

Winsley Parish Council Meeting 11th January 2022 Highways & Transport Advisory Group Report

1 - D1 Bus Service (Agenda item).

Copy of Councillor Kidney's Facebook comment on a report in the Bath Chronicle 23rd December. This report has caused concern to some residents since it was unheralded and contrary to what Winsley Parish Council has been led to believe by First Bus and Wiltshire Council.

"Some residents may have been concerned by an article that appeared in the print edition of the Bath Chronicle just before Christmas which featured the MP for Bath claiming that, amongst other things, the D1 service from Warminster to Bath was to be axed in January 2022. Oddly, the article never made it to the online edition.

In response to these worrying rumours, I have been in liaison with Wiltshire Council's Bus Network Manager who has reassured me that while First Bus are looking at changes to services, there will be no change to the northern leg of the D1 route - Warminster to Bath serving Winsley and Limpley Stoke in January, contrary to the report in the Chronicle. There may however be changes on the southern Warminster to Salisbury leg.

There may be some timetabling changes on the D1 route in April but this is currently subject to ongoing discussions on timings, so any amendments to the timetable from April have yet to be determined.

In recent consultations on local bus services, both Winsley Parish Council and I called for a reinstatement of a half hourly service on the D1 between Winsley, Limpley Stoke and Bath to take it back to pre-pandemic levels. A paper was taken to Wiltshire Council's Cabinet in October proposing to seek increased services between Winsley and Bath as part of Wiltshire Council's wider Bus Service Improvement Plan. While there are current challenges facing bus operators in terms of reduced usage due to Covid and a shortage of drivers, I have made it clear to the Council that this must remain the ambition, and I am reassured that the Council's Passenger Transport team share this view, recognising the strategic importance of the D1 route.

I will provide a further update on any proposed timetabling changes to be introduced from April when these become available. Rest assured however that as a regular user of the D1 bus, I will always continue to press for the protection of this vital route into the future.

As ever, the most important thing is that residents do use the bus as much as possible. We are fortunate to have this service and the best way to ensure its survival is to use it at every opportunity. With parking costs in Bath always on the rise, and traffic congestion showing no signs of improving, the bus can be an attractive alternative to driving and would be even more so if increased services could be secured."

2 - Meeting between Cllrs Barnes & Kidney with Kirsty Rose – Wilts Highways to discuss parking restrictions and vehicle access in Old Village around St. Nicholas Church planned for 17th January.

3 - No progress on DY lines lower Winsley Hill.

4 – Next CATG Meeting 31st January 2022

