



## Winchester Passenger Transport Forum

Date **16 March 2011**  
Time **10:00**  
Location **Ashburton Hall, The Castle, Winchester**

<b>Present</b>	Cllr Peter Mason	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr John Higgins	Winchester City Council
	Cllr B Lipscomb	Winchester City Council
	Cllr Jane Rutter	Winchester City Council
		Headbourne Worthy Parish Council
	Cllr Roger Huxstep	Winchester City Council
		Shedfield Parish Council
	Steph Andrews	Bishops Waltham Parish Council
	Alan Foster	Bishops Waltham Parish Council
	Eric Simpson	Bramdean and Hinton Ampner Parish Council
	Barbara Large	Cheriton Parish Council
	Lynne Newton	Curdridge Parish Council
		Curdridge Transport
	Jeremy Harrison	Denmead Parish Council
	Bob Barnes	Kings Worthy Parish Council
	Peter Highfield	Littleton and Harestock Parish Council
	Rod Warren	Littleton and Harestock Parish Council
	Pam Vandersteen	Oliver's Battery Parish Council
	Mike Southgate	Shawford and Compton Parish Council
	Ruth Wiffen	Shedfield Parish Council
	Eileen Bolton	South Wonston Parish Council
	Rosemary Ridgeley	Swanmore Parish Council
	Bernadette Beresford	Connect Advocacy
	Angela Jestico	Connect Advocacy
	Trudy Whittear	Connect Advocacy
	BK Purkiss	Giles Group (Disabled)
	C Earthy	Giles Group (Disabled)
	Mary Mitchell	Good Neighbours Support Service
	Sandie Osborne	Good Neighbours Support Service
	Bob Fidler	Meon Valley Community Bus Association
	Kathleen Hales	Swanmore Voluntary Care Group
	Janet Chierchia	Winchester and District Mencap Society
Stuart Banks	Winchester Area Community Action	
Neil Beswick	Hampshire County Council – Passenger Transport	
Graham Horn	Hampshire County Council – Passenger Transport	
Kevin Ings	Hampshire County Council – Passenger Transport	
Sue Knight	Hampshire County Council – Passenger Transport	
Peter Shelley	Hampshire County Council – Passenger Transport	
Andrew Wilson	Hampshire County Council – Passenger Transport	
Colin Wright	Hampshire County Council – Passenger Transport	
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Brian Collin	Hampshire County Council
		Winchester City Council
	Myrna Coates	Hambledon Parish Council

Steve Cuff	Bluestar
Jessie Norgate	Friendship Club
Phil Blair	PB Bus Marketing
Jane Jessop	Winchester and District Mencap
Bruce Winton	Winchester Cathedral
Michael Hedderly	Hampshire County Council – Passenger Transport
Roberta Brockman	Hampshire County Council – Adult Services
Jill Sweeney	Hampshire County Council – Adult Services

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Kevin Ings, Community Transport Manager, Hampshire County Council, opened the meeting, and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

### **Bus service review 2011**

Andrew Wilson, Strategy Manager, Passenger Transport Group, Hampshire County Council, gave a presentation about the challenges facing the County Council in this changing financial environment and set out possible options for how passenger transport services might be provided in the future. After his presentation he, together with Neil Beswick, Operations Manager, Passenger Transport Group, answered questions.

#### **Q. Why is service 86 in the urban list and not in the rural list?**

Andrew Wilson (AW). The service is a mixture of urban and rural operation. The split was for ease of presentation and in practice it does not matter which list a service is in, all services that receive a subsidy will be reviewed.

#### **Q. Service 145. What happens in school holidays? It is a school term only route that is subsidised.**

Neil Beswick (NB). Yes it is only supported to operate on schooldays. We recognise that this leaves a gap in the service.

#### **Q. Please explain rural subsidy. What does this mean for rural services? Is their a risk to rural services?**

NB. Yes, there is a risk. Rural services are unlikely to be commercially profitable and therefore of little interest to commercial bus operators. We will be exploring other options, for example taxishares instead of buses, operating fewer days per week, or reducing the number of journeys each day.

