

**Petition regarding the cessation of the 21 bus service to a particular isolated area of Copmanthorpe.**

1) **The residents of Drome Road, Temple Garth and Temple Lane respectfully submit this petition in the light of the decision to remove the 21 bus service from this area of Copmanthorpe effective from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009.**

2) This area is isolated from the main part of the village separated by the East Coast Main Line

3) There are 117 dwellings with a significant population of elderly people and an increasing number of children who are, or will be in the near future, reliant upon a bus service.

4) Up until 1999 there was a service a daily hourly service which was reduced to its present three times a day thrice a week service. **The present decision completely removes the service altogether which will have a detrimental effect on their quality of life.**

Residents, historically and currently, plan their daily activities, which of necessity include visits to Doctors, Dentists, Hospital and shops, around the timings of the service which we have been and remain happy to do so.

6) **Should the service be removed the nearest bus stop is at Station Road, across the railway bridge, between ½ and 1 mile away. A further stop in Acaster Malbis is 1¼ miles away and there is no pavement the majority of the way. The village centre with the Doctors, Dentist, Post Office, Newsagent, Hairdressers and Supermarket are almost a mile away. Such distances are beyond walking distance for current users of the bus service. This is particularly true if shopping bags and other items are to be carried.**

7) We are informed that Members did not have any opportunity to consider alternative arrangements whereby a service could be provided, reduced or otherwise, to this isolated part of Copmanthorpe. It is believed that options do exist and a number were offered and briefly discussed at a meeting between residents and officers on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March.

8) It is acknowledged that financial constraints are an important aspect of any decisions made by the City Council. However, as it appears in this case, to rationalise a service in such a way as to **increase it substantially in one area whilst completely depriving another area** is an inequitable use of resources.

9) This petition is therefore our formal request for Members to require Officers to produce a further report for their consideration. Such a report should give due weight to our particular needs and situation and outlining a number of possible options whereby a bus service can be provided to continue to serve our area. Whilst this report is being prepared the existing service should continue to be fully funded.

10) We the undersigned are, due to certain time restraints, a representative group of residents of the area and confident that, had time permitted, a vast majority of other residents would have added their signature.