

Agenda Item 11



Barrowford Parish Council

Offices

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Cty. Cllr. J. Fillis
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Lancashire County Council
County Hall
Fishergate
Preston
Lancashire
PR1 8XY
25th February 2016

Dear Cllr. Fillis

I'm writing on behalf of Barrowford Parish Council in response to your consultation about the withdrawal of subsidised bus services through the village.

I understand the affected services are numbers:
2 (Evenings and Sundays)
007/007A/007B (Clitheroe to Nelson)
007S/072 (Pendle Witch Hopper)
65 (Nelson to Clifton Farm via Pendleside villages)
93 (Marsden Park to Colne via Barrowford).

As you will know, these subsidised services are in many cases, particularly for elderly non-drivers, a lifeline which stops them being restricted to their homes and reliant on others to help them with their daily needs.

The number 2 service in the evenings is particularly important for those non-driving Higherford residents who need to visit relatives in hospital at Burnley or Blackburn, who work late shifts and/or want to be able to go out in the evening, as well as for the elderly. Given that this service is continuing during the day I would urge you to consider maintaining the subsidised service in the evenings, as this is the most important route through our village

We are also extremely concerned about the withdrawal of subsidy for the No. 65 service, as it is the only one that comes through Carr Hall. This part of the Parish has a high proportion of elderly residents, for whom walking up the steep hill to Nelson centre is an impossibility. You will doubtless have heard from other villages about the importance of this service to the rural community. To help save this service I would urge you to contact Peel Investments North, who have been given planning permission for a large estate near the route of this bus. This permission was granted subject to provision of a shuttle service through the estate; I hope you will be able to maintain the subsidy for the No. 65 on the basis that funds will become available from Peel to incorporate it into an amended route through the estate and then Carr Hall.

Chairman: Cllr. R. Oliver Clerk of the Council : I. A. Lord

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The No 93 service is also very important to Barrowforders, as it is the only one going from the village to Colne, where many residents work and shop. It is also used by students of Nelson & Colne College.

I don't doubt you will have heard about the need to maintain the Pendle Witch Hopper service from Barley and other parish councils, as it is so important for the rural economy. It is equally important for the walkers and other tourists coming to Barrowford.

Finally the number 7 service from Clitheroe to Nelson: although perhaps less important than the others from a purely Barrowford point of view, given that the village has been put into the Pendle Hill Service Area, whose main town is Clitheroe, this service is likely to become increasingly important.

Barrowford Parish Council appreciates the very difficult financial situation the County Council has been put in by the unprecedented and unfair cuts from central government. We ourselves have already taken on or agreed to take on a number of services from Pendle Council as a result of major cost-cutting there and it is simply not possible for us to take on bus services.

I hope therefore that you will take all the above points into consideration when coming to final decisions about Barrowford's subsidised bus services. All are important to keep; numbers 2 and 65 are lifelines for non-drivers.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Oliver

Chair, Barrowford Parish Council

Cc to Cty. Cllr. Wakeford and Cty Cllr Azhar Ali, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing