

Message from the Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport Unit

You may recall that last spring, we advised you that the Government had allocated Wiltshire Council a Grant of £671,000 to help to improve the provision of local bus services in our area, and asked for suggestions on how this should be spent.

You were one of the many people / organisations that responded to this request and we much appreciate the effort that you put into this. The information that was provided has been most useful in shaping our thinking, but as I am sure you will appreciate the last 15 months have not been the best time to introduce additional bus services.

As Covid restrictions are now gradually being eased, we are making plans on how best to spend this money. I am therefore pleased to inform you that we are hoping to improve the bus services through Burton in stages during the next 12 months as follows:

Extension of Chippenham bus service 35 to/from Burton

Weekday journeys on service 35 will be extended to call at Burton from 8.55am on weekdays with effect from 26th July 2021 and timetable details for these journeys will be sent to you next month. At a later date we hope to be able to introduce journeys to Chippenham on a Saturday as well, but as this will require the use of an extra bus and driver, we need to see first how much the weekday service gets during the school holidays.

Diversion of Malmesbury bus service 41 to/from Burton

We understand that this change has been requested by parents of children that attend Malmesbury school that wish to visit their friends at weekends. Whilst it may be possible for some buses to make this diversion, the 41 bus service is already tightly timed and needs to make connections with other buses in Malmesbury, so we need to make sure that any changes we make do not compromise these connections. It would therefore be helpful for us to hear what time students would ideally like these buses to run, as it may be easier for us to divert buses in the afternoon than it is in the morning.

Other bus services through Burton

You may not be aware that new bus service X79 runs through Burton to Bath every Thursday, picking up opposite Burton Triangle at 9.58am and returning from Bath at 1.15pm. However it may be possible to run the afternoon journey an hour later in the afternoon, and so we would be interested to know if this would make the service more attractive for you to use.

We hope that this information is useful and we look forward to receiving any feedback that you may have on the above proposals. In addition, if you have any further suggestions on how bus services could be improved in your area, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks

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Bus Network Manager

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