

Progress report for Redesdale Parish Councils from Otterburn Meeting 12/08/15 regarding Bus Services. (PC's - Corsenside, Otterburn, Elsdon, Byrness and Rochester, Bellingham)

No.	Issue	Response/Outcome
1.	<p>Despite the offering of a Monday and Friday direct service to Corbridge and Hexham there was a lot of feedback that in particular the Monday service is no good for anyone with very few services in Hexham and no market. You have agreed to have a look and see if there is any possibility of reintroducing the Tuesday service again. If possible together with Friday but it would be accepted as only Tuesday.</p>	<p>We have been working closely with Peter Cowell from PCL Travel Ltd. and after further work and renegotiation of other services and vehicles we have managed to put in place an additional vehicle so we will now be in a position to offer the direct route to Hexham on a Tuesday. The proposed timetable is attached. It is the same route as shown at the meeting as the consensus appeared to be people liked the route but wanted it on a Tuesday. (Apologies for the spelling mistakes on the day.) The service gives 2.50 hours if alighting at Bus Station and 2.35 if alighting at Wentworth.</p> <p>In addition we will provide a service (815) to Bellingham on a Friday to ensure there is still access to the local services in Bellingham. Again the timetable for this is attached.</p> <p>The proposed date for the introduction of these new services will be Tuesday 15th September and Friday 18th September. Once arrangements with the Traffic Commissioner have been agreed we will confirm the dates.</p>
2.	<p>There was a suggestion that Primrose Coaches that run the school service and finish in Bellingham could be the possible answer for a Tuesday service to Hexham.</p>	<p>Primrose did not tender for this work. Therefore we are unable to consider for this service.</p>
3.	<p>There was a question as why the suggested service to Hexham would take 1 hr 20 min travel time</p>	<p>The timetable has been trialled by bus, Route Planner by car shows 57 minutes, given 12 stops in all, approx. 2 minutes for each stop – brings you to 1hr20min. If in practice this doesn't match to what happens on the ground adjustments will be made.</p>
4.	<p>There was a question asked that if the Monday & Friday service were to be introduced what would happen on Bank Holidays</p>	<p>Now not an issue</p>
5.	<p>What is the cost difference of pick up at Eldon Sq and the new location? Is it possible to review this so possibly revert to Eldon Sq?</p>	<p>It costs over £1,000 over annum, although not substantial we need to spend all available monies on bus services. There is shelter opposite the stop at Haymarket Bus Station, where the stop is clearly visible. In addition some current passengers are happy with this stop as it prevents the bus filling up with Ponteland travellers which can prevent people from further afield getting home. Therefore we are not proposing to change this arrangement.</p>

No.	Issue	Response/Outcome
6.	It was highlighted that 16:55 service from Newcastle on Saturday was too early (especially for those going to the football) and hence it was asked if you could review with the possibility of reverting to 17:20 departure.	Now that we have changed the Kielder service PCL can now accommodate the later time of 17:20. It is proposed this change will come into place Saturday 12 th September. Once arrangements with the Traffic Commissioner have been agreed we will confirm the dates.
7.	Is it possible to examine the possibility for the services to incorporate a stop in Elsdon?	The Saturday service is registered to go to Elsdon on the journey to and from Newcastle – return by request. During the week the timetable is less flexible. There is one regular traveller who catches the bus at the road end but is dropped off in Elsdon on return journey. In the short term perhaps within Elsdon a car share could be considered if people already are being dropped off on A696 junction? If there was more demand then it may be considered
8.	There were a number of concerns of the Friday service. It was highlighted last Friday the service ran to a different timetable and sequence that that published by the County Council. I did not get all details but it appeared Peter (and therefore the driver) as working to a different timetable. Need to try and provide clarification before this Friday.	This was resolved in time for the Friday service that week and apologies for any inconvenience
9.	As mentioned the next Otterburn Parish Council meeting is 1 September so I look forward to receiving your comments / update even if not complete before then so an update can be provided at the meeting	Will provide feedback by 27August.

Kirsten Francis
Principal Inclusion Policy Officer
Economic and Inclusion Policy Team
Northumberland County Council
County Hall, Morpeth,
NE61 2EF

Telephone: 01670 624741
Kirsten.Francis@northumberland.gov.uk

Please note on leave 28/08/15 – 11/09/15
In absence please contact

Neil Easton – Inclusion Policy Officer
Neil.Easton@northumberland.gov.uk
Tel: 01670 624743

Proposed Service for the direct route on a Tuesday

route 885	IN	OUT
BYRENESS	09:30	15:05
COTTONSHOPEBURNFOOT	09:32	15:03
RIDSDALE CAMP ROAD END	09:34	15:01
ROCHESTER	09:38	14:57
OTTERBURN	09:50	14:45
WEST WOODBURN	10:00	14:35
EAST WOODBURN	10:05	14:30
RIDSDALE	10:10	14:25
COLWELL	10:15	14:20
STAGSHAW ROUNDABOUT	10:25	14:10
CORBRIDGE	10:35	14:00
HEXHAM BUS STATION	10:50	13:45
HEXHAM WENTWORTH	11:00	13:35
JOURNEY TIME 1 HOUR 20 MINS		

TIME IN HEXHAM 2 HOURS 55 MINS

POSS CONECTION IN CORBRIDGE FOR NEWCASTLE

Assuming the bus calls at the main stop in Corbridge at Hill Street:

Go North East X85 departs The Angel at 1053, arrives Newcastle (Eldon Square) at 1132

Return from Newcastle (Eldon Square) at 1310, arrive Corbridge The Angel at 1349

Other buses on Go North East route 10 run half-hourly from Hill Street towards Prudhoe and Metrocentre

Proposed service to access Bellingham on Fridays

OUTGOING	SERVICE 815	RETURN
09:30	BYRNESS	11:58
09:32	COTTONSHOPEBURNFOOT	11:57
09:33	RIDSDALE CAMP ROAD END	11:56
09:37	ROCHESTER	11:52
09:49	OTTERBURN	11:40
09:59	BELLINGHAM	11:30
10:30	OTTERBURN	12:52
10:33	OLD TOWN	12:48
10:45	RIDSDALE	12:46
10:48	EAST WOODBURN	12:43
10:55	WEST WOODBURN	12:40
11:05	BELLINGHAM	12:30