

Statement by the Save Our 6-7 Buses Campaign to B&NES Cabinet

3 November, 2010

As a result of the Save Our 6-7 Buses campaign, the link between Larkhall and Fairfield Park was reinstated in August. This was indeed a success. However, where we previously had a regular 20 minute service, we were left with an unsatisfactory, irregular, 40 minute service, which has caused much confusion and, at times, overcrowded buses. The campaign team are meeting with Justin Davies, the South-West Managing Director of First Bus on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, to try to have an additional bus put on the route, to get as near to a half-hourly service as possible. First have previously said this would require Council assistance, with implications for next year's Transport budget.

At the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September we announced the formation of the Bath Bus Users Group, (Bath BUG,) in which we have joined forces with other bus users across Bath. At that meeting the Bath BUG called for B&NES to reinstate the Public Transport Liaison Panel and for the Bus Users Group to have representation.

We are very pleased to note the response from the Cabinet Member for Service Delivery supporting the Panel's recommendation that the Public Transport Liaison Panel be reinstated. We are now in a position to respond to the first proviso that it must be supported by public transport operators. On October 7<sup>th</sup> the Bath BUG held an open meeting which was attended by senior management of all the Bath bus operators and they unanimously expressed a willingness to support our group and work with us.

We appreciate that following the National Spending Review there will inevitably be cuts in funding which may affect the transport budget. However, we believe a Public Transport Liaison Panel could save Council time and through better consultation avoid the recent problems caused by changes to several city bus routes.