

Meeting of the Parishes 17/2/20

Village Hopper

Notes from the meeting

Parishes represented; Great Houghton, Little Houghton, Grendon

Apologies were received from Wollaston PC & Bozeat PC.

Wollaston had sent an email confirming that they had no issues / comments.

A letter from a resident was submitted, this had some ideas for improving / changing the service which would be considered.

Jon Bailey (Chairman Cogenhoe & Whiston PC) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A report was circulated detailing the last 6 months of service. Comments & questions were invited during its discussion.

-Comment was made that both the drivers are excellent, polite & helpful

-GHPC raised the question of the top stop, which had been withdrawn when the timetable changes had been introduced in October due to lack of usage. They felt that there were people who would now want to use the stop. Following some discussion it was agreed that a 'bookable' request service be introduced whereby passengers wishing to be picked up from the top stop would contact Deborah on the Hopper phone advising what time bus they wished to travel on the next day & the driver would be advised accordingly. A flyer advertising this would be drawn up for GHPC to circulate to its residents.

-Comment was made that the bus does leave stops early, which is not satisfactory – this will be raised with the drivers.

-GHPC said that a passenger is being collected from her house at the bottom of Great Houghton, the bus is stopping in a dangerous place and picking up from a house, this is unfair to other passengers waiting at the stop (especially if there is insufficient space for everyone waiting). This will be communicated to the drivers.

-Some discussion took place about funding, everyone was asked to consider advertising opportunities / possible grant pots. Reserves will be exhausted by September 2020 and the service will be under threat.

-It was agreed that Andrea Leadsom be contacted for help/advice re funding.

-It was agreed that pressure should be put on the new unitary authorities by the consortium for ongoing support / funding to ensure the service continues to operate, as it is essential to the villages.

-GHPC said they would approach businesses for sponsorship.

-It was agreed that as the Weston Favell loop takes people to Tesco's thereby providing custom for them they should be asked for some financial support.

The attending Parish Councils thanked Cogenhoe & Whiston PC for their hard work in running such an efficient and valued service.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

