



Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Date: 3rd March 2016

Response to:

West Berkshire Council's Budget Proposal 2016/17 Phase 2: Public Transport

The following response was posted on the WBC feedback form for the above proposal.

1. Contact details:

The Parish Clerk, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council.

2. Do you or a carer use this service?

No

3. What do you think we should be aware of, in terms of how this proposal might impact people?

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council held an Extraordinary Council Meeting on the 18th March to consider the Phase 2 and resolved to strongly oppose the withdrawal of the 75 Beech Hill – Newbury twice weekly bus service.

This is a well-used service and is the only direct link between Mortimer and surrounding communities and Newbury, the main town of West Berkshire, which contains the local Council offices. This will also impact members of the community who need to visit the Sovereign Housing Administration Services.

4. Do you feel that this proposal will affect particular individuals more than others, and if so, how do you think we might help with this?

This will particularly affect older residents of the Parish, who rely on the service to go to Newbury, to visit West Berkshire Council offices and most importantly to go to the West Berkshire Community Hospital.

This proposal, along with that to also withdraw the 154 Beech Hill – Reading bus service leaves the residents of Beech Hill without any public transport.

This is a well-used service and is the only direct link between our communities and Newbury, the main town of West Berkshire, which contains the local Council offices. This will also impact members of the community who need to visit the Sovereign Housing Administration Services.

5. Do you have any suggestions as to how this service might be delivered in a different way? If so, please provide details.

No. The current service is fully relied upon by community of Mortimer.

6. Is there any way that you or your organisation can contribute in helping to alleviate the impact of this proposal? If so, please provide details of how you can help.

No

7. Any further comments?

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council considers this to be an unacceptable cut of services which will lead to isolation of the older members of the community and further dependence upon individual car journeys, either private or provide by local charities.



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