

Proposed changes to the Connect2 Wiltshire Taxibuzz service serving the Shrewton, Amesbury and Woodford Valley areas



We want your views !

The Amesbury and Woodford Valley area Taxi Buzz services are operated by Value Cars on behalf of Wiltshire Council who fund them. They provide a service in four different areas:

- From the Woodford valley into Salisbury and Amesbury
- From the Shrewton area into Amesbury
- From Countess Road and the Strangways and Steel Houses areas of Larkhill into Amesbury
- From Cholderton, Allington, Porton and other villages in the Bourne Valley to Amesbury

All these services are very expensive to provide in relation to the number of passengers that use them. Wiltshire Council is therefore proposing a new way of operating them that will allow them to be provided at a lower cost using fewer vehicles, whilst retaining journeys that we believe should continue to meet the needs of most of our existing passengers. We hope that this will make the services more sustainable for the future.

The proposed timetables will be as follows:

Journeys between the Woodford Valley villages and Salisbury

The Amesbury area Taxibus would be timed to arrive in Salisbury at the following times:

0820, 1005, 1240, 1655, 1805, 1855

(on schooldays the first journey would be operated by a bus, as at present).

The Taxibus would return from Salisbury City Centre at:

1005, 1320, 1605, 1715, 1805

(The 1715 journey would also pick up at Godolphin School on request).

The shoppers bus operated by Tourist Coaches that runs to Salisbury on Tuesdays and Fridays would also continue to operate.

Journeys between the Woodford Valley and Amesbury

The Amesbury area Taxibus would be timed to arrive in Amesbury from the Woodford Valley villages at:

1045 and 1400

returning from Amesbury at:

1200 only

Journeys between Shrewton, Strangways, Steel Houses, Countess Road and Amesbury

The Amesbury area Taxibus would be timed to arrive in Amesbury from Shrewton, The Bustard, Strangways, Steel Houses and Countess Road at:

0925, 1155 and 1450

returning from Amesbury at:

1105 and 1400

Journeys between Cholderton and Amesbury

The Bourne & Avon Valley Taxibus provides journeys from Cholderton that are timed to arrive in Amesbury at the following times on weekdays:

1000 and 1240

returning from Amesbury at approximately: **1200 and 1400.**

The service from Allington, Porton and the other Bourne Valley villages would be withdrawn.

We are keen to hear how well you feel these new arrangements would meet your own travel needs and invite you to complete and return the questionnaire on the back of this leaflet and return it to us by Friday 2 August 2013. A reply paid envelope is enclosed to assist you.

Please let us know how you use the Connect2 Wiltshire Taxibuzz and your views on the proposed changes

either by completing the internet consultation survey at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultations, or by answering the questions below then returning this form to us at the address shown at the bottom of the page:

1. Which town or village do you live in ? _____

2. How often do you use the Taxibuzz service at the moment ? (please tick one box)

- 5 or more days a week twice per week Less than once per week
 3 or 4 times per week once per week Less than once per month

3. When you use the service, what journeys do you regularly make and at what time do you travel ?

4. When you use the Taxibuzz service, what is the purpose of your journey? (please tick all that apply)

- Travel to/from work To attend medical appointments
 To attend school or college To visit friends and relations
 Travel for shopping Other (please state) _____

5. Does the current timetable meet your main travel needs? (please tick) Yes No partly

6. Would the proposed timetable meet your needs? (please tick) Yes No partly

7. If you have answered 'No' or 'Partly' to question 6, what specific journeys would you not be able to make and how often do you need to make these journeys ?

8. Do you wish to make any other comments on these proposals ?

9. Finally please give us a bit more information about yourself:

What is your age group? (please tick) under 17 17-25 26-45 46-64 over 65

Are you male or female? (please tick) Male Female

Do you consider yourself disabled ? No
 Yes - if so does this affect your ability to walk? Yes No

Thank you for completing this form. Now please return it to us using the reply paid envelope provided, or post it to us at the following address:

Passenger Transport Unit, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 8JN

Proposed changes to the Connect2 Wiltshire

Mere & District Taxibuzz service



We want your views !

