

Minutes of a Parish Meeting “Public Transport – Have Your Say” held on Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 5pm in the Village Hall

Mandy Rigault, a member of the Parish Council, opened the meeting at 5pm.

Present: eight parishioners (including three members of the Parish Council), one Baldons parishioner and the Parish Clerk.

Dave Harrison, Principal Public Transport Planner, at Oxfordshire County Council addressed the meeting. Has worked for OxonCC for two years. Team of 1½. OxonCC doesn't control the companies and axed bus subsidies. Does have developer money but Section 106 money runs out.

Reduced from three per hour to two in November due to shortage of drivers. Company was 70 drivers short at one stage. This reduction is only intended to be temporary.

Buses used to go round Berinsfield but company cut that out to speed journey for passengers between Wallingford and Oxford.

The 45 also suspended. Paid for by Culham Science Centre. OxonCC pays £138,000 per year. Useful for schools. Affected parishioners present: Julie travels to and from work in Co-op in Berinsfield. September?

Important to Christine. Wants to shop in Cowley or Abingdon.

Unreliability at both ends: Iffley Road slower; changeover can be missed at Wallingford.

Julia walks from Marsh Baldon to catch bus in Nuneham Courtenay and travel to work in North Oxford. Used to take 30-35 minutes at worst, now takes 45-60 minutes. Does not have the kind of work where she can work on the bus. Does not drive.

Roadworks in Reading causing delay – one and a half hours on one occasion.

Dave explained that Oxford Bus Company changed the route to provide frequent service (every 7½ minutes) along Iffley Road in spite of reducing own no 3 Rose Hill service to four per hour – Stagecoach has cancelled its service.

Bus companies not allowed to speak directly to each other. So they communicate through OxonCC. Shuttled between rooms. Stagecoach agreed to concentrate on North Oxford and Oxford Bus Company on South Oxford.

Initialed:



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Information on bus stops does not match timetable. Company gave no advance warning re change of route.

Sally's point about connections to hospitals. Dave said change at Queens Lane. Madhvi said now takes one and a half hours to get to JR. Julia said a difficult place to flag down a bus.

Madhvi and Julia mentioned better connections from Abingdon Road to places like Harwell even though X39/40 never pulled into Redbridge Park & Ride.

Oxford/Reading route is tough for vehicles – length and hills. Company has trialled a new bus with more power.

Dave mentioned proposed new road connecting Culham with Didcot and it is planned to run a bus along it.

Julie says demeanour of staff has changed.

Madhvi asked about electronic bus info. Conservation area may rule out sign. Agreed cost is approx. £8,000.

Oxontime and company's own system. Mobile App or OxonCC website. Dave will send details.

PickMeUp: Oxford Bus Company is keen to resume the service. Nine vehicles – started with six.

John asked about data. Concessionary bus passes only show you where people board the bus, not where they get off. Companies have more data.

Concessionary bus passers have not returned to same extent as other passengers. Commuters still many of them working from home more.

Madhvi asked about Covid support from Government to bus companies. Due to finish end of March. Industry said 1 in 3 would stop. 70 days' notice.

Dave agreed OxonCC does have say over X38 route – the bus paid for out of developer money. Madhvi asked if it can be required to go into Redbridge Park and Ride. Sheila said they used to go in, if asked.

Meeting thanked Dave. Sheila thanked Mandy for organising meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.09pm.

Signed:



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