

I'm Tracey Harding, a co-founder of FAVBUG, the Frome and Villages Bus User Group. I'd like to talk about the impact the loss of the 267 evening bus services would have and also about how short and limited was the consultation process.

The 267 service provided by First is an excellent service. It operates from 6am to midnight (Monday to Saturday) with a limited service on Sundays.

The loss of the First 267 evening bus services would have a devastating effect on people who rely on them, whether to get them home after work (many regularly have to work late or on shift work), to visit patients in the RUH, to attend evening education, to go late night shopping or to have nights out in Bath.

Over a course of three evenings last week FAVBUG conducted a poll of 267 bus users on the Bath to Frome 21:10 evening bus.

60% of them were using the bus for nights out in Bath, 20% were commuters working late, 10% were college students, 5% hospital visitors and 5% were tourists.

Many regularly commute to Bath as they have evening jobs and said without this evening 267 bus service they'd be forced to give up those jobs.

For those on a night out in Bath, no evening 267 bus would mean no more nights out.

For students it'd mean no more evening classes.

We feel that this consultation warrants more time. The 267 bus consultation took place over a single month whereas Somerset and Wiltshire allowed a 3 months. It took place during the Summer holiday period. And it was primarily an online exercise disenfranchising those 267 bus users who have no access to the internet

Frome Town Council wasn't told about it, nor were the parish councils served by the

267. No notices were posted along the route nor on the 267.

It therefore should come as no surprise that in our survey last week of evening 267 bus passengers, nobody had seen any BaNES notices about the consultation.

So in conclusion, the evening 267 bus service brings a lot of income and workers to Bath. It ensures the rural villages and the market town of Frome are not isolated from their nearest urban centre.

Hence for Frome and the villages as well as for Bath, this evening 267 service is a vital service.