

Buses

Stagecoach's decision to change the Citi 7 service south of Sawston came as a complete surprise. The County had planned to withdraw subsidy from September but Stagecoach couldn't wait that long in limbo.

From 10th June and subject to permission by the Traffic Commissioner, the new Citi 7 service between Cambridge and Sawston will run on weekdays at a 20-minute interval. An hourly service then goes on to Duxford and Ickleton before crossing the Essex border to Saffron Walden. That service will receive no subsidy and therefore Cambridgeshire County Council has no say in it.

Heathfield will get one early morning service from Stagecoach. There will be a return service early in the evening.

The County and a group of local residents have been working very hard to produce a stopgap service. It is far from perfect but does mean that Heathfield residents will get a service at least every two hours during the day. Bus passes holders can use their passes subject to the usual rules and one ticket will be accepted for the whole journey into Cambridge, even though it will be necessary to change onto a Citi 7 in Sawston.

Once the Traffic Commissioner has given approval, the full timetables will be posted on the Stagecoach and County Council websites. There should be further publicity – at least at bus stops

The next step will be to create a more suitable transport solution for our villages. This will involve much more than buses. Already the Genome Campus, Cambridge Assessment on Hill Farm Road, Whittlesford and the Sawston Medical Centre have joined in the working group. Community transport, volunteer car services and possibly even Greater Anglia could be brought in to help. There is a great opportunity to break away from the Citi 7/31 structure and see if we can design something that really fits people's wishes. Needless to say there will be a great deal of consultation before any final decision is taken. We also have to be realistic; we know that it made no sense for the County to support a bus which ran empty for a good part of the day. But the County will want to spend as little as possible on any new network. If we don't use it we'll lose it – again.

The 31 is not due to lose its subsidy before September 2013..

Superfast Broadband

A new Connecting Cambridgeshire website has gone live on

<http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>

Now we need as many people as possible to click on the link on the home page to show their demand for better broadband. Superfast broadband delivers speeds better than 25 Mbps, which is faster than most people in our villages can regularly achieve.

People can register in minutes with just a postcode and landline phone number to show where you want better broadband - at home and at work.

Those without access to the internet can register online or on paper forms available in libraries, council offices and other public places.

The more people that register that they want superfast broadband the more chance of it being delivered. This is really important for our villages as there are so many people who run businesses or work from home.

Already we have an expanding group of people who have a real interest in superfast broadband. The objective is to get earlier information so we can lobby for our area. If anyone can join by getting in touch with me on timothy.stone1@virgin.net

Tim