

Questions to Transport Advisory Group 21st October, 2026

Question 1 From Bob Croxton, Treeton Parish Council

After the six weeks closure of Treeton Lane, the road re-opened on time at 7:00 pm on Friday, 28th August. Timetables were put up at Treeton Bus stops and online stating that the 95 service would resume on Saturday, 29th August. This did not happen leaving residents trying to get to work stranded in the village. Some had to pay out for a taxi. TM trade ran the 71 service as per normal. I rang South Yorkshire Travel and they were very helpful and had asked First what was happening. First's response was that they were not authorised to run the 95 on that day and it would be Monday before services resumed. The supervisor kindly rang me back and explained First's poor excuse.

Response – First Bus

As per the previous meeting, we were advised by SYMCA on the 24th August that the road would not re-open until 31st August. As such our schedules were set to resume service to Treeton from that date. Despite this, we were able to recommence operation to Treeton on Sunday 30th August.

Question 2 From Bob Croxton, Treeton Parish Council

Some time next year we have been told Treeton Lane will be again closed for the River Rother bridge replacement for up to 18 months. Apart from the ludicrous time to do the job, we in Treeton have grave concerns about any replacement bus service. The only information so far has been a flyer saying "We are also exploring options for a temporary bus service between Catcliffe and Treeton to help people continue to travel during the closure". This is a major problem as last time the closure was during the summer holidays when there was less traffic and people traveling particularly to schools and further education. Many people from the Mill Lane end of Treeton walked to and from Catcliffe to catch buses. This option will not be easy this time, meaning a long diversion along unlit muddy paths and through Waverley. Given all the mistakes SYMCA made before the last road closure, can they please come to Treeton and talk to us?

Response – SYMCA

Given the anticipated duration of the River Rother bridge replacement works, SYMCA will engage with local bus operators to establish the services and routes that will continue to operate during the construction period. Following this review, SYMCA will seek to introduce an appropriate replacement local bus service to maintain access to and from Treeton, following on from lessons learned with the previous 195 shuttle bus service. This will be fully funded by RMBC as part of this project.

SYMCA is aware of the concerns expressed by Treeton residents regarding the impact on local bus connectivity and will endeavour to ensure that a reasonable level of public transport provision is maintained throughout the works, helping to mitigate the temporary loss of existing services.

Question 3 From Bob Croxton, Treeton Parish Council

A few meetings back I complained about the 95 to Treeton/Rotherham bus stop on Arundel Gate Sheffield. It is shared with the regular 52 route. A few weeks ago I was waiting for the 95 to Treeton late afternoon. The 95 was running several minutes late, it stopped in the outside lane behind a parked 52. The driver opened the door, but before I could get halfway down the side of the 52, the driver closed the door and left. I went to the front of the 52 and the driver did not even glance across. This is the problem with too many buses using the same stop, that I complained about previously.

Response – SYMCA

We acknowledge that there is insufficient kerb space at some bus stops in Sheffield City Centre. We recognise that this can make it difficult for customers to board their intended service when another bus is already occupying the bus stop. We understand the inconvenience this causes and have asked First Bus to respond directly regarding the instructions and guidance provided to their drivers in these circumstances.

Question 4 From Bob Croxton, Treeton Parish Council

Bus stop on Pleasley Road at Guilthwaite (nearest the M1 bridge opposite Upper Whiston Lane) travelling toward Whiston. I have alighted at this stop on a number of occasions. It is obscured by overgrown vegetation meaning the driver does not see it until the last second, resulting in an over run. Anyone trying to catch a bus here would struggle as the bus would just pass at high speed. I did mention to an officer at Highways recently but no action taken.

Response - RMBC

Contact with Highway Services. An Highway Inspector is to attend site and carry out any cutting back that is required. Any update will be reported at the meeting.

Question 5 From Councillor Harper

The village of Wentworth was an important tourist attraction but was only seemingly served by one bus per hour – No 7 operated by Globe. The service was hit and miss. My recollection from living in Wentworth, 20 odd years ago, was that the bus then was operated by Stagecoach. Was there a possibility, that franchising could give the village a more frequent and reliable service?

Response – SYMCA

Wentworth is currently served by service 7, operated by Globe, which provides an hourly service on Monday to Saturday daytimes and a 2 hourly service on Monday to Saturday evenings and Sunday daytimes. There are also less frequent routes 44 (operated by South Pennine) and 136 (operated by Globe) that also serve Wentworth. We recognise that reliability and frequency are important, particularly for a village that attracts visitors and supports local residents.

Bus franchising will give the SYMCA greater control over routes, timetables and service frequency. Any enhancements would need to be considered alongside available funding, passenger demand and overall network priorities across South Yorkshire. As part of the franchising process, service levels across the network would be regularly reviewed to ensure communities are appropriately connected. This will provide SYMCA with opportunities to review the level of

service provided to communities such as Wentworth and to specify reliability and frequency requirements as part of future network planning. Franchising will also provide SYMCA with the ability to apply penalties where operators fail to deliver contracted bus services.

Question 6 from Councillor Baggaley

Please can you confirm when permanent bus stops will be present in Waverley and the proposed location of the stops

Response – SYMCA

Permanent bus stop infrastructure for Waverley forms part of the wider delivery programme for the development, and discussions are ongoing regarding the final locations and implementation timescales between Harworth, RMBC and SYMCA. We are currently unable to confirm a date for when the permanent bus stops will be installed.

Question 7 from Councillor Baggaley

School bus services – can you confirm the current bus that operates and serves the following secondary schools, along with the times for departure from Waverley and arrival at the school, along with the return journey. Also please can you confirm if any of these services are full to capacity, or if issues with timings have been raised by any parents currently. I know parents have concerns about the timings to Brinsworth Academy, and other parents have been refused passes for Aston due to the split secondary school catchment in Waverley.

- a. Brinsworth Academy
- b. Aston Academy

Response – SYMCA

No concerns have been raised directly with SYMCA regarding the punctuality of the school services serving Aston Academy from Waverley. Based on the most recent patronage information available, the services are operating within their available capacity, with average loadings as follows:

71S: 53 students

629: 89 students

654: 63 students

655: 51 students

In terms of the school travel provision, service 655 provides a morning journey from Waverley to Aston Academy, whilst service 71S provides the corresponding afternoon return journey. Services 629 and 654 also provide school travel opportunities in both the morning and afternoon, although service 654 operates only between Treeton and Aston Academy.

With regards to Brinsworth Academy, school travel is currently provided on a commercial basis by First South Yorkshire through service 95. As this is a commercial service, SYMCA does not routinely collect patronage data for these journeys. However, no capacity concerns have been brought to our attention in relation to service 95.

In relation to the timings of these services, the departures from Waverley are currently at:

95 – 07:27 arriving at Brinsworth Academy at 07:52

629 – 07:50 arriving at Aston Academy at 08:15

655 – 07:58 arriving at Aston Academy at 08:15

Question 8 from Councillor Baggaley

With the further roll out of free bus fares for children, when will Rotherham be part of that roll out? Did Rotherham see an increase during the summer national initiative

Response – SYMCA

SYMCA is currently analysing patronage data from the national Great British Summer Savings free child travel scheme that ran during August 2026, which included the Rotherham district. The results of this analysis will help quantify any increase in bus use resulting from the initiative.

Looking ahead, there is a proposal being developed as part of the bus franchising programme to introduce free travel for all under 18s across South Yorkshire from September 2027. This remains at an early stage of discussion and development, with further details expected to be presented over the coming months.