



Ms T Charlesworth
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My ref: TD/9356/09b

Please ask for: Tim Darch

Dear Ms Charlesworth

Review of subsidised bus services in the Bicester and Kidlington area

I am writing to advise you that the County Council will be undertaking a review of the bus services that it supports financially in the Bicester and Kidlington area (along with one or two others) during the remainder of 2009. Most of these contracts will have been in operation for four years by the time they expire in December, and it is County Council policy to review the network prior to going through the tendering process and the subsequent award of new contracts for a further four years until December 2013. This letter is to forewarn you of this exercise: an outline list of the services affected appears below:

SERVICE OPERATOR	FROM/TO	CONTRACT(S)
4B	OXFORD BUS CO. CUMNOR-WOOTTON-ABINGDON EVENINGS	V4 (DAILY)
22/23	GRAYLINE BICESTER TOWN SERVICE	C40 (MON-SAT)
25/25A	RH TRANSPORT OXFORD-BICESTER VIA VILLAGES	C50 (MON-SAT)
25A	RH TRANSPORT OXFORD-BICESTER VIA VILLAGES	C51 (FS EVES)
37/37A	GRAYLINE BICESTER-FRINGFORD-HETHE	C39 (MTW)
37/37A	GRAYLINE BICESTER-FRINGFORD-HETHE-BRACKLEY	C39 (ThF)
81	GRAYLINE BICESTER-ARDLEY-SOULDERN	C39 (MTW)
81	HEYFORDIAN BICESTER-ARDLEY-SOULDERN-BANBURY	C30 (Sat)
94	CHARLTON SVCES OTMOOR VILLAGES-ISLIP-OXFORD	C44 (Mon-Fri)
94	CHARLTON SVCES OTMOOR VILLAGES-ISLIP-OXFORD	C45 (Sat)
94	CHARLTON SVCES BICESTER/OXFORD-OTMOOR VILLAGES	C46 (TuWF)
201/203/ 220/242	RH TRANSPORT 'WOODSTOCK WANDERER'	W47 (Mon-Fri)
223	RH TRANSPORT KIDLINGTON LOCAL SERVICE	C60 (Mon-Sat)
224	RH TRANSPORT KIDLINGTON-YARNTON-BEGBROKE CIRCULAR	C60 (Mon-Sat)

Services not included on this list are either commercial (i.e not subsidised), or not under review at this time.



As part of the consultation process we will be asking for your views and comments on the services being re-tendered, and are happy to receive any suggestions regarding improvements or alterations: you may wish to start considering these points at this stage. You should already have been approached by Alix Michaelis, who is the Rural Transport Worker at Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. Liaising closely with the County Council, ORCC is offering assistance to parishes that decide they would like to conduct a transport needs survey: I understand that several parishes have expressed an interest in this, and that surveys will be carried out in the near future to enable the results to be available by the time the formal consultation begins in mid-May. It may not be too late to carry out a survey if your parish still wishes to conduct one: please speak directly to Alix on **01865 883488** if you wish to find out more. I am aware that some Parishes are already undertaking Parish Audits or similar, which will of course give an indication of public transport needs and desires as part of these more comprehensive surveys.

The outline timescale for this review is as follows:-

1. Formal consultation letter to Town/Parishes seeking views and suggestions
(including our assessments and possible options for the service) **Mid-May 2009**
2. Public meetings (to which you will be formally invited) requesting comments etc.
TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2009
VENUES: Kidlington (Exeter Hall): 2pm-4pm
Bicester (Leisure Centre): 7pm-9pm
3. Deadline for Comments from Parishes **First week in July 2009**
4. Despatch date for specifications for contracts and tenders **Mid-August 2009**
5. Tenders returned **Early September 2009**
6. Tenders awards made public **Mid-October 2009**
7. Parishes/Towns advised in outline of any service changes
(Precise timetables will be supplied nearer the change date) **End October 2009**
8. New contracts start **SUN 13 DECEMBER 2009**

Please note that the public meeting comprises two sessions: **2pm-4pm and 7pm-9pm**. It is anticipated that people will choose one or other of these time slots to suit their personal circumstances.

You need not do anything as a result of this letter at the present time (other than contact ORCC if you wish to consider undertaking a transport needs survey for your parish). You do however need to be aware that this review is about to commence, and that the views of your Parish Council will be an important part of the decision making process on the future of the contracts concerned. Some parishes have already submitted comments on their local services: if you represent one of these, many thanks for your contribution, which will of course be considered as part of the review process.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Tim Darch
Public Transport Assistant

cc Parish Transport Representatives (where appointed)
County Councillors for divisions affected