

The Number 5 Bus

FIRST are about to stop running the No.5 route on the 20th January.

This would be a disaster for people in Broadmayne, West Knighton, Crossways, etc. who do not have the use of a car but need access to jobs, shops and services in Dorchester.

This all started in July when Dorset County Council withdrew their subsidy to Damory for the 101 route. FIRST BUS then took it on as a commercial service - their No.5 - and extended it to Weymouth.

Now, after only 6 months of service FIRST have decided that it isn't commercial after all.

Cllr. Nick Ireland has challenged DCC about the serious damage this will do to the rural communities that this bus serves. Their reply was that Broadmayne is already served by the Dial-a-Bus, which runs once on a Wednesday and gives approx. 2 hours in Dorchester. At the moment you have to have a note from your GP to use the bus, but DCC are "looking to widen this scheme to allow the community to access this service". They would also "explore the possibility" of using a 16 seater if the demand was greater than the maximum 10 seats available at the moment.

Factors affecting the need for a bus service

- The rural nature of our villages
- Our population is ageing and becoming more dependent on public transport
- Broadmayne's doctor's surgery has closed meaning sick people have to travel
- Crossways is predicted to expand by 5,000 homes in the next few years
- We are encouraged to leave our cars at home to be less polluting
- Does the bus need to go to Weymouth?

If you think that DCC should:

- include this route in their core subsidised network or
- investigate with operators whether a reduced timetable could be commercial or
- at least provide a temporary subsidy until a solution can be found

Please write to:

Rebecca Knox (Leader of DCC) County Hall, Colliton Park,
Dorchester, DT1 1XJ Email: r.knox@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Copies to:

Debbie Ward, Chief Executive, DCC, Colliton Park,
Dorchester, DT1 1XJ Email: chiefexecutive@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Sir Oliver Letwin MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
Email: letwino@parliament.uk

