

Mayor of West Devon, Councillor Lynn Daniel
 West Devon Borough Council
 Kilworthy Park
 Drake Road
 Tavistock
 PL19 0BZ

232 Whitchurch Road
 Tavistock
 PL19 9DQ

Telephone 07545 075942

October 13th 2023

Dear Madam Mayor,

On behalf of the many people who signed the attached petition, we have pleasure in presenting it to West Devon Borough Council. We have also presented it to Tavistock Town Council and to Devon County Council.

The petition calls, first, for the urgent reinstatement of the original 89 bus service serving Tavistock. The recent changes to this service, splitting it into two new services (the 86 and 89), have had drastic impacts:

- There is now no Town Bus service in Tavistock between 2 and 5 every afternoon – the buses themselves are used for school runs, including in Launceston. This leaves bus users stranded for a large part of the day and will inevitably impact businesses in the town centre.
- We have the ludicrous situation of both the 86 and 89 turning up at Morrison's at virtually the same time, going in opposite directions, with the drivers waving to each other as they pass.
- To get from Whitchurch to Tavistock Hospital and the Council offices now costs two fares rather than one.
- As a result of this completely unnecessary duplication, the money that West Devon Council obtained from developers, through Section 106 of the Planning Act, to maintain this service will be used twice as fast now that there are two buses and two drivers operating the services.
- There was no consultation with anyone. Even our County Councillor seems to have been taken by surprise.
- Furthermore, County Council officers appear to have tried to have the Whitchurch part of the route abolished altogether.

Madam Mayor, although West Devon Borough Council is not the highway authority, the petition is being presented to you for three reasons:

- You are the authority that developed and implemented the policies that persuaded the housing developers and supermarkets to contribute nearly £1,000,000 to support this service. You will undoubtedly be concerned that this money should be used for the benefit of the people of Tavistock, not for the convenience of corporate bus operators. As an immediate action, therefore, the petitioners ask that you urge Devon County Council to secure the reinstatement of the previous 89 service as a matter of urgency.
- The complete lack of consultation by County Council officers, whose current job it is to monitor and ensure the efficient use of this money, confirms what many people have argued for some time, that the future of this bus service is not safe in their hands.
- Therefore, the obvious long-term alternative is to remove that responsibility from the County Council. Previous WDBC legal officers have confirmed that it would be perfectly possible for the service to be operated by a local community transport provider, supported by grants from either WDBC or the Town Council, using the S106 money that remains in the fund. Other towns in England operate community-based services on this basis and we urge WDBC to pursue such a solution as a matter of urgency.

Second, the petition calls for the urgent reinstatement of the 104 and 104 Services which, until very recently, have transported our local children to schools in Devonport. Since the abandonment of these services, there have been examples of children being left at bus stops and even being ejected from service buses on the basis that they are 'overloaded'.

We are sure that no public servant would condone this - if our elected County Council cannot take care of our children on their journey to school, then one wonders what it is there for. It is salutary that the service still appears to operate from Roborough, indicating that Plymouth City Council still takes this responsibility seriously.

This is specifically a matter for the County Council but we ask West Devon Borough Council and Tavistock Town Council to lend their considerable weight to the call for the urgent reinstatement of these services.

Thank you to the local councillors who have lent their support to these important campaigns. If you need anything else to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact us, the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

Graham Parker - Whitchurch Road, PL19 9DQ

Martin Summers - Whitchurch Road, PL19 9DQ

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Stand up for Tavistock

Give back our bus services!!!

In the past few weeks, the local bus services in Tavistock have been decimated. All users from the very young to the very old have been severely harmed, without *any* consultation!

Please sign this petition to be delivered to our elected representatives – our MP and our County, West Devon Borough and Tavistock Town Councillors.

We, the undersigned, are dismayed that our local bus services have been depleted and withdrawn without consultation with the people of Tavistock. We ask our elected representatives to protest on behalf of all users of these services and to work with us to:

- reinstate the 89 local bus service replacing the new 86 and 89 buses
 - reinstate the 104 and 105 services for our children

Full details are set out on the accompanying leaflet.

Name	Address	Postcode
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