



**Tattenhall & District Parish Council  
Informal Meeting – Bus Service  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 via Teams.**

**PRESENT**

Parish Council – Sheila Chapman, Iain Keeping (Chairman), Ann Wright (Clerk)  
Transition Tattenhall – Nick Benefield  
CW&C – John Ellis Jones  
Aintree Coachline – John Cherry

**Purpose of Meeting: To discuss current bus service to Tattenhall.**

The meeting was called in order to get a better understanding of the current bus service and what flexibility there is to bring about long-term change to the service to meet the needs of those who rely on the service and also encouraged more people to use the bus service. It was recognised that there are significant financial pressures on bus services.

It was suggested the best way forward would be for the Parish Council to undertake a survey of residents to understand what would encourage them to use the bus service.

**Current Bus Service**

The buses currently run approximately hourly Monday to Saturday to Tattenhall, the service from Chester to Tattenhall is a commercial service provided by Aintree Coachline.

From Tattenhall to Whitchurch is contracted by CW&C providing a seamless service from Chester to Whitchurch.

The last bus Monday to Friday is 6.45pm.

The current bus route was introduced a couple of years ago and runs straight up the A41 and into Tattenhall via Frog Lane only passing through Gatesheath once and provides an hourly service to Gifford Lea.

**Gifford Lea**

It was noted before Covid a group of around 20 residents would use the bus twice a week to Chester however this has not restarted, although a number of individuals have started using the bus again, it was estimated approx. 5 individuals catch the bus from Gifford Lea daily. It was noted passengers from Gifford Lea travel to Chester not Whitchurch.

It was noted the development was a positive for the service and a new bus stop and shelter had been installed for residents.

**Concessionary Travel**

It was noted concessionary travel has only got back to 65% of what it was before covid. It was suggested that it was unlikely to reach previous levels due to older peoples' fears of catching covid and because they have got into the habit of having home deliveries.

It was suggested that bus usage might increase as the cost of living rises and also with the new Chester Market and Northgate developments.

**Teen to Town**

It was noted that the service has a teen to town offer which allows all day travel on the service for £3 and is available to teenagers up to the age of 19.

It was noted that student and young people usage is at 90% of pre-covid levels, full paying passengers is at 75/80%.

It was noted Aintree provide a weekly school travel pass for £10 per week from Tattenhall to the Bishop Heber (Malpas) which includes a teen to town ticket for use on a Saturday and has proved very popular.

It was noted any survey needs to ask the right questions and John Ellis Jones agreed to provide drafts of previous surveys including on bus surveys.

#### Bus Timetables

It was discussed who determines bus timetables. It was confirmed in the first instance it is down to the commercial provider.

It was noted the service originally ran until 10pm however the service was very rarely used after 6pm.

It was discussed that there is not only need to increase older peoples use of the service but also teenagers noting that they will then continue to use buses in adulthood.

Mr Cherry reported that he would like to introduce a 30-minute service to Tattenhall, Monday to Friday. It was noted that to change the service LTA (Local Transport Authority) permission would be required.

It was noted that changes to the service need to be commercially led.

It was noted that social media usage and technology has change socialising habits, whereas young people used to meet in villages they now chat on computers.

#### Next Steps

- Teen to Town publicity to be provided for promotion on Facebook and Tattenhall Online.
- Develop survey for village wide distribution.

The Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting.

Ann Wright  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2022