

## **Bus Services to Ashley Park**

Route 844 was introduced as an experiment back in May 2009. Transdev were at that time experiencing competition from another bus operator between York, Tadcaster and Leeds.

The introduction of 844 was accompanied by the existing Coastliner service being altered to take a more direct route between York and Leeds and offering our longer distance passengers a much quicker journey. Route 844 also covered those parts of Tadcaster and Copmanthorpe no longer served by the 'fast' journeys.

Two years later passenger numbers between York and Leeds have grown and in sufficient numbers to justify the continued existence of both services between the two cities. The number of passengers using the service between York City Centre and Ashley Park has however proved to be insufficient to cover the cost of operating this section of route. Please be reassured that we will only withdraw from an area when we find ourselves in such a situation. As a number of local commentators have written in the York Press if numbers had been greater we would have been delighted to continue.

The resources used have now been reallocated to provide a direct link between Leeds, Tadcaster, Copmanthorpe and The University of York. We hope that the large number of students travelling to and from the University, often without possession of a car, will provide in time a much greater flow of passengers than that carried in the Ashley Park experiment.

Nigel Eggleton  
July 4<sup>th</sup> 2012