



Newsletter 33

Summer 2017 and



Notice of Annual General Meeting



Mark Beetlestone Sales Manager of Guest Trucks Peterborough (Supplier) handing the keys of the new Ivel Sprinter minibus (see inside for full story) Gerry Amsden, General Secretary of The Ivel Sprinter, together with Councillor Michael North Deputy Mayor of Biggleswade, Councillor Ann Lovesey from Great Barford & the Ivel Sprinter Drivers.

© Peter Davies, Ivel Sprinter Publicity Manager

The newsletter of the Bedford Area Bus Users Society, or

BABUS, is brought to you by



public transport information in one place

Welcome to BABUS Newsletter 33

	<p>This BABUS Newsletter is brought to you by Mrs Suzy Scott, who can be contacted by post at Apartment 4, 38-40 Stonehills, WELWYN GARDEN CITY, Hertfordshire, AL8 6PD. E-mail <u>suzy.scott@babus.org.uk</u> and is produced through her company, Here To There Publishing Ltd. She is our Communications Officer [on a part-time basis]. We welcome contributions and corrections from everyone, and please note that the next Newsletter deadline shall be on 1st September 2017. This is a little later than usual, to accomodate the Editor's holiday plans.</p>
	<p>The BABUS Website is also the responsibility of Suzy Scott (see previous row), and you can find us at <u>www.babus.org.uk</u>. To sign up for the Bulletin Board, which is also there, send Suzy an email with your preferred user name, own name, email, and membership status (i.e. committee, regular member or non-member) so we can set you all up accordingly.</p>
	<p>We are also on Social Media! Find us on Twitter @BABUSbeds or online at <u>www.twitter.com/BABUSbeds</u> You can also join our Facebook group <u>www.facebook.com/groups/BABUSbeds/</u></p>
	<p>Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary is Mr Simon Norton who you can contact by post at 6 Hertford Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 3AG or by email to <u>simon.norton@babus.org.uk</u> . Simon can deal with Changes of Address, Change from Paper to Digital newsletter (or vice-versa,) Membership Renewals and queries on Payments, and Accounts Payable.</p>
	<p>For everything else, contact our lovely Secretary, be addressed to Miss Frances Horwood, BABUS Secretary, 34 Rectory Orchard, Lavendon, OLNEY, MK46 4HB, or by <u>frances.horwood@babus.org.uk</u> . To contact us by telephone, call 0871 218 2287 (BBUS). Leave a message, and we will return your call. We legally need to tell you this costs 12p per minute, plus your Network Operator's Access Charges. Fax us on the same cost basis – 0871 218 3293.</p>

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Who Are We?

BABUS – or Bedford Area Bus Users Society in full – are a voluntary Bus User Group. Our aims are threefold;

- to represent the interests of bus users who either live, work or travel through the Bedford area
- to encourage people to use buses
- to act as a focal point between bus users, bus companies and local authorities

BABUS has an interest in all bus services operating in Bedford Borough, and most of Central Bedfordshire. BABUS is affiliated to Bus Users UK, the national watchdog for bus passengers, and liaises with several other groups which have areas bordering our own.

Members receive a Newsletter, usually every quarter, to keep you informed of our activities. If you have access to the Internet, either at home or at a library, café etc. you will be able to access our website, www.babus.org.uk This includes Members Area access to our Bulletin Board, which keeps you updated between Newsletters.

If you are not already a member, why not join us? Send a Cheque/Postal Order (payable to BABUS) for £5 (Individual/Family) or £12 (Group/Corporate) to Simon Norton, **6 Hertford Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 3AG**, with a note of your name and address! If you'd like to receive an information pack, then just call us on 0871 218 2287, and leave your name/address on our answerphone. We will send you a full information pack.

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.

Annual General Meeting and Membership Renewals for 2017/2018 *By Suzy Scott*

All BABUS members have been sent a hard copy of this booklet. This is in compliance with our Constitution, for giving written notice of our Annual General Meeting. If you usually get an electronic copy only, this will still happen after Newsletter 34.

Our Annual General Meeting date is now confirmed for Saturday 8th July 2017. The information for the event can be found at the rear of this booklet. As with 2016, to reduce the costs to the Society, this event is brought to you in conjunction with Here To There Publishing Ltd. What does this mean? Well, in 2015, the society had to pay a one-day insurance charge, that is more than Suzy/H2T pay for one year!!! So, we spoke to our underwriters and insurers, and we've had this arranged at no extra cost to Here To There Publishing or BABUS. Now, we have a speaker from Bedford Borough Council's Transport Team. We've asked Chris Pettifer who has agreed to present us with a talk and/or presentation. What we know so far, is that he has another commitment later that day. So, as things go, we've swapped the usual after-AGM talk to the beginning of the event.

