

# WILTSHIRE COUNCIL BUS SERVICES REVIEW 2012/13

## CONSULTATION ON INITIAL OPTIONS

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### Service 20 / 22 Marlborough – Great Bedwyn – Hungerford

#### Summary of proposed service change

To reduce the cost of providing services 20 and 22, by re-organising the timetable so that it can be operated by fewer vehicles and drivers, whilst retaining links to Marlborough and Hungerford from most villages at times when they are most needed.

#### Current service information

Communities served	Marlborough, Savernake, Cadley, Burbage, East / West Grafton, Wilton, Great Bedwyn, Little Bedwyn, Froxfield, Shalbourne, Ham and Hungerford
Service provided	<p>On weekdays, two buses are used to provide 13 journeys a day in each direction between Marlborough and Great Bedwyn (between approx 0700 and 2000), approx. half of which run via Savernake Hospital and half via Burbage, Grafton and Wilton. 11 journeys a day run through to / from Hungerford, approx. half via Froxfield and half via Shalbourne and Ham.</p> <p>On Saturdays there are 10 journeys between Marlborough and Great Bedwyn (between approx 0700 and 1830), but only 4 run through to Hungerford, with the last bus from Hungerford at 1410.</p> <p>Most journeys are timed to connect with trains at Bedwyn Rail Station.</p>
Funding	The whole service is funded by Wiltshire Council (with a small contribution from West Berkshire Council) at a cost of £188,000 per annum. This figure excludes the cost of providing transport for students who are entitled to free or assisted transport.
Usage	49878 passenger journeys per annum (equivalent to approximately 178 per weekday + 75 per day on Saturdays). These figures do not include students who are entitled to free or assisted transport.

## Service assessment

### Purpose of Services

These services are designed to serve two purposes:

- They act as the main bus service for the villages listed above, linking them to work, education, shopping, personal business, health, social and leisure opportunities in Marlborough and to a lesser extent in Hungerford;
- They provide a 'rail link' connection service from Marlborough to the rail station at Bedwyn.

They also provide transport for school and college students attending schools in Marlborough and Hungerford and the colleges in Swindon.

### Usage of the service

Although some journeys on these services are reasonably well used (particularly on Wednesdays when it is market day in Marlborough), many journeys carry less than 8 passengers with some journeys carrying just one or two people. On Saturdays, even fewer people use the service with loadings less than half of those experienced on weekdays.

The most heavily used journeys are those transporting children to/from St. Johns school at Marlborough with buses regularly carrying more than 30 pupils, half of whom are travelling to/from Hungerford.

At other times most of the passengers are travelling either between between Marlborough and Great Bedwyn (approximately 57%) although surveys suggest that disappointingly very few are using the service to connect with trains at Bedwyn station.

Use of these services by residents of other villages is also disappointingly low as can be seen in the table below:

Sample passengers per day	To Marlborough		To Bedwyn for train connection	To Hungerford
	Wednesdays	Other weekdays	Weekdays	Weekdays
From Marlborough			8	23
From Cadley & Burbage	5	6	0	0
From East/West Grafton	2	0	0	0
From Wilton	0	0	0	0
From Great Bedwyn	31 #	24 #		2
From Little Bedwyn	0	1	0	1
From Froxfield	1	2	0	4
From Shalbourne	0	2	3	3
From Ham	0	1	0	3
From Hungerford	7 #	7 #	0	

# - NOTE – These figures do not include school children travelling to St. Johns school in Marlborough for 0830.

### Financial assessment

The cost of the service is high because it requires the use of two buses and three drivers per day. Although previously the overall cost to the Council was originally less than the maximum subsidy guideline of £3.50 per passenger trip set out in the 'Guidelines for funding of supported services', a reduction in the number of children needing to use this service to travel to/from John O'Gaunt school means that this is no longer the case. Some economies in providing the service could be made by reducing the number of journeys operated.

### **Conclusion**

The level of service provided is generous when compared to the overall use made of it and no longer justifies the use of two vehicles to operate it. The rail link service in particular is poorly used compared to the cost of providing the current number of connecting services.

### **Options for future service provision**

The main aim of this consultation is to identify possible ways of providing a cost-effective service that meets the needs of the area at an affordable cost to the Council.

Two possible weekday timetables are attached that we believe will meet the majority of these needs whilst allowing the service to be operated legally using just one bus and one driver per day (the timetable on Saturdays is expected to be similar). However it is also possible that some of these needs could be better served by community or voluntary transport, allowing the remaining bus to be used more effectively to meet the remaining needs.

Therefore if you have any suggestions about how this might be done, we would be pleased to receive them.

# Marlborough – Bedwyn – Hungerford Bus Service

## Summary of the proposed weekday timetable

- ▲ - indicates that passengers will travel via Great Bedwyn (no need to change buses)
- ▼ - indicates that passengers will travel via Hungerford (no need to change buses)

Please note that the timings shown are approximate and may need to be changed slightly before introduction to permit better connections with trains at Bedwyn station

