

For:

Ballingham, Bridstow, Callow, Llanwarne, Much Birch, Much Dewchurch, Peterstow

Dear Parish Clerk

Rural Bus Funding for 2015-16

Service No: 33 Hereford to Ross on Wye (evenings) Mondays to Saturdays; Sunday am and Service

As you will be aware, Herefordshire Council managed to continue to fund a number of bus routes for an additional twelve months following the original proposal to reduce service levels. The additional journeys will cease to operate with effect from 10th April 2016 unless further funding can be found. There are pressures to withdraw a further £250,000 from the budget for 2016-17.

You may remember that I wrote to you on 2nd October 2015 raising this issue but have had no response so far concerning this particular route. We do not have any passenger figures from the operator (Stagecoach) so cannot provide any information on how well the service is being patronised. However I can tell you that Herefordshire Council is supporting this service and the extra journeys on the Ross town Service (No 40) at a cost of £33,500.

We are, therefore, asking Parish Councils to publicise the service and encourage their parishioners to use the service, or lose it. This may have the effect of making the service commercially viable. Alternatively, it may be that the Parish would be able to contribute towards the cost of the service or will be able to come up with alternative transport options for their parishioners.

Please contact me if you need any further information or to arrange a meeting to discuss this issue.

With kind regards

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