

Transport Meeting 30th October 2018

A fair number of Parish Councils were represented this time, and tables were full.

No representatives from First or Panther

Agenda contained the following:

Tender Update – 85% of Bus Services across the County are Commercial services

In April 2019, Evening and Sunday services contracts will end on 57 routes.

Currently the ECC budget is fully committed, so any increase would be a struggle.

ECC will be looking at how often these services are used, and they have asked (due to only 6 months away) the Bus Operators to extend the contract to allow more time for consultation.

Asked where the consultation would be publicised, on Buses, Libraries and ECC Website, can also complete a paper one through the Contact Centre (Details on ECC Website).

Stated November 2018 is the target date for consultation to start but was a very vague commitment.

In July 2020, all contracted services contracts will end. All passenger usage will be reviewed.

Bus Service Update

Operator Update – As First had sent no one they had sent in a brief written update – their absence was commented on by ECC Councillor Colin Sargent who was quite scathing of their absence!

I only took notes regarding the Routes that affect Lawford etc, apparently there have been no significant changes on the 103/104, and will be replacing buses with newer ones but not brand new!

Hedingham (present) stated that they took over a number of routes at quite short notice and had struggled with staff, due to commitments etc as they also have a large number of school contracts a lot of drivers take their annual holidays at the same time as the schools, so adding to the problem.

Also stated they had not made a profit for last 6 years but will be investing in newer, but not brand new, buses!.

Also stated they were happy to attend Parish/Town Councils to discuss any issues/problems – need to get people onto buses and out of cars.

Also mentioned was to be a consultation in the early part of 2019 as to the way forward.

Community Transport

Pauline Mann from Clacton Community Transport was in attendance and stated that they are unable to meet demand which is increasing and are refusing people every month. It would appear that the

majority of people moving into the area do not consider public transport and when they become unable to drive then realise!

In the past they have been approached by a developer to run a shuttle bus from development to nearest bus stop, nothing further was heard after financing this was raised!

There has been no further advice/guidance from DfT regarding Section 19/22 permits after the ECj ruling in 2017. This is expected in the next couple of months!

The Hospital Hopper Service they run is being financed out of reserves and concessionary fares, received NO funding from TDC or NHS/CCG. They are completing between 800/900 passenger journeys a month to Colchester Hospital, and are often contacted by A&E regarding discharges from hospital.

Service is run between 0600-2015 weekdays, and now also run a Saturday & Sunday service.

Community Schemes will close due to lack of funding, and when they are gone it is almost impossible to restart.

(This was also discussed at the TDC Transport Liaison Group meeting)

As Ipswich and Colchester hospitals are now one Trust there was a discussion around the impact on community transport. It has been suggested, by the CCG, that a shuttle bus will run between the two, however it was felt that this was potentially unworkable.

There was then a short question and answer session. Nothing of significance for Lawford.

Next Meeting likely to be in the Spring 2019 (exact date and location to be confirmed).