



Newsletter 26

includes Notice Of Annual General Meeting

Summer 2015

Ten Years On, And Still Going Strong!



A snapshot from the new Bus Station webcam, on the Friday before the new Bus Station was formally opened.



The Newsletter of the Bedford Area Bus Users Society (BABUS) is produced by [here to there](#)

Welcome to the BABUS Newsletter 26 (but actually the 25th)

If you have any further questions, you want to send a contribution for the newsletter, or you spot something you think is wrong, please feel free to drop us a line!

Your **Newsletter** is compiled by Miss (until 30th July)/Mrs (from 31st July 2015) Suzy Scott, Communications Officer, who can be contacted by post at Apartment 4, 38-40 Stonehills, WELWYN GARDEN CITY, Hertfordshire, AL8 6PD. E-mail suzy.scott@babus.org.uk and is produced through her company, Here To There Publishing Ltd.

Membership queries – including changes of address for your membership, or to change either way between electronic copies and paper copies should be addressed to Mr Simon Norton, BABUS Membership & Treasurer, 6 Hertford Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 3AG or by email to simon.norton@babus.org.uk

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Our website can be found at www.babus.org.uk and our Bulletin Board can be found at www.babus.org.uk/bb or via the links on the BABUS homepage.

Join our Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/BABUSbeds/ or follow us on Twitter @BABUSbeds www.twitter.com/BABUSbeds

To phone us, simply call **0871 218 then spell out BBUS on your phone. (i.e. 0871 218 2287)**. When you get through, leave us a landline number where we can call you back. If you prefer to fax, then send it to **0871 218 3293** Calls to these numbers are charged at 10p a minute Service Charge, plus your Network Charge as set by your telephone provider. These voicemails and faxes go through to Suzy by email, and will be forwarded as the situation requires. BABUS does not generate any income from the use of 0871 numbers.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions in this Newsletter are those of the individual writing them, not necessarily BABUS unless stated otherwise. The writer's thoughts are those of the person, and not any other company or group they represent.