Re the "Card Subject To Change" to the notices, it is to indicate that any changes that happen after this Newsletter has to go in the post, to give you the requisite notice. Any changes to plan will be shown on our BABUS website, Bulletin Board, Facebook and Twitter feeds, as well as our board on Anglia & Thames Valley Bus Forum.

So, to cut a long story short, if you plan to attend, arrive between 10.00 and 10.25, so as not to miss anything.

Membership Renewals are now also due, for the 2017/2018 membership year. Once again, we have held our subscription fees at £5.00 personal/family or £12.00 for a group/corporate. This brings you up to four Newsletters a year, and the ability to have issues or concerns fed back to operators and local authorities.

If you have a Pink Form inside, your membership is now due for renewal. If you've not had one, you have either paid in advance for this year, or joined in the last few months (where we would normally extend new joiners membership until the end of the following membership year). If you feel there is a discrepancy, (i.e. you have sent payment and had a Pink Renewal Form sent to you – or vice-versa) or you have questions, please speak to Simon Norton, whose contact details are on Page 2 of this Newsletter.

If you are due a payment, it can be made in a number of ways;

- **Cheque or Postal Order** to BABUS, and mailed to BABUS Renewals, Simon Norton, 6 Hertford Street, CAMBRIDGE, CB4 3AG
- **Cash** will be accepted at our Annual General Meeting.
- **Credit/Debit Card Online** – go to www.babus.bigcartel.com and you can pay by card, or PayPal.
- **PayPal Transfer** – to suzy.scott@babus.org.uk please.
- **Bank Transfer** – Lloyds Bank, Biggleswade - Sort Code – 309079, Account Number – 01704748
A/C Name – Bedford Area Bus Users Society
Reference – Please use your name – very important so we can update the right membership!

My Role In BABUS – an update

By Suzy Scott

Now, in my last personal bit in Newsletter 31, I mentioned that I intended to continue a part-time member of the committee, subject to anything happening out of my control. To paraphrase former committee member Godfrey Willis, my journey through life is accompanied by Mr Huntingdon. Now, having seen my dad with the same for over 15 years, I am kind of used to it.

Fast forward to the start of 2016, and following an amazing year previous, I started feeling more tired than ever before. Subsequent to this, I was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (aka ME/PVFS). Now, other than some memories for Caroline of her ex-partner who had this, I am not used to it at all! I don't know how this road will happen or affect me – it's all new to me. The unpredictability of it doesn't help someone who tries to plan for the most productive day!

Now, last year, I did advertise a vacancy for Communications Officer, but no-one took up the challenge. My current situation is that in some point in the next few months, I would like to seek a replacement Communications Officer (or Officers, split down as you like). The job is voluntary (as we all are here), and if you can use Microsoft Word and/or an email package/service, you are half way there. We now use content management tools, which has simplified the role no end. The current things I do are as follows;

- Compiling a Newsletter (using Microsoft Word), loosely template-based, using content from members and the industry alike. The Interactive edition is done using an online tool

- Updating the BABUS website with updates on meetings, news and Newsletters. This is based on WordPress, with the payment gateway by BigCartel.
- Bulletin Board – general maintenance, keeping an eye on threads. This is done using an online tool called SMF, which is an easy to use tool.
- Passing the Newsletters for print, packing and posting the envelopes.
- Updating our Facebook and Twitter feeds, as and when required (occasionally).
- Contact with the Membership Secretary/Treasurer, regarding payments due, and also regarding members joining or renewing online (forwarding the email usually works). Also with the other Committee Members and others on occasions.

Failing this, I might need to thin things down (maybe less Newsletters and/or online updates). I don't want that to happen, hoping my health doesn't nosedive. I don't want to be in the position where someone else tells me to stop. You would get full training from myself, either at WGC or at another location of your choosing. I would be on hand to help, as would our SQL expert Sam (who fixes the more difficult bugs and gremlins on all my Forums). I would certainly hope the rest of the Committee would be able to help.

If you think that you could take care of any (or all of these) things, I'm more than happy to have an informal chat/discussion regarding taking this over. You can reach me at home on 01707 329071, my mobile is 07907 578595. You can e-mail me at **suzy.scott@babus.org.uk** or write to me at the address on Page 2.

Ivel Sprinter take delivery of new Iveco minibus

***By Peter Davies, publicity manager
of Ivel Sprinter***



After many months of hard work the Ivel Sprinter volunteers team effort to obtain funds for the purchase of a new vehicle have come to fruition.

