

Questions to Transport Advisory Group 29th July, 2026

Question 1 – From Councillor Tinsley

As Roche Abbey is currently inaccessible by bus, would First South Yorkshire consider a temporary August/September pilot that diverts the X1 service near Muglet Lane to include a stop at the A634? This would leverage the national free child travel scheme to provide families in Rotherham and beyond with direct, sustainable access to a major local heritage site, while testing potential new demand for leisure-based routes in our community.

Response – First Group

Unfortunately, there is nowhere safe for buses to turn proximate to Roche Abbey. The last direct bus to Roche Abbey was funded by SYPTE some years ago, but that service ran through Stone and on to Firbeck and beyond. Any deviation would also mean that the frequency of the core service would reduce which would have a wider impact. The short-term nature of any service demand would likely be better served by a shuttle bus from Maltby.

Question 2 – From Councillor Tinsley

Work on improvements is set to start on Maltby High Street over the next few months. It was previously agreed that a new bus stop to replace an old and dated one would be installed at the same time to be cost effective. With the changes of officers at RMBC and SYMCA this agreement has been lost. Can this be considered.

Response – SYMCA/RMBC

This question has been shared with officers at SYMCA and RMBC. Apologies. The current teams have no recollection of this but will consider it within their discussions.

Question 3 – From Councillor Currie

What consideration is given to free travel passes to looked after children in South Yorkshire on all forms of public transport?

Response – SYMCA

It was the Mayor's ambition to extend the MiCard 5-18 year old free Travel Scheme, currently operating in Barnsley, County wide. Sheffield was examining trialling the scheme during 2027, dates to be confirmed.

Question 4 – From Councillor Currie

I have asked previously about looking at bus routes in Kimberworth Park especially No. 139 that links the bottom of the hill to the top; as yet I have not had a follow-up meeting to discuss this. When can this be arranged?

Response – First Group

Due to the roll out of franchising, Kimberworth Park services are not within the T1 franchise and will be moving to another operator by the start of September next year. From a First perspective, if there is a desire from SYMCA to advance any route

changes before we hand the services over, we would of course be happy to review and facilitate where we can.

Question 5 – From Bob Croxton, Treeton Parish Council

(a) Treeton Parish Council first found out about the Mill Lane road closure by Yorkshire Water back in March. Since then it has been hard work to get any information about buses or to have concerns raised. This has resulted in much confusion. Treeton PC were invited to an online meeting with SYMCA on the 17th June where a SYMCA official seemed more interested in informing us how wonderful the buses will be when they will they control them, than the concerns of ours about the Mill Lane closure. We were told there would be follow-up meeting, but none occurred.

Many issues we raised, have not been acted on.

A few weeks before the closure, Yorkshire Water sent out a letter informing residents about the road closure and details of a shuttle bus, which went to Rotherham twice an hour during the day. Possibly acting on our concerns about Treeton residents getting to Catcliffe, Morrisons and the Waverley area, a digital new timetable was issued with a now hourly service from Rotherham to Treeton and then onto Catcliffe via Swallownest. As of 3 days before the road closure, no updated timetables have been posted out.

Response - SYMCA

New bus stop timetables for the bus stops in Treeton had now been posted on the bus stop and these included service 195.

(b) To confuse Treeton residents more, the Rotherham bound shuttle bus goes the opposite way around the village than the 95!

Notices have been put up at Treeton bus stops stating that the buses will not run on weekdays only, hinting that they will run at weekends, which to the best of our knowledge is not the case? Overleaf is the poster.

Response – SYMCA

Thank you for informing us of this error. We have let our Disruptions Team know that the temporary road closure was all day, every day. They have confirmed they will update the notices.

(c) From the 17th to 20th July Bawtry Road at the junction of Whitehill Lane Brinsworth is closed meaning more bus diversions but little or no information has been issued!

Response – SYMCA

Disruption notices for the temporary road closure of Bawtry Road have now been posted on the bus stops affected by the bus services being diverted away from their normal routes. This did not affect service 195 which did not run along the affected section of Bawtry Road.

(d) This shuttle bus will have been in operation for over a week at the next meeting and it would be good to bring any issues up at that meeting.

This is a trail run for when the bridge over the Rother between Treeton and Catcliffe closes for replacement, sometime in the near future. It needs to be far better organised than this road closure has been?

Response - SYMCA

Noted with thanks. We have worked closely with the local Parish Council and RMBC to make a number of improvements to the diversions and temporary services.

Question No. 6 – Bob Croxton, Treeton Parish Council

On Saturday, 19th July I went to Rotherham Interchange for the 1305 No. 95 service to Treeton. This bus did not turn up. These things happen! What annoys me is there are no live updates on the information screens as at train stations and some bus stations that inform passengers of delays/missing services. What was even more baffling is that 20 minutes after the No. 95 was due to leave, the relief driver had no idea what had happened to this bus! He left, presumably back to the canteen about 1330.

Are there any plans to give live updates of delays/cancellations at main bus stops? Given that most buses are tracked, it can't be that hard!

It is particular annoying when the service is once an hour or less.

There was chaos in Treeton this morning as some 195 shuttle buses were going the wrong way around the village and missing stops!

Response - SYMCA

SYMCA and its predecessors have been investigating ways to show up-to-date disruption information on passenger information screens. If a bus breaks down immediately prior to departure from the start of the journey, it will take time to communicate the necessary information. SYMCA has plans to improve up-to-date disruption information as part of the Bus Franchising programme.

Question 7 – From Councillor Thorp

I have received 5 complaints regarding the number 21 service which used to go through the Whiston Greystones council estate that has a great many old people's housing. Since the 21 service cannot use Worrygoose Lane to access the Greystones estate due to the road closure, what can be done to help these people who only had a small bus service to start with but now have nothing it appears.

Response - SYMCA

Unfortunately, it was not possible for service 21 to divert through the estate during the Worrygoose Lane closure. This was due to the road layout at the junction of Cow Rakes Lane and Moorhouse Lane, where the camber and turning manoeuvre required would make operation of the bus unsafe. As a result, the diversion route has been implemented via Cow Rakes Lane and Greystones Road cannot be served directly during the closure.

For residents who were unable to access the diverted 21 service on Cow Rakes Lane, Community Transport services were available. These services were designed to

support people who may find it difficult to access conventional public transport and included:

- Shopper Bus services for local shopping trips.
- Dial-a-Ride services, providing accessible door to door transport for eligible passengers.

Further information on these services, including how to register and book journeys, can be found here:

<https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/en-gb/journeyplanning/door2door>

Question 8 - Councillor Clarke

Currently we have Doe Quarry Lane closed for a significant resurfacing programme which was very welcome. However, on the diversion routes please can the buses stop on Lidgett Lane and New Street when using the Stagecoach bus heading towards Rotherham.

Also, could there be a stop near The Squirrel/Breck Lane? The resident who has contacted me says the temporary route is leading to residents having to walk much further.

Response - SYMCA

The diversion was only in place 28th July, 2026 and 29th July, 2026 between 09:30 and 14:30. Services 19/19A would observe bus stops on the diversionary route, along Lidgett Lane and New Street.

Response - Stagecoach

Buses should use all stops along the diversionary route during the Doe Quarry Lane closure.

Extra temporary stops would need to be approved and sited by SYMCA but, provided the location was safe and suitable, we would use any additional stops.