

Access/Buses

Firstly I'd like to thank Councillor Guy for your invitation last November to meet with Councillor McCabe and Cindy with our Access groups concerns for 'Accessible Planning at the Onset '

We had an informative meeting I hope on both sides, so my many thanks to you all.

Our former Weca Mayor had forwarded our concerns to the Government last summer and I am in touch with Baroness Taylor Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government who has passed our concerns to the relevant departmental officials for 'careful consideration'.

Our hopes that Accessible Planning for all new build becomes mandatory.

Accessible Buses often a problem not just getting on and off, but over the last two years with ongoing road works on the A4 affecting the X39 bus route between our cities and the A4 Airport bus route.

It seems the joined up thinking between the contractors, planning , street furniture, temporary traffic lighting etc being installed for vehicles to continue their journey between the cities whilst works continues, has not always included bus users.

Last year, the bus stops were going to be closed between the Globe roundabout and Saltford for a whole week. Buses still running ... but NOT allowed to stop for passengers.

Luckily, after a phone call to John Wass of Highways who held an emergency meeting two days before to arrange temporary bus stops, where the buses would be insured, and passengers could carry on their daily routine, as for vehicle drivers.

Resurfacing three weeks ago on the A4 between The Globe and Saltford.

Vehicles had been warned on the roadsides weeks before so could plan ahead. A detour route on A39 around to Hicks Gate planned...on the Internet. Not clear for bus users, and not everyone is on the Internet.

It took again a phone call the week before, notices eventually went up at Corston Turn bus stop, hopefully others, only four days before the 8pm-7am overnight closures. That included three days of a bank holiday weekend.

Along with this lack of communication between services, lack of electronic timetables and bus shelters, it does not encourage bus use, and with a very busy A4, buses can be very, very unreliable.

I'm informed these problems are on many bus routes.

Waiting at a cold bus stop in the rain, wondering if the bus will come,and will it stop.

This does not encourage car users to leave their car at home.

Please, at least more joined up thinking among the services for ALL road travellers.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Charles Cllr.

Corston Parish Council.

Access Banes Chair.