

BUS SERVICE INFORMATION – CRANFIELD AREA

OVERVIEW

Survey undertaken of the parishes in the Cranfield area on 30 July 2010. The Central Bedfordshire booklet “Flitwick, Ampthill and Cranfield Bus timetables and Travel Guide dated May 2010” was used as a basis for the survey.

BROGBOROUGH

Served by Stagecoach 160, Cedar 164, Stagecoach 165, Flittabus FL2
Timing Points: Post Office (160, 165, FL2, RR3); Highfield Farm (164)

Brogborough is currently surrounded by major roadworks associated with the A421 dualling between the M1 Junction 13 and Bedford and thus street furniture has a temporary and dilapidated appearance.

Whilst there are two dilapidated bus shelters on the westbound side of the road, adjacent to the shops and Highfield Crescent, neither has any flag or bus service information. It is not even clear where, during the current disruption, buses actually stop. There are no bus stops in the eastbound direction and the current 165 serves Marston Gate Business Centre to set down Brogborough passengers to avoid crossing the A421; however there is no indication where the stop might be.

Brogborough represents all that is wrong with bus service information provision but the temporary nature of the road layout is noted.

CAULCOTT

Served by Stagecoach V1, V2, 160, 165 and 168
Timing Point: Bedford Road Snagge Court

Opposite Snagge Court (from Bedford) there is a Stagecoach stop and flag showing Venus to Cranfield Town Centre (*sic*) but with no timetable information. In the opposite direction (towards Bedford) there is a plastics bus shelter with flag affixed to end showing Venus and a timetable for V1 in both directions.

A second pair of stops in Bedford Road (not clear whether Caulcott or Marston Mortaine) has a post with flag hidden in hedge and no timetable information from Bedford. Towards Bedford there is a post with timetable attached for Venus in both directions; the flag is missing. Timing details for other routes are conspicuous by their absence.

CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY

Served by Z&S17,17A, 158, Arriva 1, Stagecoach V1, V2
Timing Points: College Rd (1, 17,17A, 158)
Technology Park (1,17, 17A, 158,V1,V2)
The V1, V2 are simply timed “Cranfield University”

At the University a bus shelter is provided in the centre of the road layout, at the turning point of the V1, V2 routes. The shelter contains no timetable information but a Milton Keynes Council notice advises that from 26 April 2010 route 17B is replaced by Arriva 1. Opposite is a Stagecoach flag with Venus to Bedford and 17A inscription. There is a timetable case showing V1, V2 plus Arriva 1.

Appendix 6

The V1, V2 timetable has a standard error in respect of serving Kempston Cemetery; it quotes which journeys do not call, which infers all others do – this is not the case as Kempston Cemetery is only served on Sundays.

There are no visible bus stops in either direction for the location “Technology Park”

CRANFIELD VILLAGE

Served by Z&S 17, 17A,158, Arriva 1, Road Runner RR1, RR2,Stagecoach V1, V2
Timing Points. The Swan (1, 17A, 158, RR1, RR2,V1,V2)
Crane Way (1, 158)

Cranfield is a widespread village; the stops are shown below in the order visited, generally west to east.

Bedford Road – towards Bedford there is a post with Stagecoach Venus flag plus route17A but no timetable details. Towards Cranfield University again there is a post and similar flag but no timetable information.

Lower High Street – Bus shelters provided on both sides of the road, each with tactile raised kerb. In both directions there is a Stagecoach “Venus” flag but no timetable provision.

Swan P.H. – A bus shelter is provided at the turning point of routes 17 and 17A with Bedfordshire County Council flag showing 17. A crumpled timetable is not readable at the shelter. The through routes (1, V1, V2) do not serve the shelter but have separate stops around the corner. In both directions there are Stagecoach flags whilst in the Cranfield University direction there is a timetable for V1, V2 and the MK Council notice for Arriva 1 from 26 April 2010.

High Street (opposite Almshouses) – Stagecoach “Venus” flag but no timetable information.

Mill Road (adjacent to Millfield Close) towards Bedford there is a post and flag but, again, no timetable information. Towards the University there is a bus shelter with raised tactile kerb complete with timetable case but only showing the MK Council notice regarding Arriva route 1 from 26 April.

A second pair of stops are provided nearer to Crane Way ; the one towards Bedford shows outdated 158 and 159 serving stop with no timetable details whilst the one from Bedford has a Stagecoach “Venus” flag but nothing else.

Crane Way – Has one stop in each direction, both have Stagecoach “Venus” flags plus 17A (which is incorrect) with no timetable information.

Bedford Road (Marston Hill) - has flag showing 17A (Incorrect)

There is no indication in Cranfield or in any publicity regarding the circular routing of the former 17B, now Arriva route 1 which travels in to Cranfield via Mill Road but returns from Crane Way via Bedford Road.