The aim of the Organisation is to provide for those in the community with no or limited transport options, a timetabled "hail & ride" mini bus service covering the local villages within an approximate 20 miles' radius of Biggleswade, Sandy and out to Bedford, Cambridge & St Neots to enable shopping, medical appointments, the library etc. We also have a second vehicle as a back-up & available to local organisations to hire.

Thanks are due to the generous support from local Town and Parish Councils and Charities including Biggleswade, Sandy, Tempsford, Langford, Northill, Wixham Tree Trust, Potton Consolidated Charities and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bedfordshire Trust to say nothing of several local organisations gifts which have enabled us to take delivery of the new bus – A real boost to us all in meeting local needs.

Timetables are available from the bus, local libraries, some doctor's surgeries etc. or Telephone 01767 317683 & we will send you a copy.

We are always looking for additional volunteer drivers, able to offer us one morning a month. Call 01767 317103.

The above and cover pictures show Mark Beetlestone, Sales Manager of Guest Trucks Peterborough (Supplier) handing the keys to Gerry Amsden, General Secretary of The Ivel Sprinter, together with Councillor Michael North Deputy Mayor of Biggleswade, Councillor Ann Lovesey from Great Barford & the Ivel Sprinter Drivers.

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Anglia & Thames Valley Bus Forum
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We are an informal, online, bus enthusiast community, where bus operators, vehicles, services, historic happenings, service changes, politics, legislation, and much more, can all be discussed. We cover an area which expands to almost anywhere that can be reached on a day trip from Cambridge – about 100 miles.

We cover the whole of Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, London, Surrey, Berkshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and beyond!

Visit the Forum online at
www.atvbf.co.uk

Summary of Grant Palmer Liaison Meeting, 23rd March 2017
By Frances Horwood

The company had recently bought two brand-new vehicles, having already bought two, a few months previously.

Bus services within Bedford were doing well. The company now operated Service 74, between Bedford and Biggleswade, and this was satisfactory, with passenger numbers expected to increase during the spring and summer. There was a new Service 34, running between Ampthill Heights and Milton Keynes, every two hours from Mondays to Saturdays.

Central Bedfordshire Council, after holding a public consultation, had changed the criteria for subsidising bus services. This had resulted in the withdrawal of Service 197, which used to run between Biggleswade and Milton Keynes twice a week. The route of Service 200 had been altered. Services 42 and 44, on subsidised parts of the route, no longer ran outside the times when they were subsidised. Bedford Borough Council had also held public consultations, on the closure of the Bedford Travel and Tourism Centre and on early concessionary fares. The proposed closure of the Travel and Tourism Centre was to take place soon after our meeting. The company would seek to make timetable leaflets available elsewhere in Bedford town centre; bus drivers would have these available, on request.

The changes to Bedford Borough concessionary fares - an end to 24-hour free travel for pass holders and the introduction of a £1 charge for journeys

within the Borough, outside the statutory times for free travel - did not affect the amount of income the company received. Some pass holders had changed their routine to travel after 9.30 on weekdays, but buses which ran just after 9.30 had sufficient capacity to cope with this.

The company's routes serve many villages and smaller towns, providing a very necessary means of accessing employment, shops, hospitals and other locations. In some of the areas served, development is to take place, so provision of good bus services will be even more essential. As in many parts of the country, bus services are under threat; cuts to bus services cause great hardship to those who rely on them. In rural areas, particularly, it may not be possible to run bus services commercially and the case for retaining such routes needs to be made to the councils concerned.

Our next liaison meeting with Grant Palmer will take place in June. Please get in touch if there are any issues which you would like us to raise on your behalf.

**Summary Report of Joint Bedford
Borough and Central Bedfordshire
Councils Liaison Meeting, held on
May 8th 2017**
By Frances Horwood

There had been a number of changes to timetables as a result of Central Bedfordshire Council's decision not to subsidise services on Sundays and bank holidays, after 15.00 on Saturdays or after 18.30 on weekdays. Some communities had lost Sunday bus services. It was emphasised that services outside the times when subsidies had been retained, had been poorly used. Nevertheless, people whose only means of transport is the bus have been adversely affected by the changes, especially if they need to travel to work on Sundays.

As with the withdrawal of subsidies from some routes by Milton Keynes Borough Council last year, the new Central Beds. criteria for subsidies have affected some routes in the Bedford area. In Central Beds., some routes which had lost subsidies from the Council were eligible for Section 106 funding from developers.

A new Grant Palmer service, No.34, between Ampthill Heights and Milton Keynes had started operation and the routes of Nos. 44 and 200 had been revised. The intention was to increase commuter use.