**Next Newsletter Deadline Date for News and Contributions
is Monday 10th August 2015.**

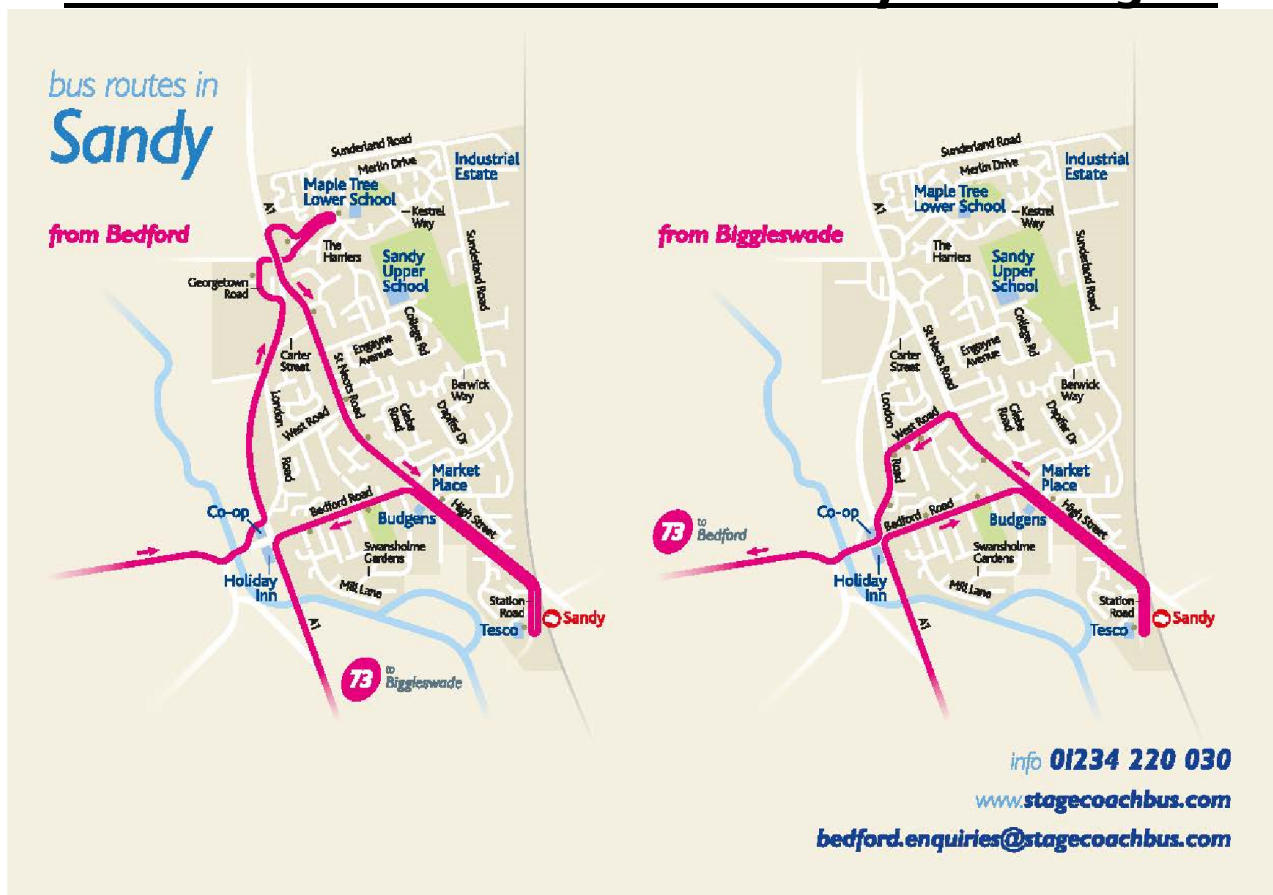
Contents of Newsletter 26

Welcome to the BABUS Newsletter	Page 2
Map of Service 73 Route Change in Sandy	Page 4
Annual General Meeting 2015 – Update	Page 4
Subscription Renewal for 2015-2016	Page 4
Bedford Borough Council Liaison Meeting	Page 5
Central Bedfordshire Council Liaison Meeting	Pages 5-6
Grant Palmer Liaison Meeting	Page 6
Regional Bus Users Group Meeting	Pages 6-8
Steven Knight Media – Stagecoach Heritage Book	Page 8
Review of Bedford Borough Council's new timetable	Pages 8-9
Bedford Bus Station Newspaper cover wrap	Pages 10-12

Contents of 2015 Annual General Meeting Paperwork

2015 Annual General Meeting Agenda	Page 13
Chairman's Annual Report	Pages 14-15
Accounts for the year 2014-2015	Page 15
2014 Annual General Meeting Minutes	Pages 16-18
Map of Bedford Town Centre, showing our location	Page 18
Annual General Meeting Poster	Page 20

New Route for Service 73 in Sandy – see Page 5



BABUS 10th Anniversary AGM

By John Smith

As announced elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday morning, 4th July at 10.30 in the Meeting Room 3rd Floor, Bedford Central Library.

Formal business will be conducted between 10.30 and 11.00. Then we are very fortunate to have secured Claire Walters as our Guest Speaker and she will be speaking at 11.00.

Claire is the Chief Executive of Bus Users UK, the national body of which BABUS is a member. Claire will outline for us the work of her organisation, which is also responsible for running the Bus Appeals Body that deals with passengers' complaints remaining unresolved after direct negotiations between the passenger and the bus company. Bus Users UK website address is www.bususers.org

Claire has said that she will be happy to answer questions at the end of her talk. If you would like to give prior notice of your question, please contact the BABUS Chairman, John Smith, at john.smith@babus.org.uk or by post to 23 High Street, Sharnbrook, Bedford, MK44 1PG.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at the AGM. All are welcome but only members can vote on the formal business. New members are very welcome to join at the AGM.

Membership Renewals 2015-16

By Suzy Scott

Those of you who have a pink form inside your envelope, please be aware it is time for you to renew your Membership, from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. Once again, our membership fees have been unchanged, representing good value with postage increases, material/newsletter costs, and so forth.

You can renew by posting us a cheque/postal order, payable to BABUS please, with the form completed. If you prefer to pay by credit, debit card, or PayPal, you can do this – go to www.babus.org.uk then click on "Renew Your Subscription". If you pay online, there is no need to complete your membership form, and this can then be recycled.

If you did not get a pink form, and feel this to be an error, do get in touch.

Forms should be completed and returned to Mr Simon Norton, BABUS Membership, 6 Hertford Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 3AG. Questions about your Membership can be written to the same address, or by email to simon.norton@babus.org.uk

Summary of the Bedford Borough Council Liaison Meeting on 13th

April 2015

By Frances Horwood

This was the first Borough Council Liaison Meeting since the opening of the new bus station so the BABUS representatives expressed their congratulations. There was particular praise for the Real Time Information screens and the information posters. From the Council's point of view, the opening had gone smoothly, with only minor problems, such as the functioning of the doors. Some bus drivers had begun work after the old bus station closed so had to get used to the new situation; some had found it difficult to align their vehicles correctly and so wooden blocks had been installed to facilitate this.

There had been some criticism of the Travel and Tourism Centre, which does not have as much display space as the previous Tourist Information Centre. It is primarily for information rather than for the sale of merchandise. Timetable leaflets are, of course, available as well as the new timetable book produced by the Borough Council. Unfortunately, Service 81 moved from Bay A to Bay L after the timetable book was issued. This change took place because some journeys on this route are operated by coaches, which could not be accommodated at Bay A. There are to be some improvements to the signage.

