

This matter is being dealt with by:

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9 September 2015

NEW BUS SERVICES – RUSHCLIFFE MAINLINE, VILLAGER AND NOTTSBUS CONNECT

As you know, a revised network of bus services was introduced on 30 August. I recently met with County Councillor Richard Butler to discuss the changes and promised to distribute this letter which gives further details around the need for change and how the new network of bus services were developed.

The County Council has severe funding difficulties and between 2014 and 2016 is reducing the budget provision for local bus services by £1.8m. It was recognised that this will have serious implications for local bus services especially in rural areas and affect our strategy to promote travel to work, training, learning, health and other key services.

In order to reduce costs we embarked on reviewing service provision across the county in conjunction with the bus operators and local communities. Our aim was to provide access to key services but this could require a reduction in frequency, shorter routes, connections from small villages to main bus routes and the use of the County Council fleet to provide journeys when they are not being used for social care or school services.

In addition, we had received local concerns regarding seating capacity, timekeeping, reliability, the routes of some services and the lack of evening services, which all needed to be addressed but within the spending limits.

In conjunction with the main commercial bus operator, Trentbarton, we embarked on reviewing the East Rushcliffe bus services in consultation with representatives of all the affected Parish Councils. Various meetings were held where draft proposals were discussed and the final network agreed. The main outcomes from the changes are:

- A revised Mainline service between Bingham, Radcliffe-on-Trent and Nottingham which also serves West Bridgford Town Centre
- Additional capacity and increased frequency on the Mainline service
- Peak and off-peak services for all the villages providing either a direct service to Nottingham (Villager service) or Nottsbus Connect (services 850, 852 and 853) connecting at Radcliffe-on-Trent (leaflet enclosed)
- Guaranteed connections between the Mainline service and Nottsbus Connect to ensure no passenger is left stranded
- A trial evening service for the Villager service
- Hoe View Road, Cropwell Bishop served by the Villager service
- New timetables and routes to provide a more reliable service (the Trentbarton Mainline and Villager services can be viewed at trentbarton.co.uk/rushcliffe_mainline_or/rushcliffe_villager)

I know that residents of Cropwell Butler are not happy about the loss of their direct service but peak and off-peak services are provided by the Nottsbus Connect services connecting passengers with the Mainline service at Radcliffe-on-Trent. Given the funding resources available it is impossible to provide all villages with a direct service and decisions had to be based on patronage and cost.

I can assure you that the services will be monitored over the forthcoming months and we will review performance early in 2016.

I acknowledge that communications on the final network proposals could have been better and distributed at an earlier date. I will ensure that this happens if there are any changes in the future.

During these difficult fiscal times it is very difficult to meet all transport requests across the county. To ensure that the limited funding is used effectively and efficiently the Transport & Highways Committee at its meeting on 12 February approved a new framework for reviewing bus services and a copy of the report is attached for your information.

I hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and that the new network of services are meeting local needs.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "M. Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mark Hudson
Group Manager
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Nottinghamshire County Council

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