire County Council were undertaking maintenance works on New Bridge Road and had shut the central lane at the Harnham Gyratory (which leads to the District Hospital) and in resulted in severe congestion being caused for vehicles using New Bridge Road. This would have caused delays on both the District Hospital and Britford Park and Ride bus services and resulted in more people waiting at the bus stop in Blue Boar Row. Aside from the above two instances, whilst there has been an increase in the number of passengers using this stop, problems with overcrowding at the stop appear to be few and far between.

Turning to the issue of confusion at the stop. Again, I would have to say that I have seen very little evidence of this occurring, mainly as a result of the real time passenger information display at the stop itself. The information display clearly provides details of buses that are approaching the stop and their arrival time. Upon the buses arrival passengers only need to walk to one end of the bus shelter of the other to board their bus.

I too share the sentiment expressed in the response from Wilts & Dorset Bus Company in that currently there is no location where additional bus stops could be provided without compromising road safety for pedestrians and motorists alike. However, with the above said, I am not unsympathetic to the problems you are experiencing, particularly with not being able to sit down at the stop. I will arrange for some signs saying 'please give up these seats for the elderly and disabled', similar to those that are present on the buses themselves, to be erected in the shelters. Hopefully this will help with regards to you being able to sit down at this stop. Longer term this team does have a proposed scheme to enhance the northern side

of New Canal to enable the provision of a city centre Park and Ride bus terminal. Although this scheme is currently seeking funding, and I cannot give you a likely implementation date, it would resolve any existing and future problems caused by the Park and Ride bus services.

Finally, referring back to the response from Wilts & Dorset Bus Company, this office is responsible for the management of the Bus Quality Partnership meeting that takes place between the bus company, local councillors and officers from both the District and County Council. I will ensure that this matter is raised at the next meeting of this group for further discussion.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful on this occasion.

Yours sincerely

Paul Shaddock
Traffic Technician
Salisbury Joint Transportation Team

Mrs. I. King
39, Essex Square,
Harnham
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
SP2 8JA

2nd. August 2005

Councillor B. Dalton,
Harnham West Ward,
24, Wiltshire Road,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
SP2 8HP

Cc. Wilts & Dorset Bus Company & Chief Executive, Salisbury District Council.

Re: Wilts & Dorset bus stops.

Dear Sir,

Since the introduction of park and ride and the need to fit in more pick up and drop off points in Blue Boar Row, the Wilts & Dorset Bus Company have moved the bus stop places from a number of routes to all terminate at the Harnham bus stop. This has resulted in overcrowding and confusion which causes much distress and discomfort detrimental to the health and well being of the elderly and / or disabled.

I, myself am elderly and asthmatic but could manage to use the bus when seats were available at the Blue Boar Row bus stop as there was usually space but now so many routes use the same stop seats are rarely available, this makes it very difficult for myself and many others.

As it is central government policy to encourage the public to use public transport it seems idiotic not to make sure that suitable bus stops are available. It seems Park & Ride has gone ahead without a single thought to this important matter: what about the next Park & Ride sites to be built and the busses needed to serve them? Even more congestion and confusion?

We, the undersigned ask that you, as our local representative, take action to have this matter suitably resolved as soon as possible.

Many thanks.

Yours Faithfully,

Irene M King S. Gausford

W Snow G Foreman Deborah S

a chambers E Buckman

D. M. Carter M J Cooke M R Barnes

S James J. E. Voe

J. A. Allan M H. Cooke J. B. ...

P. Young
D. Harding

F. Pengelly

B. S. ...
L. ...
P. ...
W. ...