Work was continuing on the Departure Hub and we look forward to the completion of this. Information at bus stops in the urban part of the Borough

was on the agenda, information in the rural area having already been updated. A review of the information in the urban area was ongoing. Where a stop is served by more than one operator, it is important that all services from that stop are shown. Some stops already have this information, in a large poster format, and some stops have Real Time Passenger Information. In some parts of the Borough, councillors had used ward funds to provide Real Time Passenger Information, or RTPI for short.

The next Borough Council Liaison Meeting will take place in late June. Do get in touch if you have any matters or queries you would like us to raise.

Summary of the Central Bedfordshire Council Liaison Meeting on 12th March 2015

By Frances Horwood

Among the items discussed were the forthcoming changes to Route 73 in Sandy. The Council was about to invite tenders for a town service, Route 83, which would provide a service to the town centre and Tesco supermarket from parts of the town which would be bypassed by the No. 73. ***(ED: See new Route Map on Page 3).***

There would be changes to Arriva services in the south of the area and to the Dial a Ride Service 74, between Toddington and Dunstable. The replacement of Route 52 by Route 53 had taken place and the new service was popular. In fact, it had been so busy that changes had been made to

the timetable and double decker buses introduced.

BABUS was interested in bus/ rail connections at Flitwick and Harlington and also at Sandy and Arlesey. Commuters and other rail users would not use buses unless they ran at convenient times, connecting with train services. A survey of bus stops was under way and had been completed in the south and east of the area. This included kerbs and bus shelters, as well as roadside information. Real Time Information had already been provided in Shefford and would be introduced in more places.

The next Central Bedfordshire Liaison Meeting would take place in late May. Do get in touch if you have any matters or queries you would like us to raise.

Summary of the Grant Palmer Liaison Meeting on 23rd April 2015

By Frances Horwood

Among the items for discussion were the interchange at Toddington between Grant Palmer Service 42 and the Centrebus (Busway) Service E. Together, these routes provide a service between Bedford and Dunstable, for which there is a demand. Through tickets are available.

Regarding the Busway services which the company operates, these are popular, although the company will continue to promote them. Minor timetable changes had been introduced in order to improve reliability. Driver

recruitment and training were on the agenda. The company is well-staffed, with staff undergoing regular training.

Passengers had experienced a few inconveniences, such as occasional buses not showing the correct destination. Soon, all vehicles will be able to display destinations electronically.

Sometimes buses serving Bedford Railway Station use the wrong stop, but that is because private hire vehicles have a tendency to park at one of the bus stops despite not being permitted to do so.

One journey on Route 25/26 had been reported as frequently running early and the company would investigate this.

The next Grant Palmer Liaison Meeting will be held on July 15th. Do get in touch if you have any matters or queries you would like us to raise.

Summary of the Regional Bus User Groups Meeting on 9th May 2015

By Frances Horwood

This meeting was held at Northampton and was attended by the BABUS Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary and representatives of Northampton and Milton Keynes Bus User Groups.

Since the last meeting in January, the opening of the new Bedford Bus Station had taken place and so the Chairman of BABUS reported on this. The move to the new, improved bus station went

smoothly, with only minor problems - such things as the functioning of the doors and the discolouration of the floor.

Bedford Borough Council produced a new timetable book to coincide with the opening of the bus station. Demand for copies has been high but more were printed than on previous occasions. The timetable book contains information about BABUS. Timetable leaflets for most services are available in the information centre.

Milton Keynes Council produced a new timetable book and map in May. This includes information about MKBUG. In Central Milton Keynes, timetables are available at MKube but this is an Arriva facility and mainly stocks their leaflets.

Northamptonshire do not produce timetable books. The information kiosk at Northampton Bus Station is operated by Stagecoach so does not have information on other operators' services. In Milton Keynes, a revision of bus stops at Station Square took place on May 3rd. This took place after Route 4 was split into 4 and 14; the changes to stops affect all services. The new arrangement has caused some problems as there are buses on different routes arriving at the same stop, at the same time. Congestion has worsened.

MKBUG has compiled a report on "pinch points", which is to be considered by the local council.

All groups continue to be concerned about possible cuts to bus subsidies,

which would lead to a reduction in services. Bedford Borough has not experienced such cuts, with evening and Sunday bus services being maintained.

In Milton Keynes, a budget with drastic cuts was prevented from going ahead by the opposition of councillors from other parties. Cuts to evening services would have adversely affected people working long hours in low-paid jobs. MKBUG was involved in working with councillors to achieve a satisfactory outcome and is already preparing for next year's budget. It had been pointed out to the Council that adequate bus services were necessary, otherwise gridlock would ensue. It is important that bus user groups are consulted before decisions are taken, rather than afterwards. The reinstatement of endangered bus services was achieved by a rise in council tax.

