

Public Question Time

Pentlands Local Development Committee

26 January 2005

This form will be collected by our staff just after the start of the meeting. If you need advice, please ask them.

Your Name

Organisation represented, if any

Please tick one:

Please ask the question for me

I wish to ask the question myself

Question

We will try to answer all questions during the committee meeting. For some questions, we may have to get detailed information or advice from other council staff. Please fill in your address, telephone number or email address so that we may reply to you within 14 days of the local development committee meeting.

Address		Email Address
Postcode		Tel

QUESTION 1

ALTERNATIVES TO SERVICE 18

Weekdays		Ser	From	dep.	To	arr.
(Sundays are similar in most cases)						
'2100 Gyle-Bridge Rd'	Old	18	Gyle	2122	Bridge Rd	2145
	New	22	Gyle	2102	Lothian Rd	2120
		10	Lothian Rd	2128	Rustic Cottages	2144
2100 Gyle-Oxgangs Rd	Old	18	Gyle	2122	Oxgangs Rd	2152
	New	12	Gyle	2057	Haymarket	2117
		4	Haymarket	2130	Oxgangs Rd	2148
2100 Gyle-Wester Hailes	Old	18	Gyle	2122	Westside Plaza	2136
	New	22	Gyle	2102	Broomhouse	2109
		32	Broomhouse	2123	Westside Plaza	2129
2030 RIE-Bridge Rd'	Old	18	RIE	2030	Bridge Rd	2053
	New	24	RIE	2038	Tollcross	2056 use 33 on Sundays
		10	Tollcross	2103	Rustic Cottages	2114
2030 RIE-Oxgangs Rd'	Old	18	RIE	2030	Oxgangs Rd	2046
	New	33	RIE	2036	Mound	2057
		27	Mound	2110	Oxgangs Rd	2133
2030 RIE-Gyle'	Old	18	RIE	2030	Gyle	2114
	New	24	RIE	2038	Lothian Rd	2100 use 33 on Sundays
		22	Lothian Rd	2107	Gyle	2124

Sundays		Ser	From	dep.	To	arr.
1000 Bridge Rd-Gyle'	Old	18	Bridge Rd	1019	Gyle	1042
	New	10	Rustic Cottages	1022	Lothian Rd	1041
		22	Lothian Rd	1044	Gyle	1105
1000 Oxgangs Rd-Gyle'	Old	18	Oxgangs Rd	1012	Gyle	1042
	New	4	Oxgangs Rd	1001	Ardmillan	1016
		2	Ardmillan	1019	Gyle	1041
1000 Wester Hailes-Gyle'	Old	18	Westside Plaza	0958	Gyle	1012
	New	32	Westside Plaza	1010	Broomhouse	1018
		22	Broomhouse	1032	Gyle	1039
1000 Bridge Rd-RIE'	Old	18	Bridge Rd	1016	RIE	1110
	New	10	Rustic Cottages	1022	Tollcross	1038
		24	Tollcross	1104	RIE	1128
1000 Oxgangs Rd-RIE'	Old	18	Oxgangs Rd	1023	RIE	1110
	New	27	Oxgangs Rd	1002	Hanover St	1030
		33	Princes St	1046	RIE	1109
1000 Gyle-RIE'	Old	18	Gyle	1017	RIE	1110
	New	22	Gyle	1011	Princes St	1035
		33	Princes St	1046	RIE	1109

QUESTION 5

Our Ref: WWC/bc

23rd November 2004

Mr George Dobbie
Club Enterprises – Greenway Centre
75A Harvesters Way
EDINBURGH
EH14 3JM

Dear Mr Dobbie

Your query lodged at the recent Pentlands Local Development Committee has been referred to me for attention.

The reason for re-routing Service 3 last year is simply that in view of the demolition of all the properties along Harvesters Way, with the exception of the Greenway Centre, there is no passenger demand on this section of route other than from people travelling to and from the Greenway Centre itself. Unfortunately, the numbers doing so are simply not sufficient to warrant the provision of the level of service previously offered by Service 3.

I understand that there are plans to redevelop the currently derelict sections of Harvesters Way and I am more than happy to revisit the question of bus service provision in this area once it has been redeveloped. I am sorry, however, that in the meantime I cannot hold out any more immediate prospects of providing a bus service on this particular section.

Yours sincerely



W W Campbell
Operations Director

c.c. Bill Stackhouse, City of Edinburgh Council

◆ EDINBURGH ◆
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

COPY

QUESTION 6

EDUCATION
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Mr George Lighthouse
for Firrhill Community Council & Pentland CE Centre
17 Oxfords Hill
EDINBURGH
EH13 9JH

Your Ref:

Our Ref: CE/MR/MC/1247

Date: 17 November 2004

Dear George

PENTLAND LDC, 3 NOVEMBER 2004

I understand that you raised the issue of staff shortages at Pentland Community Education Centre at the last LDC meeting.

