

Changes to Bus services in the Salisbury area starting on 21st March 2010

The Wilts & Dorset bus company has advised Wiltshire Council that on the 21st March 2010, they will be making a number of changes to the bus services that they operate in the Salisbury area. Many of these services have remained largely unaltered for several years and so the company is proposing to completely revamp them with new numbers, simpler routings and timetables that will be able to cope more easily with traffic congestion.

Most of the changes affect journeys that are currently being operated by the bus company on a commercial basis, without funding from Wiltshire Council, and therefore our ability to influence the changes has been rather limited. However, as some of the proposals would have left a small number of communities without a bus service, we have been working with Wilts & Dorset to provide alternative services to the affect areas.

A brief summary of the changes is as follows:

Changes to local bus services within Salisbury City & Wilton

These services will now be marketed as the "Salisbury Reds" and given the following new identities:

The "**Pulseline**" service which links the City Centre to Bemerton Heath and the Hospital will now be called "Red 1" and will no longer serve Odstock, Nunton, Downton, Redlynch or Woodfalls - a new service 44 will serve these communities instead.

Services 60 & 61 to Wilton will be replaced by a new service called "Red 3" which will run every 20 minutes along Wilton Road direct to Quidhampton, Wilton Town Centre and the Bulbridge Estate. During the daytime, Lower Bemerton, Quidhampton and Ditchampton will be served by new bus service 13 which will be funded by Wiltshire Council and which will combine with certain journeys on services 25, 26 & 27 to provide a bus service approximately once per hour to these areas.

Services 57, 55, 62 and 72 to Bishopdown, Harnham, Pauls Dene and Laverstock will be renamed Red 2, Red 4, Red 5 and Red 6, but whilst the timetables will be slightly altered, the routes taken by the buses will remain the same.

Service 53 which serves St.Gregory's Avenue, the northern end of Devizes Road and the Fugglestone Red estate, will be replaced by a new service 10 on a slightly reduced timetable.

Service 71 will be replaced by two new bus services - Service 12 to Devonshire Road and Stratford Bridge and service 14 to Milford Road, Harnham Hill, Harvard Heights and Tolgate Road.

Service 73 to Bishopdown Farm will now be renumbered "11" and will have an improved peak hour service, including journeys to Ford to replace bus service 78.

Changes to bus services operating outside Salisbury

The route of **service X7** to Southampton will be standardised with all journeys operating through Whiteparish instead of Landford village or Nomansland. Students travelling to Salisbury schools & College will be catered for by a new school service numbered 677.

New service 44 funded by Wiltshire Council will provide a bus every 90 minutes from Salisbury City Centre and the District Hospital to Odstock, Nunton, Downton, Redlynch and Woodfalls, replacing the southern part of the "PulseLine" service. Peak hour bus service 45 will also be replaced by service 44 and new school bus 645.

At the same time there will also be minor changes to the timetables of bus **services 25, 26, 27, 34, 63, 64 and 89**, whilst peak hour **Service 78** from Ford will be incorporated into new service 11.

Leaflets explaining all of the changes to passengers are currently being prepared by Wilts & Dorset, but if you represent one of the areas covered by these services and need an advance copy of the new timetable for your route, please email Wiltshire Council's Passenger Transport Unit at buses@wiltshire.gov.uk .