

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th December 2007

OS/34. PUBLIC TRANSPORT ISSUES – WILLINGTON STATION

The Chairman welcomed representatives from Willington Parish Council who had been invited to contribute to this item. Of principal concern was the review of rail franchise and proposals by the new operator, Arriva to severely reduce the frequency of passenger rail services at Willington Station from December 2008.

A detailed discussion was undertaken and the following issues and points were raised:-

- Arriva's consultation with local people on the proposals.
- The current services provided were well used and very convenient.
- It would be beneficial for the service frequencies at Willington to be increased rather than reduced.
- Better public transport links would be welcomed with existing bus services.
- Car parking was available within the village to support the use of the station.
- It would be more beneficial for the suggested service to be spread proportionately over the day.
- Environmental issues needed to be considered.

Following a request from the Chairman, the Parish Council agreed to undertake a survey, with the assistance of local Members, to identify usage of the current services operated from the Station.

Councillor Ford supported the views of Willington Parish Council and explained how he intended to support the local action. He advised that Stagecoach was also proposing to cancel the Burton-on-Trent to London service and it was therefore suggested that both Arriva and Stagecoach should be pursued about their planned service reductions. Reference was also made to the review of rural bus services.

It was suggested that further discussion could be undertaken with the other local authorities affected by the proposals, the train operating companies and the local bus operating companies.

Councillor Ford thanked the member of the press present for the coverage that had been given with regard to these issues and emphasised the necessity to encourage visitors to South Derbyshire.

At this point, Councillors Bambrick, Bladen and Ford left the Meeting.

It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting of the Committee, early in the new year and to invite representatives of Derbyshire County Council, Staffordshire County Council, Derby City Council, together with the train operators and operators of bus services in this area, to discuss issues relating to Willington Station, the frequency of services and integrated transport links.

At this point, the Willington Parish Council representatives left the Meeting.