

TransWilts CIC - 30th January 2018

This report covers Melksham's train and bus services since last November's Area Board meeting and looks ahead to next months.



What has happened:

- * All year Sunday earlier morning train to Swindon started in mid December (08:44 from Melksham, 09:14 arrival Swindon). Now enable Melksham residents to take jobs in Chippenham and Swindon that require weekend work.
- * All trains now 2 carriages (from 10 Jan) rather than 1 - has been badly needed as trains have been full and overloaded. So we can start growing again.
- * Passenger ticket sales for year to 4.2017 released in December. 74,666 journeys, up from 60,676. 23% rise is biggest growth in the area - again.
- * Consultation inputs made to SWRailway on their timetable for 2019 forward, and to the Department for Transport on Community Rail - next 10 years.
- * Early work sponsored by Wiltshire Council on line capacity presented to Stakeholders; working out what's needed for a regular, robust, efficient hourly service with good connections together with other rail traffic. Also work continues on Masterplan.

What is coming up:

- * Stakeholder inputs to SWRailway - case for Swindon to Solent corridor improvements
- * Public Consultation input to GWR franchise, 2020 to 2022 and 2022 for 7 to 10 years. Due in by 21st February. See below for **"how Area Board can help"**
- * Engineering works for 3 weeks will mean off peak trains replaced by buses (12 March, 23 April and 4 June weeks)
- * Town bus routes 14 and 15 amended in April, to route current middle of the day service through Bowerhill Industry and to station. Sadly, a commuter service to the station was deemed unaffordable but we can negotiate. £66,000 over three years quoted.
- * GWR Community Rail Conference on the TransWilts line, mid June.

How the Area Board can help:

- * Please write in to the DfT consultation in support of our suggestions - we are pushing on an unlocked door to step up to a through service to Southampton every 2 hours (later hourly) - 9 services per day each way at present, 13 in next stage, and 18 at the following stage.

See: <http://twcrp.info/gwrf> - for the consultation document (our mirror)

http://www.twcrp.org.uk/gwf_09.pdf - for suggestions of what to say and technical links

Ask - grahamellis@transwilts.org / 01225 708225 for help and technical backup

Inputs can make a VERY REAL difference ... we have attended around a dozen events associated with the consultation already to ensure that we are lining up with partners and also with DfT thinking.