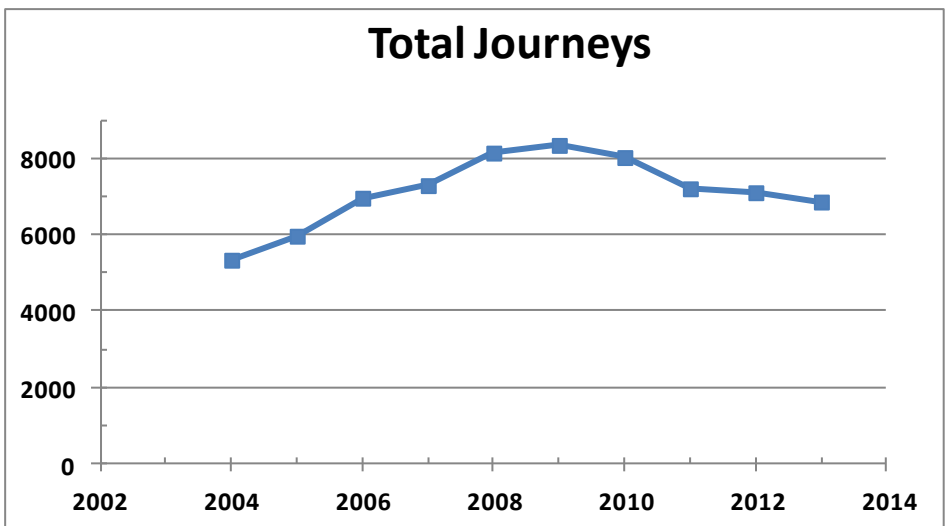


Mortimer Link Minibus Service to Mortimer Station

The Parish Council meeting on 12 September received a petition from 79 residents expressing disappointment at the withdrawal of this service. The Parish Council regrets that this decision was necessary.

An article in the June Parish Council newsletter explained the background and stated that *'with the most likely outcome that the service will cease at the end of September'*. The final decision was taken at the July Parish Council meeting. The June article also requested *'feedback and comments, as soon as possible, from residents and/or users of the service regarding both West Berkshire Council's withdrawal of grant support and on the continued demand for a transport service to the station'*. Three comments were received.

The total number of passenger journeys (one way) per year rose to a peak of 8345 in 2009 and fell to 7105 in 2012. The figure for 2013 is based on the fact that for the first seven months of 2013 journeys were 96% of those in 2012.



In 2012 there were 7105 journeys and the Parish Council subsidy (including the £6000 grant from WBC) was £9,132. Hence each one

way journey was being subsidised from public funds by £1.29. The average number of single journeys per day was 28.2. Thus the subsidy was being spent on a relatively small number of people.

During the school term January to March 2009, the average number of single children journeys per day averaged 10, by 2012 this had fallen to 3.9 and by January 2013 to 2 trips per day.

The Parish Council has been working with West Berkshire Council to explore any possibilities for providing an alternative service, possibly with a different route and to explore new sources of funding. It is estimated that for a simple replacement of the existing service without any funding subsidy, at the 2012 levels of usage, a single fare to/from the village/station would need to be in the region of £4.10. This would obviously not be attractive and greater usage of any new service will be required to make it viable.



The Parish Council is extremely grateful to Stewart's Coaches for their continued support for the service over the nine years of operation. Very special thanks are due to Alan Stiff who has driven the minibus virtually everyday since 2004. The village thanks you and will miss seeing you and your bus!