When Bedford Borough Council ended 24 hour free travel for holders of concessionary passes, there was a problem for residents travelling on Service 22 from Peppercorn Park in Clapham, who had no choice but to travel before 09.30: this problem had been

solved by waiving the £1 charge on the relevant service.

BABUS also asked what arrangements had been put in place after the closure of Bedford Travel and Tourism Centre. We were told that all tickets which had been obtainable there were available elsewhere. Bus information could be obtained by ringing the bus operator and was also available online. We suggested that timetable leaflets be placed in local libraries and Council premises and were told that, when the premises which had housed the Travel and Tourism Centre were let, it was hoped to place a carousel of leaflets there.

Our local councils no longer produce timetable books, in order to save money. Accordingly, Central Beds. Council made sure that bus stop information was accurate and up to date. Publicising bus services was the responsibility of operators but the Council assisted, by providing new timetable cases, for example. ***(ED: Here To There Publishing Ltd are working on updating our timetable for all buses in Bedfordshire, from the June 2017 changes. This will be on sale for those who want a hard copy, or an online download. Feel free to ask Suzy for more details, or keep an eye on future Newsletters. This will get updated regularly, meaning the book is never out of date for long).***

Our next liaison meeting with Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils will take place in August. Please get in touch if there are any issues which you would like us to raise on your behalf.

Summary Report of Regional Bus User Groups Meeting held on 25th

March 2017

By Frances Horwood

The Milton Keynes group hosted this meeting, attended by representatives from Bedford and Northampton. Northampton no longer has a bus user group but it is hoped that one can be started up again. All present were aware that active members of such groups are predominantly in the older age group and that, for groups to continue, it is necessary for younger people to become involved.

A matter which was of great concern to all of us was cuts to bus services - either already experienced or likely to happen in the future. Councils were obliged to make savings and often considered it preferable to reduce bus services rather than, for example, social care. It is not always appreciated how beneficial bus services are to older people, enabling them to attend social events and meet others, as well as making essential journeys for hospital visits, shopping etc. Without buses to enable them to do this, some older people, particularly those living alone, could become very isolated, which could be detrimental to their health.

Another way in which bus services benefit even those people who don't use them, is by reducing pollution, since they enable a reduction in car usage. Also, the more people who use buses and the fewer private cars there are on the roads, the less congestion there will be, which will benefit all road users.

Councils were making savings by no longer producing printed timetables or

bus maps, relying on bus operators to make these available, and concentrating on providing information online. Bus information kiosks in Milton Keynes and Northampton are run by the main bus operator. Bedford Borough Council has closed the Travel and Tourism Centre, which was staffed by Council employees and hence provided unbiased information on all local bus services.

As well as the groups in each area having similar concerns, there are also bus services which run through more than one area. When Milton Keynes cut bus subsidies, this had an impact on bus users elsewhere. As a result of the loss of the subsidy for the part of the route within Milton Keynes, Service 40 was no longer viable and was withdrawn last November. This brought changes to Service 41 (Bedford to Northampton), which was diverted to serve Bromham Village and Biddenham, lengthening journey times. Stagsden is served by an hourly service to and from Bedford.

Service 53 now only runs as far as Cranfield, rather than Milton Keynes. Milton Keynes Council have made savings by cutting routes which it considered duplicated; alternative routes between Milton Keynes and Bedford could be considered unnecessary because the X5 runs between them. If savings are made by making services less frequent, they then become less attractive to potential users.

In Milton Keynes, and elsewhere, some bus services are supported by Section 106 funding from developments. In Northamptonshire, there was the possibility of Section 106 money for a service between Brackley and Bicester

and Government money would be provided for a scheme to improve traffic flow at the junction of routes to Rugby, Daventry and Coventry.

Milton Keynes already has some electric buses and is to have some semi hybrid vehicles. These are capable of running throughout the day and then recharging at night. The existing electric vehicles are recharged by plates in the road. More Real Time Information screens were under consideration.

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Service Changes – including news of last minute changes for Central Beds Cuts (after Newsletter 32 was published) weekend)

By Suzy Scott

Using information from Central Bedfordshire Council, Flittabus, Wanderbus and LOTS

Okay, following the last set of changes around the May Day weekend, some further changes are happening by Arriva and Stagecoach.

In the Dunstable area, members may like to note that an extra Busway stop has been added at Jeans Way, thus very convenient for the Blow Downs Nature Reserve.

