



Holmes Chapel Parish Council

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Village Infrastructure Committee on **Thursday 6 July 2017** at the Academy Suite, Holmes Chapel Community Centre, commencing at 7.00 p.m. A presentation by Sandiford Road residents will take place at 6.30 p.m. prior to the meeting.

CEC Highways will be in attendance for the first part of the meeting to discuss Highway issues.

AGENDA:

1. **Apologies** - to receive any apologies for absence.
2. **To receive Declarations of any**
 - a) **disclosable pecuniary interests**
 - b) **any other disclosable interests****as required under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.**
3. **Public Speaking** - The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to allow questions from members of the public to last no more than 15 minutes. After questions the Chairman will reconvene the meeting.
4. **Matters arising –**
 - CEC has indicated that a representative on Air Quality issues will be attending the 5 October 2017 meeting;
 - SIDs – TWM have been out to the faulty SID. The SID will be monitored by Cllr Blomeley and further information brought back to a future meeting.
5. **Highways Issues Review** – To review the discussion with CEC Highways officers earlier in the meeting.
6. **Sandiford Road** – to review the presentation given earlier on highway issues on Sandiford Road.
7. **Lengthsman** – to receive a verbal report from the Clerk on activities undertaken by the contractor

8. **Bus Review** – to approve the submission on the CEC bus consultation. See Appendix 1.
9. **Public Speaking.**
10. **Future Agenda Items**
11. **Chairman and clerk's report**

Nicola Clarke
Clerk of the Council
30 June 2017

Appendix 1



Holmes Chapel Parish Council



Report to: Village Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Date: 06 July 2017

Agenda item: 8 Bus Review

Prepared by: Mike Blomeley

Subject: CEC Bus Service Consultation

Background / Information

Cheshire East Council have begun a consultation process covering Council supported bus service provision in the Borough. The relevant services are 42 & 319. Current proposals are to reduce the 42 service provision and withdraw the 319 service.

Background Documents:

Supported Bus Service Review available at:

http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/consultations/cheshire-east-bus-service-review.aspx

Costs:

None

Decision required

To approve the accompanying submission to Cheshire East Council

Recommendation:

To resolve to submit the document to Cheshire East Council

HOLMES CHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL
SUBMISSION TO CEC CONSULTATION ON SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES

BACKGROUND:

This consultation proposes to:

1. Reduce early morning / evening services on route 42 which runs from Crewe to Congleton, serving Leighton Hospital en-route.
2. Remove route 319 between Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Cranage, Goostrey & Twemlow (circular).

SUMMARY:

Holmes Chapel Parish Council wishes to register its strong objections to these proposals and has received many comments from residents and other interested parties objecting to the planned changes.

It makes an alternative proposal for consideration.

SERVICE 42:

This route provides local residents with their only public transport access to Leighton Hospital, as well as for those travelling to work and for social use visits to Congleton, Middlewich & Crewe.

The Parish Council is concerned by the proposed loss of early morning and evening services. A last service at 17.15 will adversely affect those travelling from work and with late hospital appointments.

The Parish Council would like to suggest a timetable re-cast to allow more early morning and evening services, even if this might mean reducing the hourly frequency to perhaps a 90 minute interval.

Patients attending hospital appointments and those travelling for work need access to a better service spread than is currently proposed.

SERVICE 319:

The impact of your proposals will be felt most acutely by the residents of Cranage, Goostrey, Twemlow & Brereton. However, residents of Holmes Chapel are also regular users of this service to Sandbach for shopping and social purposes. This is a modest service provision but is vital to many and a significant benefit to others who do not have access to a car.

The Holmes Chapel Health Centre has made a separate representation as they are extremely concerned at the negative impact on rural patients accessing health services. It needs to be emphasised that H C Health Centre provides medical services to a wide rural area outside the Village and this bus service is vital for many of those patients. It is the practice of the Health Centre to facilitate appointments around the times of the bus service. This bus route provides many older residents of the surrounding communities with their only access to Holmes Chapel for shopping and social purposes. Its withdrawal would be very detrimental to them.

Please also see later comments on Demographics, Environmental factors and Little Bus.

PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION:

The Parish Council recognises the pressures faced by CEC in making these proposals, but none-the-less seeks to see what constitutes a fairly basic service, is protected for the future. As a possible alternative, we would suggest a revision to route 42 to include a loop around Cranage, Goostrey & Twemlow and back to Holmes Chapel. Although this would result in the loss of a direct service to Sandbach, it would protect the ability of those rural residents to access medical, shopping and social facilities in Holmes Chapel.

The service could perhaps be extended on every alternate bus during the daytime.
It was suggested by Officers at the Consultation that an existing underused loop around Middlewich could be withdrawn to facilitate this.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Cheshire East in general and the Dane Valley ward in particular, are recognised as having a high proportion of 65+ residents – a figure that will increase further in the coming years. These people are at increased risk of being unable to drive due to medical conditions. The loss of the present meagre level of public transport will impact disproportionately on this vulnerable group, who will have no means of travel, other than expensive and limited taxi services. Social isolation is also a key issue for this demographic and Cheshire East's policies should aim to be supportive. The current proposals are diametrically opposed to this objective.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Cheshire East Council already recognises that there is excessive private car use in the Borough. This leads to congestion problems and negatively impacts local air quality. Removing or reducing the existing basic public transport provision can only exacerbate these negative impacts on the community and is not conducive to the objectives of improving the local environment.

Cheshire East should be taking a more holistic approach to all these issues.

LITTLE BUS:

The proposed provision appears wholly inadequate as any sort of substitute service. The limited availability to a narrow range of users, the requirement to book the day before and its availability profile, all suggest that it would be a very poor substitute and of minimal practical use to local residents.