There have been cuts in Northamptonshire in the past. Some rural areas now have demand-responsive services: bus users have to register to use the service and book in advance by telephone. The cuts have not only affected rural areas: Towcester is a town of over 9,000 people but the last bus from Northampton to Towcester on Mondays to Thursdays is at 18.09. Northampton has a larger proportion of commercial services than in some other places.

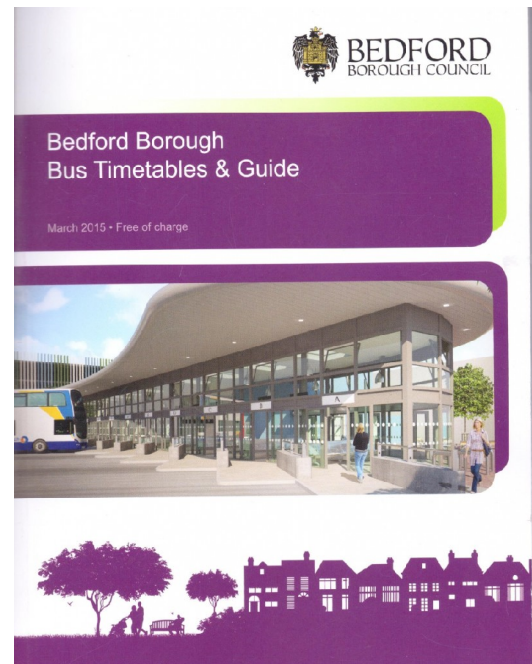
Some small bus operators depend on the subsidies they receive from councils: without them, they might go out of business. Similarly, the reimbursement for the use of bus passes is of vital

importance to them. Some bus companies get into difficulties owing to the heavy cost of insurance.

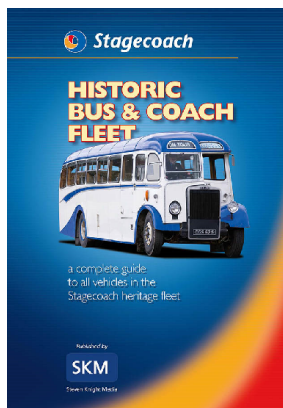
All groups are seeking to work with the councils and bus operators in their area in order that the point of view of bus users may be represented.

The next Regional Meeting will take place in September.

A Review of the Bedford Borough Council Bus Timetable & Guide ***By Suzy Scott***



ADVERTISEMENT



Stagecoach retains over 50 buses and coaches (and a recovery vehicle) in its 'heritage' fleet with many of the vehicles maintained in a serviceable status and made available for hire as well as being used for local community and PR events. In our largest publication project we have pulled together details of every one of these vehicles and also obtained photographs of every vehicle. Stagecoach is proud of its heritage and many of the vehicles it has retained have a major significance in the history of the company. The book contains a Foreword by Stagecoach Founder and Chairman Sir Brian Souter and full details are given of who to contact to hire many of the historic buses and coaches.

A5 Portrait size (Perfect Bound) 78 pages Full Colour Card Cover £10.75 plus £1.75 postage.

All cheques payable to **HERE TO THERE PUBLISHING LTD** please. Post to;
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Over on my LiveJournal blog, I used to do a set of Randoms. This was inspired by a good friend, who started Random Chocolate Wednesday, so I did Random Coffee Tuesday, then later Random Timetable Monday and Random Pen Thursday. The Random Timetable one continues in our company blog, which you can visit via www.heretotherepublishing.com and click on "Our Transport Blog". The feature picks a transport timetable that I particularly like, guaranteed sponsor-free, and none of those that I produce. So, shortly after the new Bedford Borough book was done, I wanted to feature it. So – enough background – now I share it with you all – over on the next page.

"As you might know, we pick a random timetable, every week, to illustrate best practice, and show off some of our favourites. These don't feature those we produce, but cast our eye over as both passenger and publisher. This particular book is something in which the current and former executive committee at BABUS have had input into. For the sake of transparency, these are all my own views!

Right, where was I – a new timetable book, March 2015 – free of charge from local outlets (see end of review if you are non-locals). If you are familiar with the book, you will be aware that the last one was split into five sections of Timetables – Town Services, X5, Rural, Community Transport, and National Express. The new simpler guide is split into two of these: Main Services and Community Transport, plus a new section that features Summary Timetables. There are four corridors in this section, 25/50/51 Bedford – Clapham, 40/41 Bedford – Bromham – 44/81 Bedford – Clapham, and 53/C1 between Bedford – Wootton. Clapham is a new one, following introduction of the 25 through the area. Wootton is new too, following a competitive set of changes from Stagecoach's two buses an hour to three, following the introduction of an hourly Uno service via Wootton for Cranfield University. Back to the three simple sections, this makes navigating the book, so much easier.

