

Corsham Area Board
21st November 2013

Bus service reviews update

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief update on progress since the presentation given to the Area Board on 18 July 2013 with the reviews affecting the Corsham community area.

Zig Zag service

The consultation that was under way at the time of the presentation sought to establish views on proposed changes to the service. These would have retained a similar level of service between Trowbridge and Melksham, but reduced the number of journeys between Melksham and Corsham and withdrawn the section of route between Corsham and Chippenham. As a result of the consultation, changes to the original proposals have been agreed to address some of the main issues identified in the responses. Further amendments are being discussed with the Faresaver bus company, who have successfully tendered to continue operating the service. The changes include reinstating some journeys between Melksham and Corsham that would otherwise have been withdrawn, and providing a limited weekday service to the Corsham Road estate in Lacock. The final timetable is still under discussion, but a copy of the latest version is attached. The new service will commence on 2nd January 2014. Discussions are also taking place with community transport groups about the possibility of a providing a weekly shopping bus to Chippenham from the villages.

Corsham Town service

Following the ending of the funding from the Basil Hill development that has been used to provide an enhanced service in recent years, there is a need to reduce the costs of operation to match the support available from the council. Options to achieve this were discussed with the Town Council and other local stakeholders, and public consultation carried out based on the preferred option of combining the existing routes into a single 'loop' that could be operated to a 30 minute frequency using only one bus. Once again the consultation provided useful feedback that has been used to amend the proposals, and a copy of the revised timetable that it is now intended to implement on 2 January is attached. Whilst it is still proposed to operate the town service as a half hourly 'loop', some journeys will divert via Spackman Road

to provide a service from that area to the surgery and new campus; and a limited service will be provided to Rudloe estate by diverting other services (including a bus in the afternoons from Corsham school) to address the concerns about those who would find it difficult to walk or cross the road to use the frequent services that run along Bradford Road and Leafy Lane. It is also proposed to investigate installing an additional bus stop on Pickwick Road near the corner of Beechfield Road, to reduce the walk to the medical centre and the new campus for users of the Faresaver services, and the support of the Area Board is sought for this.

Service 36, Colerne – Chippenham

Consultation on proposed changes to this service, which runs on Tuesdays and Fridays only, closed last month and the responses are being considered. At present it seems likely that the recommendation will be that a service will continue to operate on Fridays, but that the Tuesday service (which is poorly used) will be withdrawn. Any changes would be introduced in April 2014 alongside changes to other services in north west Wiltshire.