UPDATE TO LAST INFORMATION HAPPENING W/C MONDAY 1ST MAY 2017

Red Eagle Service 30/31 (Hemel Hempstead – Water End – Berkhamsted) Not a route that we have included here before, but this service is being changed to retain options from Jockey End and also the Central Beds village of Clements End. So, the 10.20 from Berkhamsted will now run as a 29 via Jockey End at 10.46. A return (all Mon-Fri) service will leave Hemel Marlowes (Stop C) at 13.30. There are two new peak time 29's added at 07.29 from Jockey End to Hemel Rail Station, and 18.20 back again. The 10.20 journey should (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) allow a connection at Clements End with Service 43 to Dunstable, at 10.57, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Centrebus Service 34/35 (St Albans – Dunstable) These services will continue at Dunstable as Service X31 to Luton &

Dunstable Hospital, Dallow Road (for the Centrebus new garage), and Luton Town Centre. This maintains links to/from central Luton from Whipsnade Zoo, as well as introducing new links from some villages to the L&D Hospital and Luton.

NEW SERVICE Flittabus Service FL10 (Maulden – Clophill Flitton – Hitchin)

Further to the basic details we had in time for Newsletter 32, we now have the details of Flittabus Service FL10, a market day replacement for parts of Grant Palmer Service 77. The Tuesday morning bus leaves Maulden *opposite the White Hart* at 09.39, Clophill 09.45, Silsoe 09.49, Wardhedges 09.52, Flitton 09.54, Greenfield 09.56, Pulloxhill 09.59 to Hitchin 10.31. The return bus leaves Hitchin (St Mary Square, Stop H) at 12.50, and Bancroft (Stop G i.e. opposite the 71/72 pickup stop) at 12.56. Also see Service W12.

Wanderbus Services W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, W9, W10, W11, W12, W13, W14 (Central Bedfordshire to various points) Formally change of the first bus stop on all routes (except W8) from Shefford Health Centre to Meppershall Care Home. This follows the company's expansion to two minibuses outgrowing their home at Shefford Health Centre. It should be stressed that all the other stops served in Shefford and Meppershall (where served) are exactly the same as now. W7 is rerouted in Letchworth, W9 and W10 are revised in St Neots, and W12 is revised to cover part of the 77 – see below.

Wanderbus Service W7 (Meppershall Care Home - Clifton – Henlow – Letchworth, Fridays Only) The last stop in Letchworth at Sainsbury's is now changed to include Lidl as well. *(ED: if I*

remember right, the buildings are in the same retail park).

Wanderbus Services W9 (Meppershall Care Home – Shefford – St Neots) and W10 (Meppershall Care Home – Shillington – St Neots, 2nd Thursday of the Month)

As well as the changes to the first pick up (above), there are timetable changes to include the Roxton Garden Centre, if requested. W9 follows same route as far as Upper Caldecote, with stops in Ickwell, Northill, Thorncote etc. no longer served. W10 follows same route to Stotfold,, with an extra stop in Astwick, before serving points as per the W9.

Wanderbus W12 (Meppershall Care Home – Shefford – Hitchin, Tuesdays Only)

As well as the changes to the first pick up (above), there are timetable changes to cover part of Grant Palmer Service 77. The bus now leaves Meppershall CH at 09.40, Meppershall High St / opp. Post Office at 09.42, Shillington 09.46, Higham Gobion 09.56, Barton 10.00, Hexton 10.11, Pegsdon 10.14, to Hitchin, Bancroft (D) 10.30, before continuing to Fishponds Road (for Hitchin Swimming Centre) at 10.33. The return starts at Fishponds Road at 12.27, Hitchin Bancroft (Stop G i.e. opposite the 71/72 pickup stop) at 12.56. Also see Service FL10.

Centrebus Service X31 (Luton – Dunstable)

Following a review of passenger feedback, a service is continuing to Milton Keynes, albeit reduced to two-hourly from hourly. This was initially advertised as running to Dunstable only, but this doesn't reflect what happens. Like the 34/35 (above), the bus then continues via L&D Hospital and Dallow Road, to Central Luton. All journeys do operate through, albeit presumably on a "Dunstable

for Milton Keynes" basis. It is also presumed that while there is no support for the X31 from Central Beds Council, it will have some support continue from Milton Keynes Council.

Also in May are the delayed start to the cuts on Stagecoach 71/72, 73 and 81 (but NOT 53, which already has the Uno services too...)

From w/c Monday 21th May 2017

Stagecoach Service 71/72 (Bedford Bus Station – Haynes – Henlow – Hitchin) Following the evening service withdrawal in January, the entire Sunday (and Bank Holiday) service is also withdrawn. This follows the withdrawal of financial support from Central Bedfordshire Council at the start of the month.