The cover features the artists impression of the bus station development. The book itself has a full colour cover wrap around, including a

Bedford Borough area map, and town map, showing the bus network in a diagrammatic format.

The book print inside is mono throughout, on a white matt art paper. Timetables, a comprehensive index, and a Where To Board Your Bus plan are all clearly shown. One new innovation which follows the budget-cut related plan to cut BBC funding, to just allow the "statutory" times for free pass travel i.e. 09.30-23.00 Mon-Fri, and all day Sat/Sun/BH. So, there are some infrequent services where passengers can use before 09.30, and these are now clearly marked with outlines on the journey, or a footnote in similar edging. ***(ED: I have since been advised that all day free pass travel remains available for journeys wholly within the Borough. The services highlighted above terminate outside the Borough, and so would not be eligible for free travel without the easement).***

The book also features new timetables, up to and including the changes to 53 and X5 from Monday 5th April 2015.

Interestingly, for those who had issues finding a copy of the last issue, the plan was that the number printed, this year, was to go up from 5,000 to 10,000. Copies are available now, while stocks last, from the new Tourism & Travel Centre in the redeveloped bus station. If you aren't local, send £2.05 to cover postage/packing to the Public Transport Team, Transport Operations Group, Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP."



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



All Aboard for New Bus Station Opening

29th March 2015 is set to mark the historic opening of Bedford's new bus station.

Redeveloping the bus station site has been a pipe dream for many years but just a year from the start of work the new bus station is set to open. The area has already benefitted from a revamped and award-winning Allhallows car park, public toilets and environmental improvements including new paving and seating. Local store fronts have been enhanced making the area more attractive and improving disabled access.

From Sunday 29th March residents, visitors and commuters will also benefit from the new modern, fit for purpose Bedford Bus Station providing a welcoming gateway into Bedford town centre.

The bus station will also be home to the new travel and tourism centre offering tickets and advice on a range of activities available across the borough and beyond.



Grant Palmer (Grant Palmer Ltd), Dave Hodgson (Mayor of Bedford Borough) and Andy Campbell (Managing Director of Stagecoach East) pictured at the start of work to demolish the old bus station last year.

This guide explains what you can expect from the new bus station, where to catch the buses and how the network of extended services now make it even easier to get around.



				BUS STOPS
				(E) (P) (P)
42	Dunstable (Grant Palmer)			(E) (P) (P)
42	Filtwick (Stagecoach)			(E) (P)
44	Filtwick/Silsoe			(A) (P)
50	Kettering			(E)
51	Oakley/Rushden			(E)
52	Marsh Leys/Cranfield			(D) (P) (P)
53	Milton Keynes via Marston Moretaine & Cranfield			(D) (P)
68	Stewartby			(B)/(C) (P)
71	Hitchin via Henlow Camp			(F) (P)
72	Hitchin via Arlesey			(F) (P)
73	Biggleswade via Willington & Sandy			(F) (P)
74	Biggleswade via Cople			(F) (P)
81	Luton			(A) (P)
C1	Milton Keynes via Wootton & Cranfield			(B) (P)
C3	Cranfield University via Marston Moretaine			(B) (P)
C10	Milton Keynes via Marston Moretaine & Cranfield			(B) (P)
X5	Cambridge			(O)
X5	Oxford			(N)
305/314	Liverpool/Southport & Clacton-on-Sea(National Express)			(L)

Follow us on Twitter: @bedfordtweets or visit www.bedford.gov.uk/busstation

Backing for Better Bus Service

Bedford's new bus station is just one improvement intended to make bus journeys in and around Bedford Borough even easier. With over £700,000 spent on bus stops alone you can expect to see boosts to bus journeys wherever you are catching the bus.

Bedford Borough Council spends £1.5 million a year to support local bus services. Working with bus operators, passengers and travel experts Bedford Borough Council has widened the bus service so that you can now travel by bus to more places than ever before while at the same time rolling out the service to operate on more days and for longer hours. Further key improvements for bus users include:

- **75 real-time electronic displays** at bus stops provide clear and live information for passengers; an increase of 150% since 2013. Accompanying these screens are facilities for the visually impaired, with Audio Travel Updates now being accessible at most of the 75 stops with electronic displays.
- 259 bus stops have received **shelters** and now 394 have **raised kerbs**; 222 of these being raised this year, allowing level boarding access for passengers.
- **Travel information** regarding bus services is also better now than it has ever been, with the Bedford Borough Council timetable book being rated as "Outstanding in its Field" by Barry Doe, Transport Expert. A new edition is being published to coincide with the launch of the new bus station.
- For passengers who prefer using their **mobile phones**, **real-time travel information** for every stop in the Borough can now be accessed via the internet by simply entering a street name, postcode, place, route number or bus stop code. Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/rtpi for more information.

Key to the development of Bedford Borough's bus services has been the work of the Bedford Area Bus Users Society, who represent the views of local passengers.