The Mere and District Taxi Buzz is operated by A&G Minibuses on behalf of Wiltshire Council who fund it. However, the service is very expensive to provide in relation to the number of passengers using it. Wiltshire Council is therefore proposing to slightly reduce the level of service so that it can be provided at a much lower cost, whilst retaining a service that we believe should continue to meet many of the needs of our existing passengers. We hope that this will make the service more sustainable for the future.

The proposed changes to the service are summarised below;

On Weekdays, the existing service would continue to operate, but with the following changes;

- The service would only operate between 9 am and 3 pm (currently the service operates until 6pm).
- The early morning and late afternoon journeys that connect with trains at Gillingham Rail Station at 7.30 am and 5.25 pm would be withdrawn as usage is very low.
- The service would no longer be advertised as providing journeys to Stourhead from Hindon or Gillingham.
- Only one vehicle would be used to operate the service, so on occasions it may not be possible to meet your travel request if the bus is already booked at that time (although alternative times will continue to be offered)

The Saturday service (which currently provides three journeys in each direction to Warminster and Shaftesbury) would no longer operate as usage of the service on that day is very low. There are however other Saturday bus services in the area which may provide an alternative for some users:

- from Zeals and Mere to Gillingham and Shaftesbury (bus service 158)
- from Mere, Zeals, Stourton, Kilmington, Maiden Bradley and Horningsham to Frome and Bath (service 80)
- from Zeals, Mere, East Knoyle, Semley and Hindon to Salisbury (bus services 25/28/84)
- from the Deverill villages to Warminster (bus service 57)

We are also proposing to make some changes to the amount that people pay to use the Taxibuzz service. The majority of the people who use this service travel free of charge using a bus pass. However pass holders often tell us that they would be prepared to pay a small contribution for their journey if this would help to keep a vulnerable transport service running. In this particular case, a small payment from these passengers would certainly help to safeguard the future of the service and so we are proposing to introduce a flat rate charge for passholders of 50p per single trip for journeys entirely within one town or village, and £1 per single trip for longer journeys. These charges would still be considerably less than the standard fares charged to passengers without a bus pass, which are not being altered at the present time.

We are keen to hear how well you feel these new arrangements would meet your own travel needs and invite you to complete and return the questionnaire on the back of this leaflet and return it to us by Friday 2nd August 2013. A reply paid envelope is attached to assist you.

Please let us know how you use the Connect2 Wiltshire Taxibuzz and your views on the proposed changes

either by completing the internet consultation survey at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultations, or by answering the questions below then returning this form to us at the address shown at the bottom of the page:

1. Which town or village do you live in ? _____

2. On what days do you use the Taxibuzz bus service (please tick all that apply)

Mondays Tuesdays Wednesdays Thursdays Fridays Saturdays

3. When you use the service, what journeys do you regularly make and at what times do you travel ?

4. When you use the Taxibuzz service, what is the purpose of your journey? (please tick all that apply)

Travel to/from work To attend medical appointments
 Travel for shopping To connect with trains at Gillingham
 To visit friends and relations Travel to Lynch Court Day Centre
 Other (please state) _____

5. Does the current service meet your main travel needs? (please tick) Yes No partly

6. Would the proposed timetable meet your needs? (please tick) Yes No partly

7. If you have answered 'No' or 'Partly' to question 6, what specific journeys would you not be able to make and how often do you need to make these journeys ?

8. Do you wish to make any other comments on these proposals ?

9. Finally please give us a bit more information about yourself:

What is your age group? (please tick) under 17 17-25 26-45 46-64 over 65

Are you male or female? (please tick) Male Female

Do you consider yourself disabled ? No
 Yes - if so does this affect your ability to walk? Yes No

Thank you for completing this form. Now please return it to us using the reply paid envelope provided, or post it to us at the following address:

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