Stagecoach Service 73 (Bedford Bus Station – Willington – Sandy – Biggleswade) Following the evening service withdrawal in January, the entire Sunday (and Bank Holiday) service is also withdrawn. This follows the withdrawal of financial support from Central Bedfordshire Council at the start of the month.

Stagecoach Service 81 (Bedford Bus Station – Wixams – Clophill - Luton) Entire Sunday (and Bank Holiday) service is withdrawn. This follows the withdrawal of financial support from Central Bedfordshire Council at the start of the month.

Now, if that last two lots of changes were not enough... two more changes were registered by Centrebus from the end of May. Having said that, a further two changes followed soon after, to address requests following 34/35

changes at the beginning of the month...

From w/c Monday 28th May 2017 (C1/C10/C11 changes 30th May)

Centrebus Service 34/35 (St Albans – Dunstable) There are changes to allow an extra peak bus to/from Kensworth, Whipsnade Zoo and Dunstable Downs. As a result, a new Service 35 (Monday-Friday) is added to the timetable. The bus starts from Kensworth *Farmers Boy* at 07.42 via Whipsnade Zoo at 07.47, Dunstable Downs 07.52, to Dunstable Church Street 08.01. The bus then continues as an X31 to Luton.

For the return peak journey, the 17.20 from Dunstable Asda 34 (starting from Luton at 16.45 as X31) will now run as Service 35 via Dunstable Downs (17.32), Whipsnade Zoo (17.40), Kensworth (17.45), thus then running about 15 minutes later through Markyate (17.55), Flamstead (18.05), Redbourn (18.15), St Albans centre (18.28), to St Albans City Station at 18.35.

To allow this to happen, the 18.25 Service 34 from St Albans City Station is now running 15 minutes later throughout, starting at 18.40 (St Peter Street 18.47). Also see Service X31. No changes to Saturday service.

Centrebus Service 366 (Luton Town Centre – Welwyn Garden City – Hatfield) Following "customer requests", the service is extended from Luton Church Street to stop/start in Luton Station Interchange, about three minutes later/earlier.

(ED: But still no Saturday service into Bedfordshire! Why? I can only assume it is because the competition (Uno) don't run on Saturdays! There is still a Saturday bus from WGC to South Hatfield, which is always (in my

experience) the quieter end of the route!)

Centrebus Service E (Luton Town Centre – Dunstable – Toddington for Service 42 to/from Bedford) Following "customer requests", the service is diverted from Luton Galaxy Centre to stop/start in Luton Station Interchange, roughly at the same times. This is different from the 366, as the stop at the Galaxy is no longer served at all on the E.

Centrebus Service X31 (Luton – Dunstable/Milton Keynes) To enable the extra weekday morning 35 to happen, the 07.55 from Dunstable Asda to Luton will no longer start from Asda, and now starts from Church Street (next timing point) at 08.04 instead. No other changes that I can find.

Uno Services C1/C10/C11 (Bedford Bus Station – Cranfield – Milton Keynes) New timetable with additional running time of up to ten minutes, and route changes on Saturdays.

.... And then more!

From Sunday 11th June 2017

Stagecoach Service 99 (Luton Airport – Luton – M1 – Milton Keynes) Minor changes to the timetable, otherwise the same level of service as now. Seven brand new coaches are on order for this route.

From w/c Monday 19th June 2017

In addition to the substantial list (below), there are many changes to Arriva Luton local services from the same date. Mostly are minor changes, but Services 28/29 to Hockwell Ring are withdrawn, and

replaced by the former Services 1 and 4 reintroduced... For this summary of June changes, we stick to services that cross into Central Bedfordshire only.

Arriva Service 24/24H/25/26 (Luton – Barnfield College – Dunstable or Marsh Farm), Arriva Service 31 (Luton – Bury Park – Dunstable) and Service 32/33 (Luton – Bury Park – Lewsey Farm or Hockwell Regis) Minor timetable changes, but still about the same level of service as now.

Arriva Services 32/33/34/35 (Leighton Buzzard Town Services) Changes to these services, with the last buses on Saturdays now much earlier.

Arriva Services 38/38A (Dunstable Square - Houghton Regis or Toddington on Saturdays) Service withdrawn in its entirety, as a result of cancellation of Central Bedfordshire Council support. There are changes on Services A and Z too (see below) which covers the same route.