John Smith, Chairman of Bedford Area Bus Users Society, said

"Buses in Bedford now run later into the evening and during shopping hours on Sunday. New services have been introduced to connect more recent housing estates with the town centre and the railway station. Every village, however small, has a bus service."

The Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said

"These improvements to transport in and around Bedford go hand in hand with the new Bus Station, which will make travelling by bus locally a more comfortable, convenient and enjoyable experience. Bedford Borough's bus network and facilities can now compete with any others across the UK, showing just how far we have come."

Did you know...

- Between 2013 and 2014, bus journeys grew by 0.5 million. Now 6.7 million bus journeys originate from Bedford Borough;
- Bedford Bus Services are ranked in the top 20% nationally for punctuality;
- Evening town bus services run until 11pm during the week;
- Sunday services in the town now run hourly;
- Improvements brought in to Bedford Borough's rural bus network have been 'highly commended' at the National Transport Awards and saw an increase in bus users of 25% when introduced;
- Bedford Borough now has 815 marked bus stops and 200 custom and practice stops; meaning that wherever passengers find themselves, a bus stop is not far away.



Travel and Tourism

The new bus station will also benefit from the relocation of the town's tourist information service from St Paul's Square.

The new travel and tourism centre will be located within the bus station itself, dispensing advice and information as well as tickets for rail and coach services.

The centre will open on Monday 30th March to coincide with the opening of the bus station itself and will operate from 9.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Saturday.





Notice of Annual General Meeting 2015

Agenda for Bedford Area Bus Users Society **2015 Annual General Meeting**

**Annual General Meeting to be held at the Meeting Room, 3rd Floor,
Bedford Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford, MK40 1PG**

AGENDA

- 1.** Welcome and confirmation of appointment of Executive Committee members co-opted since the last AGM
- 2.** Apologies for absence
- 3.** Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 5 July 2014 (copy circulated)
- 4.** Matters arising
- 5.** Chairman's Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2015 (copy circulated)
- 6.1** Treasurer's Report for year ended 31 March 2015 (copy circulated)
- 6.2** Resolution to be proposed by the Treasurer:
"The Executive Committee be authorised to raise subscriptions for individual members for the year 2016/17, by a sum not exceeding £2 if, in the judgement of the Committee such an increase is necessary for the proper running of the Society"
- 7.** Election of Officers
- 8.** Election of Executive Committee
- 9.** Any other business

Guest Speaker – Claire Walters, Chief Executive, Bus Users UK, who will give a talk on her organisation and answer members questions

Chairman's Report for the year ended 31 March 2015, and update on subsequent developments

By John Smith

At the 2014 AGM I found myself rather unexpectedly in the chair for the year 2014/15 as a result of health problems of our very capable chairman, Godfrey Willis. I have tried my best to build on Godfrey's work and have received tremendous support from all the members of the Executive Committee. On several occasions I have consulted Godfrey as elder statesman, which has been a great comfort and help.

We have continued our very productive quarterly liaison meetings with Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Grant Palmer Passenger Services. With new management at Stagecoach in Bedford, communications became a little difficult for a time but liaison meetings have now been resumed.

The big event of the year was the opening of the new Bedford Bus Station on 29 March 2015. Apart from a few teething problems, the new arrangements have been generally well received. By the time that you read this report, the new transport hub adjacent the bus station, serving town routes 3, 4, 7, 8 and 10, should be completed and all routes using their permanent departure points. To coincide with the opening of the Bus Station, Bedford Borough published a new edition of the comprehensive free Bus Timetables & Guide. 10,000 copies were printed and within a very short time some 8,000 copies had been picked up from the new Travel and Tourism Centre. We shall continue to monitor the day by day operations of the bus station and work with the appropriate authorities to try and resolve any problems that arise.

So far, bus services in Bedford Borough have escaped the deep cuts that our neighbouring bus user groups in Northampton and Milton Keynes have been fighting. With the re-election of the Bedford Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Transport, we hope this situation will continue.

Central Bedfordshire Council expects to have to reduce their subsidies to bus services and is holding a series of consultations to which BABUS will be invited to contribute.

During the year we co-opted two members onto the Executive Committee. Andrew Spearman, a retired local authority transport planner and Ian Wigley, an Ampthill resident with a detailed knowledge of and interest in bus operation in Bedfordshire. At the AGM members will be invited to confirm their membership of the Committee.

There will also be elections for Association Officers and Committee Members for 2015/16. Sadly, our Publicity Officer will be standing down due to poor health and Committee Member Marilyn Basketter due to pressure of family and parish council commitments. I shall not be seeking re-election, as my wife and I are moving to Bath.

in the new future. Please consider whether you could spare the time to join the Committee. We meet six times a year on a Saturday morning. Participation in liaison meetings is optional and these normally take place on weekdays, during the working day. If you are willing for your name to go forward, please let our secretary, Frances Horwood know. Her e-mail is frances.horwood@babus.org.uk and postal address is 34 Rectory Orchard, Lavendon, Olney, MK46 4HB.

