

X3 evening service consultation

Summary of written responses

<i>From</i>	<i>Concerns raised</i>	<i>Officer response</i>	
Bournemouth Borough Council	Can maintain funding for 2013/14 but may be more difficult in future. No political objection to proposed changes as lower priority than supporting local services within Bournemouth.	noted	
Dorset CC	Not able to contribute as is only 1 stop within Dorset and very little used.	noted	
Bournemouth resident	Important to maintain links between regional towns especially where no direct rail link. Proposed last bus Bournemouth to Salisbury (1805) too early - should also be either 1905 or 2000. Proposed last bus Salisbury to Bournemouth (1740) also too early - should also be 1840 or later. May be case for retaining later journeys in summer when used more.	Impacts of the reduced service that was suggested in the consultation are noted. The service that will now operate from 15 September includes later buses on Mondays to Saturdays, with last buses from Bournemouth to Salisbury at 2000, Bournemouth to Ringwood at 2300, and Salisbury to Bournemouth at 2140. This should address the majority of the concerns identified by respondents.	
Ringwood Town Council	1. used by Ringwood school students for socialising with friends. 2. many young people attend college or grammar schools in Bournemouth or Salisbury, need evening buses to return after evening functions or socialising with friends. 3. used by elderly residents to access cinema and theatre. 4. allows access to rail network. Crucial that residents have access to facilities not available in Ringwood; HCC should provide a subsidy to maintain service.		
Ringwood resident (1)	1. impact on young people unable to access evening social, cultural, sporting and leisure activities - pressure on their families and possible increase in crime. 2. impact of limited access to social activities for older people unable to drive. Look for ways of retaining services rather than axe them.		
Ringwood resident (2)	No work in Ringwood so need to travel out. Loss of evening services from Bournemouth and Salisbury will limit opportunities for employment, or for staying late at work or socialising after.		
Alderholt resident	Daughter uses 2140 or 0010 ex Sal to visit her from London during week. Other daughter uses same buses to return from evenings out in Salisbury. During hot weather evening buses from Bournemouth so busy that passengers sometimes have to wait for later ones.		
New Forest DC	Support retention of service although recognise financial pressures and not aware of any specific hardship. Suggest could use community transport to fill any gaps.		
Fordingbridge Town Council	1. Town earmarked for new social housing, likely to be allocated to families moving from elsewhere which will lead to need for bus travel to access employment and visit families. 2. last bus in both directions too early and will effectively cut town off from national transport network. 3. students will be unable to return from late lectures at Bournemouth University, and Bournemouth and Poole colleges. 4. no transport back from late appointments and evening visiting at Bournemouth, Poole, Salisbury hospitals. 5. some residents rely on bus for work in Bournemouth / Ringwood - no bus back for shift workers or those finishing later than 1730. 6. will prevent access to social / recreational activities, especially for young people, unless can afford taxi or get lift. 7. environmental arguments in favour of retaining bus. Cost of subsidy per bus journey is low compared to social benefit, and Fordingbridge services receive less support than those elsewhere in the county. 'HCC would be failing in its duty were it not to subsidise this essential service'		
Fordingbridge resident	Current lack of bus from Salisbury between 2140 and 0010 makes it impossible to have a night out - need a 2240 to allow return after evening activities		Noted - unfortunately not feasible within available resources and timetabling constraints
Sandleheath PC	1. environmental reasons to provide public transport 2. would be no return journeys for evening workers, shift workers or overtime. 3. no transport back from cinema, theatre, restaurant. Pressure should be put on all councils to fund their share of the subsidy.		Impacts of the reduced service that was suggested in the consultation are noted. The service that will now operate from 15 September includes later buses on Mondays to Saturdays, with last buses from Bournemouth to Salisbury at 2000, Bournemouth to Ringwood at 2300, and Salisbury to Bournemouth at 2140. This should address the majority of the concerns identified by respondents.
Breamore PC	Know that service is used by some residents and loss would undoubtedly cause some hardship. Would need parish survey to give more detail.		
Downton PC	Object strongly to withdrawal. Evening buses well used; withdrawal would affect in particular young people and commuters returning from train connections. If HCC won't contribute should at least provide service Salisbury - Downton.		
Downton resident	OAP couple - use X3 regularly to both Salisbury and Bournemouth. Use evening journeys a lot for theatre, cinema and train connections after visiting daughter in London.		
Salisbury resident	Retired couple with no car - make extensive use of X3 including days out with grandchildren. Want to retain evening services so can continue to travel as now.		
TravelWatch South West	1. bus stop counts by TWSW members demonstrate clear need for evening journeys; withdrawal will undoubtedly cause hardship to Wiltshire residents and damage to local economy. 2. provides important end to end interurban link - last through journeys would be 1740 ex Sal (1640 Sundays) and 1805 ex Bournemouth which are too early. No direct rail service. 3. Downton is a fast growing community of 3000 pop., inequitable to leave without evening service. Suggests 'equitable solution' would be to continue 1840 to Bournemouth, 2000 ex Bournemouth, 2110 or 2140 Salisbury - Rwood, and also provide later evening bus Salisbury - Downton using bus from city (even if can't do anything else, should try to retain late last bus Salisbury - Downton).		