No information was found regarding the activities of Road Runner.

HOUGHTON CONQUEST

Served by Shorey’s Travel 142, Flittabus FL2, FL8, Grant Palmer X42
Timing Point: Post Office (FL2, FL8, X42)
How End (142)

Bus stop details are generally from the south towards the north.

How End Road – from Bedford, old bus shelter with plain flag showing no details or timetable, there was no information at any point opposite – i.e. towards Bedford.

The Grove – outside No.13B (from Bedford) is a post with plain flag and X42 timetable whilst towards Bedford the same situation applies outside the Church.

Appendix 6

Opposite Ridge View (towards Bedford) and opposite Victoria Drive (from Bedford) the same situation applies except that from Bedford there is a brick bus shelter with raised kerb. These two stops relate to the timing point of “Post Office”.

Bedford Road (adjacent to the Broadway) – from Bedford is a post, plain flag and X42 timetable whilst towards Bedford the flag indicates Stagecoach but has the X42 timetable.

There is a further stop in Bedford Road towards Bedford (opposite Mill Lane) with a Stagecoach flag but no timetable information. There is no comparable stop evident in the opposite direction.

Whilst the village is reasonably served with information for Grant Palmer X42 there appeared to be nothing to indicate the existence of Messrs Shorey or Flittabus.

LIDLINGTON

Served by Stagecoach 160, 165, 168 Cedar 164 , Flittabus FL2, FL4, FL6B

Timing Point Church St (160, 165, 168, FL2, FL4, FL6B)

Church (164)

Walnut Grove (164)

Rail Station (FL6B)

FL6B not shown in TT index

In Station Road towards Bedford there is a flag with 01604.620077 contact telephone number but no timetable details; no equivalent stop is provided in the opposite direction.

In Church St (main timing point) there is a very confusing situation with a relatively new Central Bedfordshire flag facing the direction of the railway station showing 168. 164 Fridays only, 160, 165 Schooldays only and Flittabus to Milton Keynes along with “text ahajajt to 84268 Traveline Information”. In the direction from the railway station and virtually opposite there is a modern bus shelter with raised kerb, post and Stagecoach flag showing 160, 161, 168 whilst within the shelter the timetable case depicts 160, 165, 168 services.

As Lidlington is the terminus of the 168 and buses only use the stop with the shelter, the new information provided in the opposite direction is wrong.

(note – this position will remain after the renumbering of the 168 from September)

Opposite The Paddock (i.e. towards Bedford) there is a bus shelter with raised kerb and Stagecoach flag depicting 160, 161, 168 whilst in the opposite direction (adjacent to Great Farm Close) is a new Central Bedfordshire flag indicating 145, 164 Fridays only, 160 and 165 Schooldays only and Flittabus to Milton Keynes. The latter stop is identified as “ahlagwjd”. Neither stop has any timetable information and route 145 does not exist. It may be that the Central Bedfordshire flags in Church St and at Great Farm Close have been erected the wrong way round as there is no mention of 168 at the latter location.

A further pair of stops are provided on Marston Road. The stop towards Bedford has a flag showing 160 (twice!) and 168 with timetable attached to lamp post whilst that towards Lidlington simply has a plain flag with no other information.

MARSTON MORETAINE

Served by Stagecoach 160, 165, 168, V1, V2, Cedar 164, Flittabus FL2, FL6B, RR1

Timing Points: Station Rd (160, 164, 165, 168)

Beancroft Rd (164, 165, RR1, V1, V2)

Club (FL2, FL6B)

Appendix 6

FL6B not shown in timetable index whilst FL4 (not serving Marston Moretaine) is.

The current major roadworks associated with the dualling of the A421 have an effect on bus routing through Marston Moretaine. In particular, the inability of eastbound journeys to rejoin the A421 other than in the westbound direction produces a situation where on weekdays buses to Cranfield stop on one side of the road but on Sundays through a different routing stop on the opposite side.

In Beancroft Road (the timing point for several services) there are three pairs of stops in very close proximity – which of these is the actual timing point is not clear. South of the A421 roundabout the first stop towards Marston, has a Stagecoach flag indicating “Venus” plus 160 and 165 together with a V1 and V2 timetable for both directions. The stop with flag on the opposite side of the road shows Venus to Cranfield Town Centre (*sic*), 164 and 165 (weekdays) plus Venus V2 timetable for Sundays. The second pair of stops in the vicinity of Churchill Close and the third pair near Tylecote Close have identical details and information.

In Station Road (from Bedford) a post and flag shows 160 plus (remains of) 161 with 01604 620077 as the telephone contact point – there is no timetable information. There is a shelter opposite but with no information. A second pair of stops in Station Road, near St. Mary’s Close, have similar flags but are in a poor state of repair.