AW. Unlike some other shire counties, Hampshire is not going for zero subsidy. Yes we will be taking out about a third of the bus subsidy budget but there will still be about £5 million available.

Comment. Cllr Mason. There is still a large amount of money being lost. He doubts whether bus companies will want to take on marginal routes, and it might lead them to deciding that other currently commercial operations are not viable either.

NB. Yes, that is true. We have exploring with Stagecoach whether the increase in patronage on certain routes now makes them commercial. Bus companies are currently very risk averse because of implications such as rising fuel costs. Conversely, bus companies are willing to work with HCC to try and retain a certain minimum level of work.

AW. Across the county over the last few years we have seen an increase in Sunday patronage, as shops are now busier on Sundays. This may allow some Sunday services to be commercial.

#### **Q. Are the Winchester Park and Ride services subsidised? Are they part of this process?**

AW. The Park and Ride buses are operated by Winchester City Council as part of their parking function. HCC advised WCC on contractual issues when the services were being set up but there is no HCC subsidy.

Q. But there is a public subsidy?

NB. Yes, but it is WCC's money.

Q. Could the Park and Ride services stop at more stops to compensate for the loss of service 5?

AW. That is something that could be teased out at the workshops.

Comment. Cllr Higgins (WCC). Confirmed that WCC does subsidise the Park and Ride services from the parking budget.

**Q. Cllr Higgins. I see that service 11 is not on the list. Does that mean that service 11 will not be subsidised after October?**

AW. Apologies if it is missing from the list. Yes, it is currently subsidised and will be considered along with all other services.

**Q. Bishop's Waltham PC. We are interested where it might be possible for communities to help themselves. Is it possible to receive grants to provide youth services?**

NB. We realise that in rural areas there are issues with facilities for youths in the evenings. We need to stretch our budget everywhere. The Community Transport team is developing a rural toolkit to give rural areas information about all the transport options available to them.

**Q. The Educational Maintenance Allowance finishes in July this year. This will impact on students. Have you taken this into account?**

NB. We are working closely with colleges, because there are large numbers of students travelling on buses. Alongside this review we are looking at what the students' and colleges' needs are.

**Q. Cllr Lipscomb (WCC). We all understand the reasons behind the situation we are all in. From our perspective this is desperately sad. I am pleased that you are looking at innovative remedies. If you cut frequencies of already sparse services it makes matters worse so please consider this. Also, consider the part that the private car has to play in moving people around, there is a place for the private car in helping people.**

AW. This exercise is not intended to be a war on the private car. We are looking to identify the socially necessary services to help people get around. We are supportive of neighbourhood car shares, lift shares and self help schemes. We intend to incorporate community transport schemes into the mainstream of transport provision, and this is one of the aims of the rural toolkit, to help people organise such schemes on a local basis. We will provide advice and are looking to channel funding into wider transport schemes.

Comment. Mary Mitchell (GNSS). We also want to support and encourage voluntary local groups. We need to make sure we are not putting people into vulnerable positions through informal arrangements such as lift shares.

**Q. You mentioned web-based consultation. What about people without web access?**

AW. The consultation will not only be web based. Representatives at the Passenger Transport Forums can feed back information to their members. Also forms are being given out in places like bus stations and on buses.

**Q. Could forms be distributed through Parish Councils?**

AW. Yes, there are copies of forms to take away with you, or let us know and we can supply you with more. We will also email a copy of the consultation document to all Parish Councils.

Comment. Shawford PC. We are fortunate to have good rail and bus services, and this drives up the use of public transport. Where opportunities exist to increase transport services should be taken.

**Q. Are night bus services subsidised?**

NB. No, Bluestar operates these on a commercial basis.

**Workshops**

Forum members divided into groups and were asked to consider a series of questions put before them relating to how they would be likely to prioritise bus routes. A copy of this consultation paper will be sent out with these notes for reference.

Following the workshops, each table produced a group sheet to represent the views of those present and these were collected up for inclusion into a summary document which will form part of the consultation process.

