

STATEMENT FROM DAVID REDGEWELL – PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK ISSUES

I would like to address the issue of bus services diversion and shuttle bus service during the closure of A431 for all the right reasons of removing dangerous trees that hit a bus.

But how do we service the villages of Kelston, Swineford, Bitton and Willsbridge and the back entrance of the RuH Bath?

When the A431 is closed and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority has to provide alternative shuttle buses or Westlink. As the Regional Transport Authority, it's a principle we need to address as we close other Trunk roads but need to allow residents and tourists to visit Somerset, Bath, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire around Bath.

However, residents need to get to work, college, university, health provision, hospital, basic food shopping trips, leisure facilities like the river at Kelston and Swineford and the Bitton Avon Valley railway.

We in the Somerset bus partnership, Somerset catch the bus campaign, Gloucestershire catch the bus campaign and South West transport Network are working with the passengers and communities in Somerset and Gloucestershire, including the Greater Bristol and Bath and services into Wiltshire and Swindon, to support communities with public transport needs.

So, we do need a better protocol with the West of England mayoral combined transport Authority jointly with North Somerset Council Transport Authority.

To deal with Banes, South Gloucestershire County Council, Bristol City Council and North Somerset Council as Highway Authorities and bus operators First Group plc Wales and West buses Division, First Group plc, Great Western trains company limited GWR and Intercity cross country trains Arriva, I sq capital. Favesaver buses Chippenham Wiltshire stagecoach west Rapt Bath bus company, big lemon buses and Westlink demand responsive bus services. Also National Express coaches limited Megabus Scottish City link coaches Transpora buses.

Through the West of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council bus service improvement plan Board and advisory panel. Also working with Somerset unitary council.

Gloucestershire county council and South Gloucestershire County council, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council.

As we have utility companies, Highways works, National Highways and Network rail Western route.

The Somerset unitary council is also looking at this issue at Bus services improvement Board as is Gloucestershire County council.

Bus service improvement plan Board and Forum as protocols with the Bus and coach operators and Highway Authority's police and British Transport police and bus and coach rail operators.

On railway replacement services!

I hope we can lean for the lack of public transport on A431 for 3 weeks fund and find solutions in future.

We fully appreciate and support the need to close the road with the school bus incident and the need to cut and remove trees for the safety of passengers and children on school and college services.

But we still need to provide a shuttle bus. The Westlink Demand responsive bus service operated for the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council to fill the gap and fix the link during engineering and Highway work. As we did before the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority was set up under the west of England mayoral combined Authority act.