

## **Item 9. Report on the Feasibility of providing a Community Transport Link in Copythorne Parish.**

### **1. Introduction.**

I wrote an initial report back in January, floating the idea of undertaking a feasibility study into providing a Community Transport Link for Copythorne Parish and at the January Parish Council Meeting, I was given the green light to prepare a report.

Firstly just to recap what I said in my initial report: *“The local T3 and T4 Blue bus scheduled service was cut from 3 days to 2 days a week last year (it now only runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays) – as well as a reduction in the number of scheduled buses per day in each direction, to just two in the mornings and one in the afternoons. There are of course scheduled buses running Monday to Friday to and from Brockenhurst college (but only early morning and late afternoon). Otherwise the nearest scheduled bus service is the No.11 Blue bus which stops opposite Goodies Fish Bar on the A336 (Ringwood Road). This is a serious loss of amenity and for those without their own transport has effectively meant that they can only travel to Totton and beyond by bus twice a week.”*

With regard to passenger numbers, I also mentioned in the previous report, that I was surprised to find that over 870 people had boarded the T3 and T4 buses in October and November 2019. The first thing to say is that the spreadsheet I was sent only showed how many people boarded the bus not where they caught it!

### **2. Local Transport Examples and Transport Audit**

There is a considerable amount of information on line on how to go about setting up a community transport service. This ranges from how to undertake an audit, how to conduct a local survey, to how to run your local community transport service.

Rather than jump the gun and start by making wrong assumptions/suggestions about how to best meet local transport needs. I took the time to read through the recommendations and advice given by Hampshire County Council, on how best to go about the process of establishing the need for a Community Transport Link.

The first thing to do is to find out what's already out there and to find out whether or not it meets their needs and if not what they would like.

As a start, let's look at the various different types of transport that are typically provided in rural communities. As can be seen from the comparison table below, this can range from a Voluntary Car service, right through to a Community Bus service. The essential differences being public/private, door to door, fixed/flexible route, timetabled/flexible service. Having seen what one might expect to find commonly available (hopefully the links will work and allow you to drill down into the various examples,) the next step is to (as recommended by HCC) undertake an audit of local transport.

Please see below the table of transport services that I have found operating in our local area.

During the course of my research I found out that Bransgore have set up a community bus company. They have bought a single decker bus and are in the process of setting up a local scheduled bus service. At the other extreme is a scheme to provide mopeds to local young people.

**Community transport comparison table**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Groups Individuals</b>	<b>Regular or one off trips</b>	<b>Timetable or flexible</b>	<b>Fixed or flexible route</b>	<b>Door to door</b>	<b>Available to public</b>
<u>Voluntary car scheme</u>	Individual	One-off	Flexible	Flexible	Yes	No
<u>Liftshare scheme</u>	Individual	Regular/one-off	Flexible	Flexible	Yes	Yes
<u>Car club</u>	Individual	One-off	Flexible	Flexible	No	No
<u>Taxishare service</u>	Group	Regular	Timetabled	Flexible	Yes	Yes
<u>Taxibus service</u>	Group	Regular	Timetabled	Fixed	No	Yes
<u>Minibus service</u>	Group	Regular	Timetabled	Flexible	Yes	No
<u>Community bus service</u>	Group	Regular	Timetabled	Fixed	No	Yes

**Transport services in the Copythorne Parish area and brief details about each service**

	Destination	Days of the week	Timings	Who can use the service?	Notes
Bus Route(s) (including school buses)	T3, T4, Totton  C5, Brockenhurst College	Tuesday, Thursday  Monday to Friday	T3 0900, 1100, 1300 T4 1000, 1200, 1400  C5 0827 dpt. 1651 arr.	Anyone	Circular route  Bartley C of E Junior School
Taxishare or Carshare	Taxishare 31, Totton	Tuesday, Friday		Copythorne, but need to register and book	01962 846786 Copythorne only
Call & Go	Totton, Calmore	Wednesday, Friday	Mornings	For those with Mobility and Sensory issues. Registration required	Minibus to Asda and Morrisons  01425 461751
Voluntary Car Scheme	Communicare, Totton  Neighbourcare, Lyndhurst	Monday to Friday		Anyone in Copythorne, Winsor  Must be registered with Lyndhurst Surgery	023 80660200 Booking 10am to 12am 0845 0945818 Minstead
Other					

### **3. Looking at the Audit Findings.**

So apart from the T3, T4 and C5 buses, as can be seen in the table there are several other modes of transport available in the Copythorne Parish area.

There is a Community Transport Team (HCC) "Taxi-share 31" scheme operating in Fritham, Nomansland, Landford, Bramshaw, Brook and Minstead, but it does pick up in **Copythorne** and then onto Totton. This as a scheduled service which runs on Tuesday and Friday, mornings (out) and afternoons (back) with home pickup. To use the service you need to register by calling 01962 846 786. Cost depends on distance, for example from Minstead to Totton is typically £5.70 return.