Town / Village	OPTION A	OPTION B
<b>Marlborough</b>	<p><b><u>From Marlborough to connect with train</u></b>            0716 - connects with train at Hungerford            0955 1258 1405 } - connect with            1655 1733 } train at Bedwyn)</p> <p><b><u>Connections with trains from London/Newbury</u></b>            0927 1052 1237 } - these are the times the            1335 1636 1750 } bus leaves Bedwyn Station            (see below for other journeys to/from Marlborough)</p>	<p><b><u>From Marlborough to connect with train</u></b>            0716 - connects with train at Hungerford            1003 1103 1258 } - connect with            1655 1733 } train at Bedwyn)</p> <p><b><u>Connections with trains from London/Newbury</u></b>            0932 1136 1237 } - these are the times the            1335 1636 1750 } bus leaves Bedwyn Station            (see below for other journeys to/from Marlborough)</p>
<b>Burbage</b>	<p><b><u>From Burbage to Marlborough</u></b>            0723# 0800# 0958# 1058# 1107 1258#            1458# 1623# 1803# 1858#</p> <p><b><u>From Marlborough to Burbage</u></b>            0627# 0657# 0852# 0952# 1152# 1258            1352# 1532# 1652# 1752#</p> <p>Journeys marked # are part of Stagecoach service 80 which is not changing as part of these proposals. There are also no proposals to change the buses that run through Burbage to Tidworth or Swindon.</p>	<p><b><u>From Burbage to Marlborough</u></b>            0723# 0800# 0947 0958# 1058# 1258#            1458# 1623# 1803# 1858#</p> <p><b><u>From Marlborough to Burbage</u></b>            0627# 0657# 0852# 0952# 1103 1152#            1258 1352# 1532# 1652# 1752#</p> <p>Journeys marked # are part of Stagecoach service 80 which is not changing as part of these proposals. There are also no proposals to change the buses that run through Burbage to Tidworth or Swindon.</p>
<b>Wilton East Grafton West Grafton</b>	<p><b><u>From East Grafton to Marlborough</u></b>            0714▲ 1059 1314▲</p> <p><b><u>From Marlborough to East Grafton</u></b>            1258 1733▲</p> <p>(Buses will pick up at Wilton and West Grafton 2 minutes before/after the times shown for East Grafton. Additional journeys between Wilton / Grafton and Marlborough are also available for pre-booked passengers using the Connect2 Wiltshire service)</p>	<p><b><u>From East Grafton to Marlborough</u></b>            0714▲ 0939 1119 1314▲</p> <p><b><u>From Marlborough to East Grafton</u></b>            1103 1258 1733▲</p>
<b>Great Bedwyn</b>	<p><b><u>From Great Bedwyn to Marlborough</u></b>            0725 0753 0927 1052 1237 1335            1636 1750</p> <p><b><u>From Marlborough to Great Bedwyn</u></b>            0955 1258 1405 1535 1655 1733</p> <p><b><u>From Great Bedwyn to Hungerford</u></b>            1012 1422 1712</p> <p><b><u>From Hungerford to Great Bedwyn</u></b>            0907 1035 1217 1616 1730</p> <p>(Trains also run between Bedwyn and Hungerford every hour).</p>	<p><b><u>From Great Bedwyn to Marlborough</u></b>            0725 0753 0932 1135 1237 1335            1636 1750</p> <p><b><u>From Marlborough to Great Bedwyn</u></b>            1003 1103 1258 1425 1535 1655            1733</p> <p><b><u>From Great Bedwyn to Hungerford</u></b>            1020 1442 1712</p> <p><b><u>From Hungerford to Great Bedwyn</u></b>            0912 1217 1616 1730</p>

Town / Village	OPTION A	OPTION B
<b>Little Bedwyn</b>	1047 from Little Bedwyn to Marlborough 1258 from Marlborough to Little Bedwyn	None
<b>Froxfield</b>	<u>From Froxfield to Hungerford</u> 0726 0900 1207 <u>From Hungerford to Froxfield</u> 1035 1442 <u>From Froxfield to Marlborough</u> 0726▼ 0900▼ 1042 1207▼ 1343 1449 <u>From Marlborough to Froxfield</u> 0716 0850 1155 1258 1405▼	<u>From Froxfield to Hungerford</u> 0726 0905 1210 <u>From Hungerford to Froxfield</u> 1050 1502 <u>From Froxfield to Marlborough</u> 0726▼ 0905▼ 1047 1210▼ 1449 <u>From Marlborough to Froxfield</u> 0716 0855 1003▼ 1158 1425▼
<b>Shalbourne</b>	<u>From Shalbourne to Hungerford:</u> 1018 1428 1718 <u>From Hungerford to Shalbourne:</u> 0907 1217 1616 1730 <u>From Shalbourne to Marlborough:</u> 0921 1231 1428▼ 1630 1744 <u>From Marlborough to Shalbourne:</u> 0850▼ 0955 1155▼ 1405 1535 1655	<u>From Shalbourne to Hungerford:</u> 1026 1448 1718 <u>From Hungerford to Shalbourne:</u> 0912 1217 1616 1730 <u>From Shalbourne to Marlborough:</u> 0926 1231 1405▼ 1630 1744 <u>From Marlborough to Shalbourne:</u> 0855▼ 1003 1158▼ 1425 1535 1655
<b>Ham</b>	<u>From Ham to Hungerford:</u> 1023 <u>From Hungerford to Ham:</u> 0907 1227 1616 1730 <u>From Ham to Marlborough:</u> 0916 1023▼ 1226 <u>From Marlborough to Ham:</u> 0850▼ 1155▼ 1405	<u>From Ham to Hungerford:</u> 1031 <u>From Hungerford to Ham:</u> 0912 1217 1616 1730 <u>From Ham to Marlborough:</u> 0921 1031▼ 1226 <u>From Marlborough to Ham:</u> 0855▼ 1158▼ 1425
<b>Hungerford</b>	<u>From Hungerford to Marlborough:</u> 0907 1035 1217 1442 1616 1730 <u>From Marlborough to Hungerford:</u> 0716 0850 0955 1155 1405 1655	<u>From Hungerford to Marlborough:</u> 0912 1040 1217 1502 1616 1730 <u>From Marlborough to Hungerford:</u> 0716 0855 1003 1158 1425 1655  Note: Alternative transport is being considered for students travelling from Hungerford to St.Johns School in Marlborough to avoid the existing school time hour bus becoming overloaded