

Transport Advisory Group – 20th November, 2019

Questions Submitted

Councillor Walsh, Rother Vale Ward

1. Bus 73 bound for Rotherham is timetabled at Station Road, Treeton, at 0934. Passengers assume that this bus should pick up passengers from its point of entry to the village at Mill Lane, but it frequently does not. It is also common for the bus to enter the village as early as 09:20, not stopping until it reaches the top of Station Road, where it then waits. Passengers using concessionary travel passes have reportedly had these refused when the bus arrives early, which they believe should not happen. Please explain what this service is actually supposed to do.

Answer - Timing points and terminus locations are needed for services. However this can create anomalies and these can be looked at, especially when impacting on 09:30 access to public transport for ENCTS pass holders. SYPTE will review this journey with First to see if better access for Treeton residents can be achieved. The bus takes much longer in the school term than it does in the school holidays as students do not access the journey earlier.

2. Route 73 is reportedly very prone to cancellations. This often affects consecutive timetabled services, leaving passengers waiting for over an hour. Is there any particular reason for this?

Answer - Specific details are required and we encourage customers to contact us at www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/contactus so that we can monitor feedback levels for each service and raise these with the operators. Service 73 has six complaints during October about late running or none operation. These have been raised with First to investigate.

Councillor Cowles, Sitwell Ward

3. The Wickersley Ward has posted that the 208 that runs from Sheffield to Dinnington is going to be changed to cover Wickersley from January, 2020 (documentation attached at Appendix 1).

Does this proposal mean the 208 will no longer come through Whiston?

Answer - Yes. The proposal from First will see service 208 serve Wickersley, Brecks and Whiston but only on the dual carriageway. The bus would no longer serve Worry Goose Lane but would serve stops on East Bawtry Road.

Councillor Hoddinott, Wickersley Ward

4. Concern has been expressed about the reliability of the X1, which is dreadful at the moment. What is being done to improve it and are some buses pulled off the route, as sometimes they do not turn up?

Answer - Service X1 has to operate through some of the most congested areas affecting local bus services including Hellaby, Bramley, Meadowhall and Attercliffe. RMBC have introduced improved signals at Bramley but it is still too early to see if this has made any improvements for bus services. The transforming cities bids for Rotherham and Sheffield include bus priority measures and hotspot improvements specifically for service X1 at Hellaby, Brecks and Meadowhall. Changes to bus lane operational hours are also being reviewed in all four districts as afternoon congestion due to school movements occurs before bus lanes are available. Political support for these schemes will be essential to improve the delay currently being seen to local bus services on the highway network.

5. Would SYPTTE consider allowing community payback to improve/repaint our bus stops?

Answer - If SYPTTE are contacted by the organisations responsible for community payback initiatives then we will consider how we can support their aspirations.

First buses propose further changes



John Healey MP and Cllr Sue Ellis at one of our local bus stops

The bus company First is consulting on further changes to buses in our area. In summary these are:

- Ceasing the 113 service which currently runs between town and Ravenfield Common via Wickersley
- Running the X1 service on an “every 15 minutes” basis, with half of these buses running through to Sheffield via Meadowhall, and the other half terminating at Rotherham
- Reducing the X10 to an “every half hour” basis, with all services connecting through to Doncaster from Maltby. Changes to the X1 and X10 will overall reduced planned frequency from eight or nine buses per hour in total, down to six.
- Service 208, which currently runs between Sheffield and Dinnington hourly during the day being diverted “to cover Wickersley”. We are least clear about what this means.