

## **Forthcoming Bus Service changes in South Northamptonshire** **With effect from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Northamptonshire County Council has been advised of changes to Stagecoach Midland's commercial bus network with effect from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019. By law, Stagecoach Midlands must inform the County Council of these changes before they are registered publicly although the County Council do not have any powers to prevent these changes from happening.

The County Council have requested, under the powers of the Bus Services Act 2017, details of passengers using services from the villages that will no longer have a bus service. We will be sharing this information with prospective bus companies who may wish to run a replacement service. However, given that Stagecoach are withdrawing these journeys because they no longer consider them to be commercially viable to operate, there is no guarantee that any operator will be interested in running any replacement services and there is no County Council subsidy to be able to replace any services on a contractual basis.

There are two instances in South Northamptonshire and one in Kettering/Corby where parish councils and/or town councils have come together to fund a replacement bus service following commercial withdrawals earlier in the year. The procedure as set down by our cabinet member Cllr Ian Morris, should any local groups be interested in such a proposal, is to contact your County Councillor in the first instance who can liaise with relevant officers at the County Council as to what options may be available for such a scheme.

### **Service 89/X89**

#### **THIS SERVICE IS TO BE WITHDRAWN**

- **Deanshanger, Old Stratford, Paulerspury and Pury End will no longer have a bus service.**
- Milton Malsor and Blisworth will continue to be served by route 88, but will now not have a bus to Milton Keynes (only Towcester and Northampton).
- Service X91 will continue to provide a regular service, hourly through the middle of the day, between Towcester and Milton Keynes. This is funded by section 106 contributions and does not have time within the operational cycle to serve the villages listed above. However, Stagecoach have suggested that this service does have time to service Potterspury and we are considering whether this is acceptable in terms of the section 106.
- In order to divert through any of the other villages in addition to Potterspury would add enough time to operation of service X91 to require an additional bus on the route. This is a cost that the section 106 could not be expected to make and would detract from the intended purpose of the funding which is a direct fast service from Brackley, Silverstone and Towcester to Milton Keynes.

### **Service 88**

#### **THIS SERVICE IS TO BE WITHDRAWN BETWEEN BRACKLEY & SILVERSTONE AND RE-ROUTED THROUGH BLISWORTH & MILTON MALSOR**

- There will be no bus from Silverstone that arrives in Northampton before 0930, but there will be buses from Towcester that do arrive in Northampton before 0930.
- There will no longer be a direct service from Brackley to Northampton, although service X91 will continue to provide a regular service from Brackley to Towcester and Milton Keynes.
- The service will be rerouted through East Hunsbury, Blisworth and Milton Malsor on all journeys, to retain an hourly service on these sections of route.
- Service 50 will be reinstated to hourly for Swan Valley and Pineham.

### **Service 3**

#### **THIS SERVICE IS TO BE RENUMBERED X6 WITHDRAWN FROM PIDDINGTON AND HACKLETON**

**There will be no bus service from Piddington and Hackleton.**

- Service X6 will also be revised to run every hour from Milton Keynes, via Roade, Grange Park and Hardingstone to Northampton town centre and Parklands. This replaces one bus per hour on service X7 to Milton Keynes.
- Grange Park to Northampton will continue to be four buses per hour between services 7 and X6 and X7.
- Roade and Grafton Regis to Northampton and Milton Keynes will continue to be two buses per hour between services X6 and X7.

### **Service X7**

#### **REDUCED TO EVERY HOUR BETWEEN NORTHAMPTON AND MILTON KEYNES**

- This service is reduced in frequency, although a new service X6 will run from Northampton via Hardingstone and Wootton to Roade, Grafton Regis and Northampton, thereby retaining two buses per hour between Northampton and Milton Keynes.

### **Service X91**

#### **MINOR TIMETABLE CHANGES**

- There are minor changes to the X91 timetable, including Stagecoach proposing to operate this via Potterspury, which we are currently considering.