Arriva Service 150 (Aylesbury – Wingrave - Dunstable - Leighton Buzzard – Milton Keynes) Evening service thinned out a little – one bus less from Aylesbury. Last (Mon-Fri) bus times from Aylesbury through to Milton Keynes are 17.50 (Leighton Buzzard at 18.24), with the 18.50 and 19.40 from Aylesbury to Leighton Buzzard merged into one at 19.00. (Saturdays) 16.45 from Aylesbury to Milton Keynes will now be the last through bus (Leighton Buzzard at 17.15), with the 17.45 from Aylesbury now ending in Leighton Buzzard. For the northbound service, last buses from Milton Keynes Station are the same as

now – except that the Saturday 19.22 to Aylesbury is withdrawn. No changes to Sunday service.

Arriva Service 321 (Luton – St Albans – Watford) Minor changes are expected to the timetable. However, I presently have no information as to what is happening.

Arriva Busway Service A/Z (Luton Airport – Luton Station – Dunstable – Houghton Regis – Parkside – Lewsey Far – L&D Hospital – Luton Station) Service currently operates both every 12 minutes during the day. From this date, revised to run every 15 minutes (Z) with changeover point between the routes now Dunstable instead of Parkside. At the same time, Service A will become every 7-8 minutes, with additional short buses running from Dunstable to Luton Station only. The through service to and from Luton Airport shall continue to operate every 15 minutes, and will also continue at Dunstable as a Z around Parkside and Houghton Regis.

Arriva DashDirect Service D1 (Leighton Buzzard Station – Sandhills – Billington Park) Reduced services in the morning and evening, and additionally serves Astral Park in the off-peak period. First bus from Sandhills is now 06.00 Mon-Fri (as now) but 08.28 Saturday (was 06.40), with the first bus from Astral Park 09.21 (Mon-Fri) and 09.27 (Sat). Evening peak service curtailed – presently 21.52 (Mon-Fri) and 18.50 (Sat) from the Rail Station (4 minutes later at High Street), the service

will now finish at 20.25 (Mon-Fri) and 17.50 (Sat).

Data Protection and Privacy Information

By Suzy Scott

By way of a periodic reminder, here is how we use your Personal Data. For most members, this will be name, address, telephone number and/or email address. We will also have your membership status, and all this information is treated in strict confidence by the BABUS committee. This information is held by Simon Norton.

The spreadsheet details from Simon are then passed over to Suzy Scott. She prints the Address Labels for hard copy Newsletters, and other BABUS correspondence. This is presently done through her company, Here To There Publishing Ltd. The information held on Suzy's computer/label maker is the same as you will find on your address label. If that is wrong slightly (i.e. typo in your name, unclear spacing) please approach Suzy for rectification of this matter.

If you request our electronic Newsletter, this is sent to you using a tool called Mailchimp. This stores only your name and email address. Queries regarding these should be passed to Suzy.

If you pay by PayPal and/or on our BigCartel website, they will also pass some of the address information, and your email address – we never see your card details. Each of these services have their own policies and terms of use.



Notice of Annual General Meeting 2017

Agenda for Bedford Area Bus Users Society 2017 Annual General Meeting

**Annual General Meeting to be held at the Meeting Room,
3rd Floor, Bedford Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford,
MK40 1PG, on July 8th 2017 at 10.30 a.m.**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Presentation by Chris Pettifer, or another transport manager, from Bedford Borough Council.
=====AGM FORMALLY BEGINS=====
3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2 July 2016 (copy circulated)
5. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2017
6. Treasurer's Report for year ended 31 March 2017 (accounts circulated)
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of Executive Committee

9. Any other business



Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Bedford Area Bus Users' Society, held at Bedford Central Library on Saturday, 2nd July 2016

Present:

Ray Smith - Chairman

Colin Franklin - Vice Chairman

Simon Norton - Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Frances Horwood - Secretary

Suzy Scott - Communications Officer

Ian Wigley - Committee Member

Stephen Sleight - Bedfordshire Rural Transport Partnership

Eight others were present, including BABUS members, representatives of other bus user groups and others with an interest in bus travel.

1. Welcome

Our Vice Chairman, Colin Franklin, welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:-

Andrew Spearman, John Smith, John Yunnie, Alan Hunter, Peter Williams, Peter Ballantyne (MKBUG) and Alan Sprod.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 4th July 2015

These had been circulated. Suzy Scott proposed that they be accepted as a true record and Martin Brookes seconded, with those present agreeing.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

5. Chairman's Annual Report for year ended 31st March 2016

Ray Smith gave his report, which will be printed in the BABUS newsletter. Colin Franklin thanked all the bus operators and council officers who had hosted liaison meetings over the course of the year. He also stressed the importance of the regular regional meetings, at which representatives of BABUS meet up with representatives of Milton Keynes Bus User Group and Bus Users Northampton. He thanked Simon Norton, Suzy Scott, Frances Horwood and the rest of the committee for their work for BABUS during the year.

