

**Statement for CTE Panel – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – David Redgewell**

**Bath and Mendip services out of Bath and Wells**

We are concerned about graffiti, litter, clock not working and weeds at Wells Princes Road bus station.

The lack of bus services to Rode on the 267 Bath - Frome corridor and the need to divert more services into Rode for commuters, shoppers and visitors for evening events in Bath with services alternating between Beckington and Rode and to hold urgent meetings with First Group Regional Director Neal Barker and James Freeman, BANES & Faresaver Buses to set up a quality bus partnership between Bath and Frome.

Other services need improving 162 Frome-Shepton Mallet (morning and evening service and Saturday services), 184 Midsomer Norton-Frome via Coleford to provide Saturday services and through ticketing to Bath, 161 & 174 bus shelters and waiting facilities in Dinder, and provide later evening services on the 126 Wells-Weston-Super-Mare via Cheddar and the railway station, better bus/rail connections between Castle Cary and Frome, X34 Frome-Chippenham later evening services. Concern over the loss of the 716 Bath - Newbridge lunchtime services.

Bath bus station cafe needs reopening, CCTV needs fixing along with the main doors. There is a lack of public transport information at Bath and Wells bus stations. Improved signage required at Bath station between the bus and rail stations as part of the ongoing rail replacement services especially in April 2016 when the line is closed between Bath and Bristol for electrification work. Scrutiny meeting. Also, First Somerset leaflet fails to give details of 375/376 services to Wells via Whitchurch and Bristol.

**KEYNSHAM**

We are concerned at the loss of the 42 service from Keynsham to Bristol via Kingswood and Oldland Common due to Bitton railway bridge and the replacement being one bus an hour via Oldland and one bus via Kingswood to Southmead. Keynsham has no link to Oldland and Warmley on a Sunday. This is due to South Gloucestershire Council withdrawing funding from these routes on the Kingswood Town services.

We are also concerned over fare increases from 18th September across the region and the closure of the regional call centre in Southampton which means that future enquiries would have to be dealt at the regional call centre in ? Norwich (for First South and Wales).

Proper consultation by Somerset County Council about bus service changes in Mendip district.

The important issues regarding MetroWest rail Phase 2 to BANES are the main line from Frome and Westbury through Bath to Oldfield Park and Keynsham onwards to Bristol Temple Meads to Bristol Parkway. We do not want to see turnback services to Yate as we believe that services should continue to Gloucester, Cheltenham and Great Malvern for leisure tourism and commuting purposes.

David Redgewell (South West Transport Network) & TSSA  
Nigel Bray (Railfuture Severnside)  
Jenny Raggett (TFGBA)  
John Hassall (Bus Users UK Severnside)  
Martin Cinamond (South West Transport Network)