

Report on Mini-Bus Project – 5th April 2017

On March 12th 2017, Councillors James, Helen and Toms met to discuss the proposed trial of a commuter mini-bus for the Parish. It was agreed that we required 5 stops:

- Blackwood
- East Stratton Bus Stop on A33
- Lord Rank Playing Fields Micheldever
- Northbrook – Junction of Weston Lane
- Micheldever Station

It was further agreed that:

- The service should be trialed for 12 weeks
- The service would run every weekday
- The service should aim to meet the 7:05 am and 8:03am trains as a minimum.
- The service should aim to meet the 7:05 pm and 8:01 pm trains as a minimum.
- We would require a 15 seater minibus or equivalent

Actions

Councillor Helen agreed to contact Mervyn's Coaches for a quotation. Councillor Toms agreed to contact several bus companies in Basingstoke and Winchester including Private firms and Charities to get alternative quotes.

Results

Mervyns Coaches

Councillor Helen received a quote from Mervyn's Coaches on 23rd March 2017. The quote detailed the following timetable for two runs both morning and evening every weekday.

Morning Departure Times	1 st Run	2 nd Run
Forest Holidays – Black Wood	6:25 am	7:25 am
East Stratton Bus Stop	6:31 am	7:31 am
Micheldever Duke Street	6:38 am	7:38 am
Northbrook	6:40 am	7:40 am
Micheldever Station	6:51 am	7:51 am

Evening Departure Times	1 st Run	2 nd Run
Micheldever Station	6:00 pm	7:00 pm
Forest Holidays – Black Wood	6:09 pm	7:09 pm
East Stratton Bus Stop	6:15 pm	7:15 pm
Micheldever Duke Street	6:22 pm	7:22 pm
Northbrook	6:24 pm	7:24 pm

This quote came in at **£170.00 a day exclusive of VAT**. That is, a total cost of **£10,200** over the 12 week trial.

Points to Note:

There was a slightly longer travelling time than anticipated because due to the width restriction on the bridge at Micheldever Station the bus would have to go via Overton Road, old A30 and then Andover Road to the Station.

The evening times would not be sufficient to meet the trains which have been identified in the survey to be the most popular, each run would need to leave 5 minutes later than in the current timetable.

Other Providers

Councillor Toms contacted three other providers, 2 in Basingstoke and 1 in Winchester

MRB Mini-buses - Basingstoke

They were not interested in the service because it would clash with their school run commitments.

Mortons Bus Company – Basingstoke

They were also not interested in running the service, however they did say that they knew of someone else who was trying to run a mini-bus service to Micheldever Station – the Bombay Sapphire Distillery.

Councillor Toms was contacted by Sam Halsall of Bombay Sapphire. They are interested in running a mini-bus to and from their visitor centre.

Community First - Winchester

This is a charity which hires mini-buses out for community projects and also runs dial-a-ride services.

They are interested in the service, but have not been able to get a quotation together in time for this report.

Points to Note:

It is not likely that a service running between Bombay Sapphire and Micheldever Station would be of much use to our Parishioners. However, if they are aiming their bus at the tourist market, which is likely to get different trains than commuters, it may be that the same provider might be willing to run both services, which might cut costs for both.