

Brear, Kathleen

07/132/5

From: Marjorie Harrison [mjharrison@live.co.uk]
Sent: 11 March 2010 15:06
To: Purssell, Nigel
Subject: No 21 Bus Route

Nigel Purcell
Acting Transport Planner
City of York council
9 St Leonards Place
YORK YO1 7ET

Dear Mr Purcell

CONNEXIONS 21 BUS SERVICE

The Connexions bus service is a lifeline for many people living in the area it serves, particularly the elderly and younger people going to York College, and into York itself. The recent changes however, notably the trial diversion through Copmanthorpe, have made the service less attractive to those who are **NOT** forced to use it. Whilst appreciating the lack of service for those living along Temple Lane, it is a walkable distance to the route 13 bus stop for those who are able.

The bulk of passengers come from Appleton Roebuck and Acaster Malbis. The latter are well served as the Copmanthorpe diversion does not affect them. I am sure that many people will have pointed out to both inspectors and drivers that it now takes an hour to get back to Appleton Roebuck, made all the more intolerable by the bus turning up to go to Copmanthorpe when only 7 minutes from the village. I lose the will to live at this point knowing that I won't get home for another 30 minutes or so and if this continues on a permanent basis, I and many others will revert to taking our cars up to the Park & Ride at Askham Bar. Journeys are inevitably slower by bus and until the Copmanthorpe diversion, the convenience of the Service 21 has outweighed the time factor, but an hour is just too long.

It is also no longer practical to use the bus between the villages e.g. someone in Colton working in Appleton can't get home without going right into York and out again. A simple link has been made more complicated.

The journey into York via Middlethorpe has proved to be popular and it seems to me that more people are now using the service from that area, particularly as the bus now goes right down to the Stonebow and on to Morrisons. I don't feel the Bishopthorpe Road stretch adds much in terms of passengers and certainly doesn't justify the increase in the time of the journey, but I am not privy to the actual passenger numbers.

This is written from the point of view of a passenger who has alternatives but wishes to support local transport because of environmental issues. The free bus pass also helps but I would still use it if I had to pay. There are many elderly people who have no choice in the matter and are unlikely to voice an opinion in writing. If the Copmanthorpe diversion continues, it will be giving a very small minority a service at the expense of a greater number of passengers, some of whom will just abandon the village bus.

Yours sincerely

Marjorie Harrison

17/03/2010