At the Central Club on the corner of Station Road and the Millbrook Turn there is a plastics bus shelter, plain flag showing 01604 620077 as the telephone contact point but no service numbers or timetable information. There is no apparent stop on the opposite side of the road.

In Bedford Road, there are pairs of stops in the vicinity of Moreteyne Road with Stagecoach flags but no timetable information.

The boundary with Caulcott is unclear at this point but the other stops in Bedford Road are shown under Caulcott. There is no roadside indication that Flittabus or Cedar Coaches serve Marston Moretaine.

LOWER SHELTON

Served by Road Runner RR1, Stagecoach V1, V2, 160

Timing Point: The Chapel

In Lower Shelton Road (from Bedford) there is a post with Stagecoach flag showing Venus along with V1,V2 and 160 timetables whilst in the opposite direction (outside 149) are the same details but without a timetable.

Opposite Franklin Close, adjacent to the Chapel there is a stop, Stagecoach flag and timetable details for V1,V2 and 160. In the other direction a full set of information is similarly provided together with a Customer Notice regarding the weekend closure of Beancroft Rd and Lower Shelton Road, but no indication which weekend. A map is provided showing alternative bus stops in Upper Shelton.

Like all other relevant locations there is no indication that Road Runner serves the village

MILLBROOK

Served by Flittabus FL2, FL6B (Village) Cedar Coaches 164, Flittabus FL2 (Cross Roads)

Timing Points: Rail Station (FL2, FL6B)

Sandhill Close (FL2, FL6B)

Crossroads (164)

No information was found in Millbrook regarding bus service provision.

SALFORD

Served by Litchfield Car Services 91, Grant Palmer 197, Road Runner RR3

Timing points: Broughton Rd (91)

No timing point for 197

There is a brick bus shelter in Wavendon Road containing a Grant Palmer X34 timetable from April 2010 indicating a timing point of Salford Cross Roads – there is no reference to this in the May 2010 edition of Central Bedfordshire timetable booklet for the Flitwick/Cranfield area. Adjacent is a Bedfordshire County Council flag indicating Luton 409369 or Bedford 228339 as telephone contact numbers. This accompanied by a timetable dated 1993 for 91 and 197 services.

No reference to Road Runner.

STEPPINGLEY

Served by Litchfield Car Services 140 and Grant Palmer 197

The timing point is the French Horn PH and whilst a very smart brick bus shelter is adjacent there is no visible bus service evidence at all.

UPPER SHELTON

Served by Stagecoach 160, V1 and V2 and Road Runner RR1

Timing Point: The Exhibition (not RR1)

Buses serve Lower Shelton Rd in each direction whilst “The Exhibition” P.H. is in Upper Shelton Road and whilst you can see the location, old stop signs, still quoting the Stagecoach enquiry number, outside the Public House (and presumably only served by School Buses) add to the confusion.

There is a plastics bus shelter outside No 57 Upper Shelton Road with Stagecoach flag and Venus plus 160 timetables. In Lower Shelton Road there is a full set of information towards Cranfield but towards Bedford the post with Stagecoach flag is in the hedge and there is no timetable.

Again, there is no suggestion that Road Runner serves the village.

BUS SERVICE INFORMATION – SILSOE

OVERVIEW

Survey undertaken of Silsoe parish on 25 August 2010

SILSOE

Served by Grant Palmer 77, 200, X44; Flittabus 1,3,4,6B & 7, Stagecoach S1, Red Kite S3, Cedar 146

Timing Points: George (77,200,FL1,FL4,FL6B,FL7,X44)

Church (S1)

Post Office (FL3,S3)

The Grove (FL1, FL4, FL6B)

Newbury Close and Silbury Court (FL3)

Cedar Route 146 is not shown in the C.B.C. timetable index.

There appear to be no stops/flags provided in any direction other than along the main High St. There are five pairs of stops in High Street as follows (working north to south):

From Bedford

Brick Bus Shelter with Stagecoach post and Saturn flag which also refers to 77 and 145 calling (this latter has been withdrawn) plus S1 timetable.

Opposite George the same situation but without any timetable.

Outside Church post with Stagecoach Saturn flag and S1 timetable, no other routes referred to.

Opposite College post with non standard Stagecoach flag plus S1 timetable

Opposite Taymer Care Home is a standard post/Stagecoach flag with S1 timetable

Towards Bedford

Brick Bus Shelter with no information

Outside George- post with Stagecoach Saturn flag also referring to 77,145, 200 calling. No timetable for any service (Note: 145 withdrawn)

Opposite Church – same as outside Church

Outside College is a post with Stagecoach flag (Saturn) plus S1 timetable.

Adjacent to Taymer Care Home – repeat of “opposite Taymer Care Home”

Whilst the main service (S1) is generally well indicated there is no reference to any other route save for 77 and 200 appearing on odd flags.