A new BABUS information and membership leaflet has been published this Spring with assistance from the Bedfordshire Rural Transport Partnership. This has been widely distributed to libraries and tourist information centres by our Publicity Officer. Copies will be available at the AGM. Do pick up some and give them to your friends. The more members we have, the greater influence we can have on important transport matters.

BABUS Financial Report 2014-5

Income

£ 175-00 Subscriptions (individual)
£ 204-00 Subscriptions (corporate)
£ 247-00 Donations
£ 626-00 Total
£ 407-50 Branch funds at 1/4/14

£1033-50 Total

Outgoings

£ 315-00 Room hire
£ 262-06 4 Newsletters + AGM notice
£ 53-00 Public Liability Insurance for 2015 AGM
£ 91-16 Web costs
£ 2-50 Paypal charges
£ 163-34 Leaflets
£ 887-06 Total
£ 146-44 Branch funds at 1/4/15

£1033-50 Total

Assets at 1/4/15

£ 341-38 General Account 28/4/15
£ 7-58 Project Account
£ 5-00 Cheque not yet paid in
£ 25-48 Paypal Account

£ 379-44 Total

Liabilities at 1/4/15

£ 75-00 Uncleared cheque
£ 158-00 Loan repayable
£ 233-00 Total
£ 146-44 Branch funds at 1/4/15

£ 379-44 Total

Minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting

Bedford Area Bus Users' Society Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Bedford Area Bus Users' Society held at the Woolpack Hub, Commercial Road, Bedford, on Saturday 5 July 2014.

Present:

Godfrey Willis – Chairman

Colin Franklin – Vice Chairman

Martin Brookes – Publicity Officer

Frances Horwood - Committee Member

Simon Norton – Membership Secretary

Suzy Scott – Communications Officer

Stephen Sleight – Bedfordshire Rural

Transport Partnership

John Smith – Committee Member

Peter G Williams – Secretary and Treasurer

Eight other members were present, including our Speaker, Mrs Linda McCord.

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present, explaining that the Meeting would be comprised of two parts: the first part being the conduct of business required for the continued operation of the Society, followed by a presentation on the work of Passenger Focus.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Marylin Basketter, Alan Hunter, Doreen Hunter, Elizabeth Hunter, Alan Sprod, Ian Wigley and John Yunnie.

3 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15 June 2013

Members had already received these and they were accepted as a true and correct record.

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2014

The Chairman verbally presented his Annual Report. This had not been circulated to members beforehand and would subsequently be published in the Newsletter. It is also appended to these Minutes.

6 Treasurer's Report for year ending 31 March 2014

Members had received copies of this with the A G M papers. There were no queries on the finances of the Society and the Report was received.

The Treasurer, Peter G Williams, proposed that "The Executive Committee be authorised to raise subscriptions for individuals for the year 2015/2016 by a sum not exceeding £2, if in the judgement of the Committee such an increase is necessary for the proper running of the Society". This was approved.

7 Election of Officers

The Chairman, Godfrey Willis, explained that there was a need to elect a new Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and that names had been submitted for individuals prepared to cover these posts. There were no further nominations from the floor.

The following Officers were elected:

Chairman – John Smith, proposed by Godfrey Willis, seconded by Suzy Scott

Vice-Chairman – Colin Franklin, proposed by Suzy Scott, seconded by Martin Brookes

Secretary – Frances Horwood, proposed by Godfrey Willis, seconded by Colin Franklin

Treasurer – Simon Norton, proposed by Godfrey Willis, seconded by Colin Franklin

Current Committee Members Martin Brookes (Publicity), Simon Norton (Membership with Treasurer) and Suzy Scott (Communications) were willing to stand again. There were no other nominations. Colin Franklin proposed that they be appointed "en bloc" and this was seconded by Frances Horwood. This was agreed by the Meeting.

The Chairman said that he wished to make a number of points. Following the serious illness of the previous Newsletter Editor, Alan Hopkinson, Suzy Scott had stepped in at short notice to cover the role. Since then there had been an impressive set of Newsletters published and Suzy was thanked for her hard work.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, Mrs Marylin Basketter of Sharnbrook had been co-opted to the Committee as 'Member Without Portfolio'. This was endorsed by the Meeting.