**Concessionary fares scheme update**

Kevin Ings gave a presentation to provide an update on the implementation of the new Hampshire County Council concessionary fares scheme. After his presentation he took the following questions.

**Q. What happens if I have not received a pass or letter? Many people in Winchester District have not received anything.**

KI. Give me your details and I will investigate this.

Post meeting note. Passes in Winchester District started to arrive on the same day as the meeting.

**Q. Will there be some information going out in the Council Tax demand?**

KI. No. We are intending to provide information directly to all current concession holders. Anyone who is on one of the current District databases for concessionary fares should be contacted.

**Q. Are vouchers only available to disabled people?**

KI. Yes, they are available to anyone who meets the disabled criteria, and are not age-based.

**Q. Are passes still valid of ferries?**

KI. No.

**Q. Will I be able to use my new pass in Portsmouth or Southampton?**

KI. Yes, but only after 09:30 on weekdays.

**Q. Will I be able to use my companion pass outside Hampshire?**

KI. No, but we are negotiating with our adjacent Local Authorities. We have reached a reciprocal arrangement with Wiltshire.

**Q. You said that 90,000 passes expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. Many have not yet been received. If the new ones are not received in time, will we be able to use our existing pass?**

KI. If we think that a problem is arising with delivery, we will look at a contingency plan.

**Q. Please clarify the Portsmouth and Southampton situation.**

KI. Portsmouth and Southampton are not part of Hampshire, they are Unitary Authorities which have their own Concessionary Travel schemes. Passes issued in Hampshire will be able to be used in Portsmouth and Southampton, and everywhere else in England, after 09:30 on

weekdays. This is the national statutory minimum requirement. The Hampshire scheme offers certain enhancements within the area covered by Hampshire County Council.

**Q. My daughter has a Winchester City Council disabled pass, and will need a companion pass. Will her letter give her the option of allowing her to change?**

KI. Yes. Not each district offered a companion pass, so existing holders will automatically get like for like replacements. But every letter will include a copy of the leaflet explaining all of the options, and people will be able to apply for a change of concession if they think they meet the necessary criteria.

**Q. The leaflet says the pass is valid from 09:30 but you are now saying 09:00. Which is correct?**

KI. The leaflet was correct at the time that it was printed, but Council subsequently decided to offer an enhancement to the scheme with a 09:00 start. Everyone can help spread this information.

**Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 1000 to 1200 Ashburton Hall, EII Court, The Castle, Winchester.

**Key Passenger Transport contacts**

**Bus Services**

Colin Wright, Principal Transport Officer, Hampshire County Council  
Tel: 01962 846923, Email: [colin.wright@hants.gov.uk](mailto:colin.wright@hants.gov.uk)

**Rail Services**

Michael Hedderly, Rail Officer, Hampshire County Council  
Tel: 01962 845492, Email: [mike.hedderly@hants.gov.uk](mailto:mike.hedderly@hants.gov.uk)

**Infrastructure**

Adam Craig, Passenger Transport Officer, Hampshire County Council  
Tel: 01962 845883, Email: [adam.craig@hants.gov.uk](mailto:adam.craig@hants.gov.uk)

**Community Transport Services**

Graham Horn, Community Transport Projects Officer, Hampshire County Council  
Tel: 01962 846786, Email: [graham.horn@hants.gov.uk](mailto:graham.horn@hants.gov.uk)

Or: Stuart Banks, Winchester Area Community Action  
Tel: 01962 854844, Email: [sbanks@waca.org.uk](mailto:sbanks@waca.org.uk)

**City Council Transport**

Andy Hickman, Winchester City Council  
Tel: 01962 848105, Email: [ahickman@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:ahickman@winchester.gov.uk)

**Car Schemes**

Sandra Osborne, Area Advisor South-East, Good Neighbour Support Service  
Tel: 07827 925328, Email: [adviser.southeast@goodneighbours.org.uk](mailto:adviser.southeast@goodneighbours.org.uk)

For more information on Passenger Transport services in Hampshire visit:  
[www.hants.gov.uk/passengertransport](http://www.hants.gov.uk/passengertransport)