

Carl Hearn

From: Chris Brook
Sent: 22 January 2024 08:58
To: Carl Hearn
Cc: Katharine Pearce
Subject: Tavistock Bus Service Provision
Attachments: 20240116122824.pdf

Dear Carl

Thank you for your letter of 10 January about the bus service provision for Tavistock and the application of S106 monies.

I understand the concerns you have raised about the reductions in services and the subsequent impact on the visits to the town centre. I also appreciate the position you have identified for the Council as the responsible local authority for the S106 funds to ensure cost effective and coordinated public transport service provision.

I can confirm that all secured S106 funds for bus services have been received, as follows:

- The Tors: the sum of £500,000 to be paid to Devon County Council (DCC) to provide bus services to and from the Development to the proposed residential development allocated south of Callington Road on the western edge of Tavistock. The bus services started in September 2023 when a £200,000 contribution had already been paid. The next contribution is due this month as the third anniversary date.
- Embden Grange: The sum of £195,00 is to be paid to DCC to provide additional bus services on the 'town bus route 89' or subsequent local bus service serving the development. This contribution has been paid.
- Broadleigh Park: There was a £135,000 contribution to DCC that has been paid towards the continuation of the 89 bus route for two years.

The Bus Services petition you reference was received on 19 December requesting the reinstatement of the following services: 89 to replace 86 and 89, 104 and 105 services. As detailed [on our website](#), "the Council has lobbied the local MP Sir Geoffrey Cox and also the DCC Portfolio holder for Transport, seeking their support in requesting a review of the changes made to local Services and we have also contacted the Bus Service provider asking for their decision to be reconsidered."

I can confirm that the Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Cox has responded to inform us that he will write to Stagecoach to request that they reconsider their decision to withdraw the 89 local bus service, and the 104 and 105 services.

We have also received a response from Stagecoach highlighting that a number of changes were made to their South West bus network from September, including services within Tavistock. They note that the introduction of the new 86 service and changes to the existing 89 service were made in partnership with DCC. As a result, any changes to the timetables of these services would need to come from DCC. They also state that the 104 and 105 services were not operated by Stagecoach South West and were withdrawn by Plymouth City Bus as they were no longer commercially viable. We will write to Plymouth City Bus to understand their decision.

We are yet to receive a response from DCC but will keep you update when we receive any further information on this issue from any stakeholder. Please be assured that the Council continues to pursue the matter on behalf of our residents.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours,

Chris



Mr C Brook
Director of Place and Enterprise
West Devon Borough Council
Kilworthy Park
TAVISTOCK
PL19 0BZ

10th January, 2024

Dear Chris

BUS SERVICE PROVISION FOR TAVISTOCK & THE APPLICATION OF S106 MONIES

Tavistock Town Council recently considered a petition, which it understands was previously submitted to West Devon Borough Council, in connection with the above.

In the ensuing deliberations:

- i. Concerns were expressed regarding reductions in town bus services, associated adverse impacts on various user groups - including those with limited physical, transport or financial resources. Other adverse consequences that might include reductions in visits to the town accentuated by the paucity of alternative public transport services. The differentiation between the funding treatment of the two affected routes was highlighted. Attention was further drawn to the potential that current poor arrangements (e.g. lack of links between routes thereby making it hard to access health services amongst others), were also of concern alongside, in the circumstances, potential detriment to long term public transport usage/route viability.
- ii. The nature and responsibilities of the various tiers of Local Government were referenced including:
 - i. Devon County Council (DCC) as Highway and Transport Authority;
 - ii. West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) as funder of applicable town bus services (as delivered via DCC) through S106 monies received. Also, the role of the WDBC statutory overview and scrutiny function, alongside such obligations to co-operate as applicable to principal authorities;
 - iii. The importance attached to the availability of fit for purpose public transport services, including the Town Council's willingness to work

alongside the Planning Authority and/or any overview and scrutiny led workstream, to better identify how current resources were being deployed, and options available to improve public transport provision.

To that end I have been asked to write to the Borough Council, and having regard to the unsuitability of current arrangements, requesting the Borough Council, as funding authority, to initiate an urgent review of the application of S106 monies for bus services in the Town, with a particular focus on ensuring cost effective and co-ordinated public transport service provision.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Your sincerely

~~Carl Héarn~~
TOWN CLERK
Tavistock Town Council

Councillor Mrs M Ewings, Leader West Devon Borough Council.

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