

APPENDIX 2

30 August 2013

Passenger Transport Unit
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Our ref: IW/PT B302

Dear Consultee

Review of Corsham Town bus service

The Council is currently reviewing the Corsham town bus service, and I am writing to ask for your views on the proposed changes to the service, which it is intended will be introduced in January 2014.

This is part of an ongoing series of reviews of bus services across the county, which aim to identify the most cost-effective means of meeting local access needs in a way that can be financially sustainable in the longer term. The reviews are being carried out in the context of the current pressures on public spending and the requirement of the Council's Financial Plan to make savings in funding for bus services. They are therefore looking in particular at journeys that require a relatively high level of council funding in relation to the number of passengers they carry, or which are less well used.

In the case of the Corsham town service there are two additional reasons why the service has to be reviewed at this time;

- For the last three years the service has been partly funded from external sources. This funding will come to an end during the current year, and as a result the cost to the Council of supporting the current level of service would rise to £160,000 per annum
- The bus operator has recently given notice to terminate early his contract for operating the service, and this is expected to lead to a further increase in cost if the existing timetable is retained

An information sheet is attached which includes a commentary on the service that is currently provided, and details of the proposed changes.

Your views are sought on these proposals and in particular your answers to the following two questions;

1. **Are you aware of any significant hardship** that would be caused if these proposals were implemented? If so, please could you let us know what specific journeys could no longer be made and, if possible, give an indication of how many people you think would be affected.
2. **Do you have any suggestions for alternative proposals** that would achieve a similar level of financial saving with less impact? (we are aware that in some cases there may be other ways of meeting some of the needs of the area in other ways, for example by community or voluntary transport.)

The consultation will close on **4 October 2013**. Responses can be sent by post to the Passenger Transport Unit, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN (attention of Ian White); or by email to buses@wiltshire.gov.uk.

This consultation letter has been sent via the Area Board manager to local councillors, and to other local groups or organisations who may want to respond. It has also been sent to some countywide organisations, and to local community transport groups.

Questionnaires will also be made available on the buses so that users are able to comment on the proposals. Copies of the consultation documents are available on the council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/consultations , or can be requested from the address above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian White', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ian White
Head of Service Passenger Transport

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Review of Corsham town bus service – info sheet

Summary of proposed change

Town service 10A will continue to provide a half hourly service for most of the day, and will be diverted to serve Katherine Park instead of Valley Road. This will allow service 10E to be withdrawn. The town service will no longer serve Rudloe Estate, but the Bath – Chippenham services will still provide four buses an hour into Corsham from Leafy Lane and from the stops at the estate entrance on Bradford Road.

Commentary on current service

The town service links the estates and outlying settlements around Corsham with the town centre. There are two services, each currently running every 30 minutes between 0700 and 1815 on Mondays – Fridays and hourly between 0800 and 1315 on Saturdays. Service 10A runs on a loop via Broadmead, Dicketts Road, Neston, Basil Hill MoD, Upper Potley, Valley Road and Beechfield Road; and 10E runs out and back to Basil Hill MoD via Beechfield Road, Katherine Park, Park Lane and Rudloe Estate.

The service was expanded three years ago to run more frequently and to serve Basil Hill, funded by the developers of the Basil Hill MoD site in order to meet planning obligations that required a bus service to be provided to improve non-car access to the site. It was hoped that by the end of the period of developer funding, passenger use would have grown to the point that the expanded service could continue with only a limited ongoing requirement for council subsidy. Unfortunately this has not been the case.

The service in its current form costs around £200,000 per annum to operate. Of this, around a quarter is recovered from passenger fares, £80,000 from the developers and the remaining £80,000 from Council funding. The Basil Hill developer funding ends this year, and the cost to the Council will therefore rise to £160,000 per annum. As Council funding has also come under increased pressure, this is not affordable. The current operator has also given notice that he wishes to terminate his contract to run the service, and this is expected to lead to a further increase in the cost if the existing timetable is to be retained.

The service currently carries around 80,000 passenger journeys a year. However, when spread over the number of bus journeys operated this equates to on average only 7 passengers per trip. It is clear that the number of passengers does not justify the current level of service, which requires two buses and three drivers to operate.

Explanation of proposed changes

The proposed changes are designed to reduce the cost of operation by using only one bus, while continuing to provide an attractive service for the majority of users. A half hourly service will continue to operate for most of the day on the service 10A route, which will be diverted to serve Katherine Park. To allow a vehicle to be saved, the town service will no longer serve Rudloe Estate. However, there are frequent alternative services into Corsham (four buses an hour) from Leafy Lane and from the bus stop on Bradford Road at the entrance to the estate.

The proposed timetable, which would come into effect in January 2014, is shown overleaf.

A consultation on these proposals is under way and will close on **4 October 2013**. Details of the consultation can be found on the council's website (<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm>) or are available from the Passenger Transport Unit, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN.

Mondays to Saturdays

	NS	NS											
Corsham, Newlands Road	0715	0745	0815	0845	0920	0950			1050	1120	1150	1220	1250
Pound Pill	0717	0747	0817	0847	0922	0952			1052	1122	1152	1222	1252
Broadmead	0719	0749	0819	0849	0924	0954			1054	1124	1154	1224	1254
Dicketts Road	0720	0750	0820	0850	0925	0955			1055	1125	1155	1225	1255
Cotswold Family Centre	0721	0751	0821	0851	0926	0956			1056	1126	1156	1226	1256
Neston, Pool Green / Church Rise	0723	0753	0823	0853	0928	0958	Break		1058	1128	1158	1228	1258
Basil Hill, MOD Main Gate	0726	0756	0826	0856	0931	1001			1101	1131	1201	1231	1301
Westwells, bus shelter	0727	0757	0827	0857	0932	1002			1102	1132	1202	1232	1302
Upper Potley, Curlcroft Road	0728	0858	0828	0958	0933	1003			1103	1133	1203	1233	1303
Katherine Park, Freestone Way	0732	0802	0832	0902	0937	1007			1107	1137	1207	1237	1307
West Park Road	0736	0756	0836	0906	0941	1011			1111	1141	1211	1241	1311
Beechfield Road	0738	0808	0838	0908	0943	1013			1113	1143	1213	1243	1313
Corsham, Newlands Road	0741	0811	0841	0911	0946	1016			1116	1146	1216	1246	1316

	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	
Corsham, Newlands Road	1320	1350	1450	1520	1550	1620	1650	1720	1750	
Pound Pill	1322	1352	1452	1522	1552	1622	1652	1722	1752	
Broadmead	1324	1354	1454	1524	1554	1624	1654	1724	1754	
Dicketts Road	1325	1355	1455	1525	1555	1625	1655	1725	1755	
Cotswold Family Centre	1326	1356	1456	1526	1556	1626	1656	1726	1756	
Neston, Pool Green / Church Rise	1328	1358	Break	1458	1528	1558	1628	1658	1728	1758
Basil Hill, MOD Main Gate	1331	1401		1501	1531	1601	1631	1701	1731	1801
Westwells, bus shelter	1332	1402		1502	1532	1602	1632	1702	1732	1802
Upper Potley, Curlcroft Road	1333	1403		1503	1533	1603	1633	1703	1733	1803
Katherine Park, Freestone Way	1337	1407		1507	1537	1607	1637	1707	1737	1807
West Park Road	1341	1411		1511	1541	1611	1641	1711	1741	1811
Beechfield Road	1343	1413		1513	1543	1613	1643	1713	1743	1813
Corsham, Newlands Road	1346	1416		1516	1546	1616	1646	1716	1746	1816

Key

NS - indicates a journey that will not run on Saturdays

