

Questions to Transport Advisory Group – 26th July, 2023

Question 1 – Councillor Bacon

Bus Operators – First

Could the X5 be considered to reach into Todwick so connect residents to vital services in Kiveton and Sheffield who otherwise would struggle to reach these areas?

Answer:-

Service X54 provides a direct link to Sheffield from Todwick already with services 21 and X54 also provide links to amenities at Kiveton Park and Swallownest. Passengers can also change onto the X5 at Swallownest or at Whiston onto service 208, although we recommend just using the X54 that already provides the direct link.

Demand for bus services in Todwick is extremely low and the time penalty for other passengers travelling on the X5 does not justify diverting the X5 via this village.

Question 2 – Councillor Griffin

Rail Representative

I have previously asked more than once about the impact of the expected removal of staffing from stations and trains. The answer each time has been along the lines of there being no such specific plans for Rotherham's stations. Now that we know that the closure of ticket offices is planned to begin soon and be complete over the next three years, I ask (again, and in hopes of a fuller answer in this time) - when and how will these plans apply to Rotherham stations and what steps will be taken to ameliorate the effects, especially – though not exclusively – on disabled people?

Answer:-

SYMCA are picking this up with the rail operators and will provide a response as soon as possible and no later than at the next meeting.

Question 3 – Councillor Griffin

Bus Operators

I have recently been made aware of a situation in which road works in connection with the installation of cable by City Fibre appear to have caused the cancellation (or re-routing) of buses. The specific example related to the 21 bus through Whiston, and residents have told me that the change was not (or maybe not adequately) communicated. As numerous areas of the borough are seeing similar road works, can we be assured that bus operators are being properly informed by the contractors, and

that any impacts on bus services are being communicated to bus users in a timely and appropriate way?

Answer:-

An emergency road closure, for a burst water main, resulted in buses diverting. Stagecoach confirmed the diversion and information was placed on social media and websites, including Travel South Yorkshire.

A bus stop notice was placed on stops the following morning as SYMCA does not have the resources to visit stops outside of normal office hours, but we are reviewing the option for digital displays that would allow instant communication of disruption. Where we are not made aware of roadworks, which thankfully is rare, then we work with our local authority partners to address this with the utility companies and contractors.

Question 4 – Councillor Pitchley

Bus Operators

I am still getting complaints locally. We have no direct bus route to Crystal Peaks since the removal of the No. 27 bus. Is there any plan to reinstate this even if it is less frequent as this was a lifeline to many residents?

Answer:-

First South Yorkshire made the commercial decision to cancel all services to the south of Rotherham via the hospital from October 2022 due to services no longer being commercially viable.

SYMCA due to funding pressures, directly related to having to replace hundreds of additional journeys and nearly 70 school bus services, are not able to fund additional services over and above service 21. We have discussed the commercial opportunities with other operators but no operator is willing to provide a service based on the passenger and revenue data.

There are no plans to reinstate service 27 to provide a link to Crystal Peaks shopping centre. Services 21, X5 and X54 provide various links to local amenities and it is still possible to travel to Crystal Peaks using service X5 and then changing onto service 30 at Retford Road or to service 26/26a at Wales.