

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

23 SEPTEMBER 2015

WINCHESTER EVENING BUS SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (BUILT ENVIRONMENT)

Contact Officer: Simon Finch Tel No: 01962 848271

RECENT REFERENCES:

WTF203 - Winchester Town Evening Bus Service Update - 25 June 2014

WTF216 - Winchester Town Evening Bus Service Update – 11 March 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report updates the Forum on the changes to early evening bus services operating in Winchester. Services were reduced in January 2015 following the decision by Hampshire County Council to cease funding for a number of routes which served the city. However Stagecoach has reintroduced some evening services which they are operating on a commercial basis and further services are planned for the autumn.

The issue of mid evening buses was discussed when the Forum considered an update on the night bus at its March meeting (WTF216 refers) when it was resolved that a joint meeting be arranged with Parish Councils in the immediate vicinity of the Town to consider a collaborative approach for the provision of a two hour mid evening bus service to operate from the City centre to all neighbouring parishes.

However given the additional commercial services already introduced and planned for October 2015 it is recommended that such a meeting with parish councils is no longer needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Winchester town Forum:

1. Notes the content of the report and agree that a meeting with neighbouring parishes to discuss the provision of mid evening bus services is no longer needed.

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM23 September 2015WINCHESTER EVENING BUS SERVICES UPDATEREPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (ENVIRONMENT)DETAIL:1 Introduction

- 1.1 In October 2014 Hampshire County Council announced the results of its review on supported public transport services. In Winchester this has resulted in the loss of most evening bus services after 19.30 as funding was withdrawn by the Transport Authority.
- 1.2 Stagecoach South, the local operator of many bus routes in Winchester, have made the decision to reintroduce some early evening bus routes on a commercial basis which is a positive step which should benefit bus users in the town area.
- 1.3 Since the 30th August, Stagecoach have made amendments to some of their timetables and reintroduced a slightly later bus on three of the Winchester City routes; 3, 5 and The Spring.
- **The Spring (Kings Worthy - City Centre)** – Improved morning peak services with an extra bus at 1938.
 - **No.3 (Harestock - Weeke - City Centre)** – Bus has been retimed through the day. Extra bus from Winchester at 2010
 - **No.5 (Badger Farm - City Centre)** – Extra bus at 2005.
- 1.4 From the 25th October, Stagecoach will be reintroducing more early evening bus services on a commercial basis to routes 1, 3, 5 and The Spring.
- **The Spring (Kings Worthy-City Centre)** – Extra hourly service Monday to Saturday from 1935 to 2135, and an extra 2235 service from Thursday to Saturday only.
 - **No.3 (Harestock - Weeke - City Centre)** – Extra hourly service Monday to Saturday from 2010 to 2210 (Monday to Wednesday for 2210). The Town Forum bus will provide services at 2210, 2315 and 0015 Thursday to Saturday.
 - **No.5 (Badger Farm - City Centre)** – Extra half hour service Monday to Saturday from 2005 to 2235 (Monday to Wednesday 2235).. The Town Forum 5A will provide services at 2235 and 2340 on Thursday to Saturdays.
 - **No. 1 (Winnall – City Centre)** – Extra hourly service at 2005 and 2105.

- **No. 1 (Stanmore - City Centre)** – Extra services Monday to Saturday at 1935, 2015, 2115 and 2235. The Town Forum 5A bus will provide services at 2235 and 2340 on Thursday to Saturday.
- 1.5 From the 25th October, some of the Town Forum night buses will be retimed by five minutes to give a better integrated late evening service.
- 1.6 The Park & Ride bus is currently allowed to serve non-P&R bus stops along Romsey Road after 1930. It will cease to do so after the 25th October, when the no.5 bus will run every 30 minutes along Romsey Road after 1900.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

2 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 2.1 The service will contribute towards Community and Economic objectives by providing a service which local people can use to access restaurants and Public Houses thus benefitting the evening economy and improving accessibility.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 3.1 A recurring revenue budget contribution of £13,792 has been provided in 2015/16 for the support of the night bus service with an annual inflationary uplift.

4 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 N/A

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

APPENDICES:

None