You will recall that we had a lengthy discussion about this problem at the recent conference in St Thomas of Aquin's High School.

I confirm that the Department is fully aware of the difficulties associated with janitorial cover and is considering both short and longer term solutions.

Any action will be reported to management committees by Community Education staff.

Yours sincerely



Mike Rosendale
Head of Community Education

Mike.Rosendale@educ.edin.gov.uk

If telephoning, direct dial 0131 469 3377

✓ cc Bill Stackhouse, Committee Officer, Committee Services, City Chambers

Committee Services

QUESTION 7

Mr G Dobbie
75A Harvesters Way
EDINBURGH
EH14 3JH

Date: 17 November 2004

Your Ref:

Our Ref: PT/1/13/005

Corr No: 243921

Dear Mr Dobbie

PENTLANDS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: 3 NOVEMBER 2004 -
BUS SERVICE IN HARVESTERS WAY

I refer to your written question submitted to the above committee, which has been passed to this department for reply. The question was as follows:

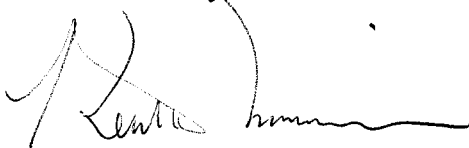
'We are disappointed by Lothian Buses response to a petition by users of the Greenway Centre to the withdrawal of the No 3 service along Harvesters Way. Can the Council persuade/encourage Lothian Buses to consider a routing of the No 3 past the Greenway, and recognise the importance of community facilities.'

Lothian Buses last year withdrew commercial service 3 (Birkenside-City Centre-Wester Hailes) from Harvesters Way in response to falling demand on that part of the route. This was caused by the demolition of housing in that vicinity, which had the effect of rendering the Harvesters Way loop uneconomic.

In the short term, Lothian Buses have no plans to reinstate the loop. However, when the area is redeveloped, the company will again look at the viability of serving Harvesters Way once more, either with service 3 or another service. In the meantime, Harvesters Way is served by an hourly train service, which calls at Wester Hailes Station, adjacent to the Greenway Centre.

I hope this is useful, but if you have any queries please contact Ewan Home on 0131 469 3633.

Your sincerely



Signature of or on behalf of:

Keith Rimmer
Head of Transport

Copies to: Keith Rimmer/LDC File
A M Holmes/Director's LDC File
Mr J Gill
Committee Services
Councillor Alistair Paisley

Bill Stackhouse

ADDITIONAL QUESTION

From: "Campbell, Bill"
To: <peggywright1@activemail.co.uk>
Cc: <bill.stackhouse@edinburgh.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 November 2004 17:42
Subject: Bus service 18

Dear Ms Wright

Mr Stackhouse has forwarded your comments regarding service 18 to me for attention.

I do sympathise with your concern over the cutback affecting service 18. This does not, however, alter the hard fact that it was operating at a very heavy financial loss - far worse than any other route in the network. We recognised the significance of the Infirmary, which is why we persevered with it for two years after its opening, in the hope that the situation would improve as a result of increasing passenger numbers but it did not, and we reached the point at which it was simply not possible to continue absorbing such heavy losses. Whether I happen to like it or not, we are obliged to run our network as a profitable business, and losses as severe as were being incurred on the 18 simply cannot be sustained. For that reason, we advised the council in July that we would have to curtail the service at the least well used times.

There is provision for the council to invite tenders for the replacement of some or all of the route on a subsidised basis, in the same way as is done with some other routes like the 38, but I cannot say whether or not they will choose to do so. I can, however, confirm that I have given the council an indication of the likely cost of reinstating the service and have also made it clear I am happy to discuss any revised level of service they are able to fund.

While I fully appreciate that the loss of a through service results in inconvenience and do not seek to pretend otherwise, it is nonetheless the case that it will never be possible to cater for all possible trips on the basis of a direct, through service. Some trips always have entailed changing buses, and on the basis of changing buses, it is still possible to travel between Wester Hailes and Colinton Mains. Travelling by a 33 to Dalry Road and changing there to a 4 would result in a journey time of around 30 minutes. I accept that this is quite a bit longer than the 10 minutes the old 18 would have taken, but the journey is still possible. It is not the case that the journey just can't be made. (Indeed I myself had to use two buses to get to the meeting at the Greenway Centre.)

I do, however, understand your concern, but all I can suggest is that you approach the city council in case they are in a position to provide financial support for reinstating the evening and Sunday service.

W W Campbell
Operations Director
Lothian Buses