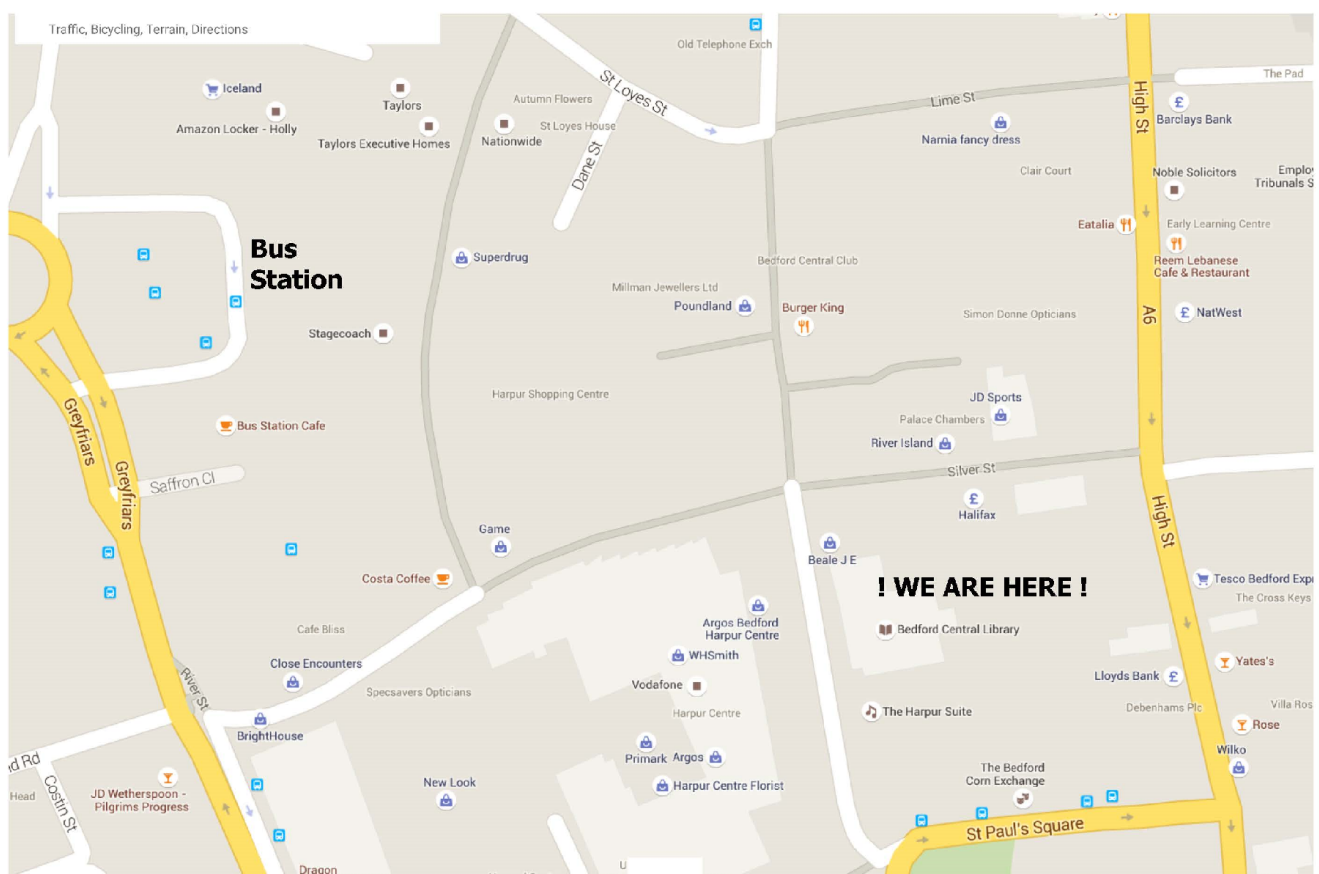
The Chairman then voiced serious concerns that there was now no representation on the Committee reflecting the interests of individual and corporate members in Central Bedfordshire. This weakness did not bode well for the future.

8 Any Other Business

- i. Simon Norton, Membership Secretary, provided a verbal summary of current membership numbers for the Society.
- ii. Martin Brookes wished to put on the record appreciation for the work of the retiring Chairman and Secretary, noting that much had been achieved through their hard work and efforts. Chris Pettifer said he wished to endorse those sentiments, registering his thanks to BABUS for fostering a unique relationship with local authorities and bus operators, based on professionalism and integrity.

The Chairman closed the formal part of the Meeting at 10:55 and introduced our Guest Speaker, Mrs Linda McCord, Passenger Manager, Passenger Focus who then gave a presentation describing the work of her organisation in promoting the interests of bus users.

Map of Bedford Town Centre, showing the location of the Central Library and the Bus Station



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Bedford Area Bus Users Society

Annual General Meeting

Will be held on

Saturday 4th July 2015,

10.30, at

Bedford Central Library

(Meeting Room), Harpur Street,
Bedford Town Centre, MK40 1PG.

After the formal business, our
speaker will be

Claire Walters,

Chief Executive, Bus Users UK

All Welcome.

Visit our website for more information - www.babus.org.uk