Community First New Forest run a "Call and Go" minibus service. The service is provided for people with mobility and sensory issues, who don't have access to a car or are more than 400 metres from a bus stop. In our area it runs on a Wednesday and Friday and picks up from fixed points in Cadnam and Winsor and drops of in Totton. Cost as above depends on distance and ranges from £2.50 to £6.00 return.

There are two "Voluntary Car Schemes" locally, one in Lyndhurst called Neighbourcare and another in Totton called Communicare. Both provide transport to and from doctors' surgeries and other medical appointments. To qualify for the Lyndhurst scheme you need to be registered at the Lyndhurst Doctors Surgery and/or live Lyndhurst, Emery Down, or Minstead. The Communicare scheme will pick up in Copythorne and Winsor. Cost is a suggested voluntary donation for Neighbourcare and 45p per mile for Communicare.

### **4. What is the next step?**

Having undertaken the audit, I believe consideration should be given to producing a leaflet to promote awareness of what public transport is available locally. It should include:

- details of existing transport services operating in our area (taken from the audit)
- where to find more details (timetables, fares, phone numbers)
- proposals for new services or changes to existing services
- maybe details of the last bus back for younger people
- specific information for the disabled (dial a ride service)

I suggest that the leaflet should be conventionally published and also put on the Council website. For maximum impact also consider publishing it in the monthly newsletter.

## **5. Conclusions.**

Finally, by way of examples, my research has identified at least two possible ways of augmenting local public transport:

- On the days on which the T3, T4 buses don't run, if demand exists it might be possible to provide a local community minibus link to the No. 11 Blue bus scheduled service which stops at Goodies Fish Bar.
- To offer a service picking up around the whole of Copythorne Parish and connecting to Totton, it might be possible to extend the "Taxishare31" service. But note having spoken to Community Transport Team this can only happen once the T3 and T4 bus service is withdrawn.

It would seem likely at this point in time that the matrix of local transport is at worst adequate. The production of a local transport leaflet will better inform the community of what transport is available now. With this done, I recommend that we pause the process until such time as notice is given that the T3 and T4 bus is withdrawn from service. I believe this will probably represent the tipping point because beyond this point the local community will need some sort of alternative transport link.

Then once the need for a community transport link has been proven to exist, by way of conducting a peoples' survey, I can design a community transport service that will be tailored to Copythorne Parish. I can investigate the most efficient and cost-effective method of delivering it. That maybe by setting up a taxi-share service, a taxis-bus service, a minibus service, or a community bus service; we need to keep an open mind. When this exercise restarts, I'll also speak to the HCC Community Transport Team (CTT) again, about engagement with their mentoring scheme.

## **6. Proposal.**

My proposal to Council:

- Is to present the above findings at the APM later this month.
- Assuming it is well received, produce an information leaflet on local public transport.
- It would seem prudent at this point to pause the process, until such time as the existing T3 and T4 service is withdrawn.
- Once the T3 and T4 bus stops, in order to better understand the Parish transport needs (depending on how much time has elapsed maybe recirculate the information leaflet first) undertake a Community Transport Survey. I suggest that it should be similar in format to that undertaken in Pamber, Silchester and Mortimer West End Parishes, attached as Appendix 1.
- Last and by no means least, speak to CTT about engaging with their mentoring scheme.

Cllr. Graham Chillcott

27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**APPENDIX 1**

**SURVEY ON TRANSPORT NEEDS from Pamber, Silchester and Mortimer West End Parish Councils**

Transport for those in rural areas without regular access to a private car is an increasing problem. The aim of this survey is to find out the transport needs of residents in Mortimer West End, Pamber, and Silchester, how well they are being met by existing services (whether public transport, voluntary car schemes or charitable services such as Dial-a-Ride) and, most importantly, whether there is sufficient demand to make additional transport services viable.

ALL REPLIES RECEIVED BY <DATE> WILL BE ENTERED INTO A PRIZE DRAW TO RECEIVE A £20 VOUCHER FOR MARKS AND SPENCERS

1. How many people within your household, including children, sometimes have difficulty getting to where they want to go? Please circle

0 1 2 3 4 or more

2. Using the table overleaf, please give as much detail as possible on any journeys that can be a problem.

3. Do you (or anyone within your household) have special transport needs: travel in wheelchair or scooter, travel with wheelchair, travel with carer, travel with guide dog, unable to walk far from doorstep, other (briefly indicate)

4. What are the first FIVE digits of your post code? RG XX

5. Please indicate your approximate age of the people covered by this survey:

5-11 11-17 17-21 21-50 50-65 65-70 70-80 80+

6. Are you willing to be contacted to discuss your answers further? Yes No

7. Please provide contact details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

*All details will remain strictly confidential & will only be used for this survey.*

***Please continue to the next page of the survey***

Purpose of Journey	Where do you travel to for this service?	How do you get there? E.g. own car, lift from friends or family, train,	How often do you travel there?	What time of day do you travel?	Problems experienced	How much would you pay?
Grocery Shopping						
Town Centre Shopping						
Hospital						
Doctor						
Dentist						
Work						
School/College						
Social						
Post Office						
Library						