

UPDATE ON BUS SERVICE 179

Latest news at 27 June 2019

- B&NES Council has negotiated a 10-week extension to the current contract with First Bus, so the current timetable will continue to operate until 9 November 2019 at least. B&NES will provide additional financial support of £2,223 per week to cover the shortfall between operating costs and revenue.
- Four options for a new contract were put out to competitive tender:
 1. Current timetable (Mondays to Fridays only)
 2. As option 1 plus Saturday service
 3. Route extended to Midsomer Norton town centre but curtailed at Odd Down Park & Ride Site
 4. As option 3 plus Saturday service
- Bids were received from four operators but not all of them bid for all options. The lowest bids for each option are substantially higher than the current price.
- Restoration of an all-day Saturday service would cost an additional £55,000 per year (£1,058 per operating day). This is higher than the cost obtained through competitive tender in October 2018.
- Analysis of comments received and responses from the passenger consultation a few months ago has led to development of a fifth option and this has now gone out to competitive tender.
- This fifth option is shown overleaf. It involves retaining the service to Bath City Centre but making possible an extension to Midsomer Norton town centre by widening the interval from every two hours to every two and a half hours. Some small adjustments would be made to bus service 768 at the same time, to get better co-ordination between the two services.
- The fifth option addresses some of the issues raised by passengers, such as:
 - Restoration of link to Midsomer Norton town centre
 - Shorter time for shopping at Tesco
 - Earlier first bus to Tesco and Midsomer Norton
 - Morning peak bus to Bath to run earlier
 - Afternoon peak bus departure from Bath timed better for schoolchildren
 - Better co-ordination between services 179 and 768
- The fifth option has further advantages:
 - Additional morning bus from Timsbury to Bath on service 768 at similar time to current 179
 - Additional afternoon peak bus from Bath to Timsbury on service 768
 - Ticket inter-availability between services 179 and 768
 - Provision of a bus service to the housing development at Beecham Place, which allows the Council to make use of developer contributions to help fund the service
- All bids submitted will be assessed and award of a new contract will be considered during July. The assessment will not be focussed purely on financial considerations. The Council's policy is to maintain the current non-commercial bus network as far as possible until such time as the West of England Combined Authority has completed and implemented its Bus Strategy.
- Further information will be made available in due course but please be reassured that we are trying to find a sustainable and affordable solution.

POSSIBLE TIMETABLE FROM 10 NOVEMBER 2019

SERVICE

MIDSOMER NORTON - BATH via Paulton & Timsbury

179

ALSO SHOWS BUSES ON SERVICE 768 BETWEEN TIMSBURY AND BATH

179 from **MIDSOMER NORTON** via Beauchamp Avenue, Fosseyway, Charlton Road, Silver Street, Church Lane, North Road, Station Road, **WELTON**, West Road, Tesco (turn and return), West Road, Phyllis Hill, Winterfield Road, **PAULTON**, Ham Lane, Brittens Hill, Church Street, Hallatrow Road, **HALLATROW**, **HIGH LITTLETON**, **FARMBOROUGH**, The Street, Timsbury Road, **TIMSBURY**, Bloomfield Road, North Road, Meadgate, **TUNLEY**, **ODD DOWN**, Wellsway, Wells Road, **BATH CITY CENTRE**, Churchill Bridge (FORWARD: Broad Quay, Ambury, Corn Street, St James's Parade, Southgate; RETURN: Dorchester Street, Broad Quay), Bus Station.

Mondays to Fridays (not Public Holidays)

	Service number	179	768	768	179	179	768	179	179
MIDSOMER NORTON, Beauchamp Avenue	0646	....	....	0925	1155	....	1425	1700	
Midsomer Norton, Town Hall	0651	....	....	0930	1200	....	1430	1705	
Welton, Long Barnaby	0655	....	....	0934	1204	....	1434	1709	
Midsomer Norton, Old Mills, Tesco	....	....	....	0938	1208	1253	1438	1713	
Paulton, Ham Lane, Central Garage	0701	....	....	0944	1214	....	1444	1719	
Paulton, Hallatrow Road, Paper Lane	0706	....	....	0949	1219	B	1449	1724	
High Littleton, Church	0710	....	....	0953	1223	....	1453	1728	
Farmborough, Butchers Arms	0718	....	....	1001	1231	....	1501	1736	
Timsbury, British Legion	0723	0746*	0944*	1006	1236	1328*	1506	1741	
Tunley, King William	0733	0751	0949	1014	1244	1333	1514	1749	
Wellsway, Midford Road	0745	C	C	1024	1254	1340*	1524	1759	
BATH, Bus Station	0800	0821	1018	1033	1303	1347	1533	1810	

	Service number	179	768	179	179	768	179	768	179
BATH, Bus Station	0810	1023	1040	1310	1352	1540	1740	1815	
Wellsway, Midford Road	0819	1030*	1049	1319	C	1550	C	1825	
Tunley, King William	0828	1037	1058	1328	1414	1601	1802	1836	
Timsbury, British Legion	0835	1042*	1105	1335	1419*	1610	1811 A	1845	
Farmborough, Butchers Arms	0840	....	1110	1340	....	1615	....	1850	
High Littleton, Church	0848	B	1118	1348	....	1623	....	1858	
Paulton, Hallatrow Road, Paper Lane	0852	....	1122	1352	....	1627	....	1902	
Paulton, Ham Lane, Central Garage	0857	....	1127	1357	....	1632	....	1907	
Midsomer Norton, Old Mills, Tesco	0903	1114	1133	1403	....	1638	....	....
Welton, Long Barnaby	0907	....	1137	1407	....	1642	....	1913	
Midsomer Norton, Town Hall	0911	....	1141	1411	....	1646	....	1917	
MIDSOMER NORTON, Beauchamp Avenue	0916	....	1146	1416	....	1651	....	1922	

NO SERVICE ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS OR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- Notes: * - approximate time
A - runs via South Road, Greenvale Drive and Church Lane to North Road
B - runs via Camerton, Radstock and Midsomer Norton town centre
C - runs via Priston and Englishcombe

For information on all local bus services, please contact Traveline at www.travelinesw.com or phone 0871 200 2233 (calls cost 12p per minute plus your phone company's access charge)