

# Dorset County Council January 2014 Report

## Changes to the Bus Services in Egdon Heath

This article describes, as best as I can, the proposed changes to the Bus services in and around Egdon Heath. But first a few provisos

1. The new timetables are now out for tender and the results of these tenders will not be known until mid February when I will issue another article. The Bus companies will all respond to the specification as outlined here but it is not unknown for no company to precisely meet all of the specification. This is why sometimes DCC have to choose the tender response that is most economic and most reflects what we have specified but that still does not reflect what we have asked for in the first place.
2. Following completion of the tender and subsequent selection process a draft timetable for all the revised services will be issued soon after mid February.
3. A final paper copy of the revised timetables will not be ready until May 2014
4. The revised timetable will start on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014
5. Please ignore any post April 2014 timetables you may have seen – they are not correct!
6. I have included Bus services that appear not to be connected or related to Egdon Heath. This is because some services pass the edge of Egdon Heath and are used by people from within Egdon Heath as they normally require a relatively short walk to get to the relevant Bus stop for the service.
7. There may be changes to the final services, for a variety of reasons, and what is listed below is my best effort to forecast what is going to happen. Obviously if there are any changes for whatever reason I will attempt to publicise them through the same source you have received this from.
8. A number of services have been maintained or extended (from the original proposals) to various small villages to counter what would otherwise be called “rural isolation”. These particularly include Morden, Winterborne Kingston, Bloxworth, Winterborne Zelston, Winfrith and East Chaldon.
9. All times I have quoted are very provisional and are there as a guide. Please do not rely on these times.
10. All Saturday services stopped except where stated.
11. A number of Parishes are considering or actually setting up a Neighbourhood car scheme to help people get to hospital and Doctors appointments amongst other things and to compensate for the reduction in services.

## BUS 387 (but this may be renumbered 187)

Revised weekly service 4 or 5 times a day from Dorchester to Bere Regis but then continuing to Winterborne Kingston where it will terminate. Times similar to the current times.

A new service (probably called the 36) will run twice a week from Bere Regis to Poole (a “shopper’s service”) once in the morning Bere Regis to Poole (around 09.30, but if earlier, bus passes will still be able to be used because there is not another bus that day). Bus returns from Poole to Bere Regis leaving Poole around 2.00pm arriving Bere Regis 3.00pm and Dorchester 3.30pm. The morning service will call at Bloxworth one of the two days and Winterbourne Zelston the other. It will call at Morden and Winterbourne Kingston on both days. The two days may be Tuesday and Friday.

### BUS X43

This bus goes from Swanage to Weymouth via Lulworth and Owermoigne. It runs 4 trips a day both ways and was previously subsidised to the tune of over £35K p.a. The Bus companies now accept that this service can be run without a subsidy and it is hoped that it will run at the same times and frequency as it does at the moment.

### BUS 101

This bus goes from Owermoigne, Crossways, West Knighton and Broadmayne to Dorchester. We now hope that there will be no change to this service which runs daily approximately every hour. There will be some minor changes to the Saturday service and the current subsidy will be reduced.

### BUS 103

The bus goes from Bovington, Wool, Lulworth Cove, Winfrith, Warmwell and Woodsford to Dorchester. It will now only run on Wednesday leaving Bovington at 09.15 am and arriving at Dorchester at 10.30 am returning from Dorchester at 12.45 pm arriving in Bovington at 2.00pm.

### BUS 104

This bus goes from East Chaldon, Lulworth Cove, Wool and Bovington to Wareham. As part compensation for the reduced 103 service the service will be improved with up to 4 journeys a day including Saturdays. A double decker will also be considered for this route.

### BUS 316

This bus goes from Blandford, Winterbourne Valley, Bere Regis and Trigon to Wareham once a week. Due to very few passengers it will be cancelled. However Officers are looking at the possibility of extending the 387 on one day to take in Blandford but this is just a possibility at the moment.

### BUS 322

This bus goes from Milton Abbas, Winterbourne Valley, Corfe Mullen and Wimborne to Poole. The service has been withdrawn due to lack of use.

### Surgery

Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of every month. These are held at the communal Lounge in Turberville Court in Bere Regis from 09.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. I am now also holding a surgery at Wool in Knowlewood Knapp communal lounge at 11.30. If you have any questions or queries related to the business of Dorset County Council please come along. If anyone wants to contact me and cannot get to the surgery my email address is peterwharf@hotmail.com.

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County Councillor