6. Treasurer's Report for year ended 31st March 2016

This had been circulated and nobody present had any comments to make. Our treasurer, Simon Norton, said that, a year ago, our funds were recovering, having been on the brink. This year, however, we were solvent.

7. Election of officers

There was one nomination for Chairman: Colin Franklin was proposed by Frances Horwood and seconded by Leonard Lean. Colin was elected and chaired the rest of the meeting.

There was one nomination for Vice Chairman: Ray Smith was proposed by Colin Franklin and seconded by Les Taylor and elected by the meeting.

There was one nomination for Secretary: Frances Horwood was proposed by Martin Brookes and seconded by Suzy Scott and elected by the meeting.

There was one nomination for Treasurer: Simon Norton was proposed by Leonard Lean and seconded by Ian Wigley. He was elected as Treasurer and would also serve as Membership Secretary.

8. Election of Executive Committee

Ian Wigley was willing to stand again. Suzy Scott had previously stated that she wished to stand down from the Committee but would continue to edit the newsletter and look after the website until a new Communications Officer was found. However, she agreed to serve as a Committee Member, on a temporary, part-time basis. Sue Beaumont, who was attending the meeting as a representative of Houghton Conquest Parish Council, volunteered to join the Committee. Colin Franklin suggested that these three be elected *en bloc*; they were proposed by Ray Smith and seconded by Les Taylor and elected by the meeting.

9. Any other business

Les Taylor raised the problem of vehicle breakdowns on Grant Palmer services: when buses were only hourly, breakdowns caused great inconvenience to bus users. He asked whether drivers carried mobile phones to contact the depot. Ray Smith assured him that they did. Colin Franklin pointed out that one vehicle had been damaged in an accident on the Busway, so there was more pressure. Ian Wigley mentioned the new vehicles which had been purchased and were now in service; some older vehicles, which had been replaced, had been retained. Les Taylor thought that the small vehicles which Cedar Coaches had, which must have been sold off, would have been ideal to replace vehicles which had broken down. Sue Beaumont said Central Bedfordshire did not link bus services with parking: parking spaces at doctors' surgeries and railway stations were in short supply, so people needed to travel to them by bus rather than driving. As Paul Dodge, retired Public Transport Manager at CBC, was present, Colin Franklin asked him to comment. Paul said that, although provision of bus services and parking were completely separate, they did have the same director, and executive councillors should be considering roads, parking and buses. Parking at railway stations was the responsibility of the train operator. Colin asked Paul if he would give Sue the names of people to contact, and, Paul said he would do so.

Simon Norton said that CBC had not taken advantage of developer funding which was available. Paul Dodge said the Council had carefully considered how best to use such funding. However, there were strict criteria regarding the use to which the funds could be put.

Leonard Lean asked whether the opening of the new section of the Bypass had reduced the traffic on other routes into Bedford. Colin Franklin said Shakespeare Road was still congested. It was considered that it was too early to judge the effect of the opening. Ian Wigley said parking facilities at Ampthill Surgery were inadequate already and more houses were being built in the town and also in Flitwick. Paul Dodge said that on some occasions when Section 106 money from developers had been used to provide a bus service, there had been little patronage. Colin Franklin considered that planning applications should only be passed if bus services were to be provided and roads were wide enough for these. Simon Norton said bus services should be running once some of the houses were occupied but Paul Dodge explained that, if this happened, the money would run out too soon.

Paul Spelzini of the Potters Bar and St. Albans Transport User Group said the same problems with developments and Section 106 money arose in his area. In one case, there were facilities for buses, including a bus gate, but no buses ran. In the case of train services, the heavily used Thameslink services from St. Albans City Station were promoted, with services from St. Albans Abbey Station, more convenient for some, being largely ignored. Having two layers of council could make things more difficult than in areas with a unitary authority.

Guest Speaker

Steve Chambers of the Campaign for Better Transport then gave a very interesting and informative talk on "Save our Buses", this being a current campaign of the CBT. There was then a question time in which a number of those present participated.

This page is intentionally blank, to allow you to cut out the AGM Notice as a poster. More copies (colour or black/white) can be had from the BABUS website, [**www.babus.org.uk**](http://www.babus.org.uk)

BABUS

Annual General Meeting

Will be held on **Saturday 8th July 2017, 10.30,**

at **Bedford Central Library**
(Meeting Rooms), Harpur Street,
Bedford Town Centre, MK40 1PG.

Before formal business, our
speaker will be Chris Pettifer,
or another transport manager at
Bedford Borough Council

All Welcome.

**CARD SUBJECT TO
CHANGE**