



## Planning and Transport Committee

### Local Transport Representative's Report.

1. Councillors will recall my previous reporting of commercial services provided by Anglian Buses, the formerly SCC-sponsored 165 and the new 164 which started last December, and passing reference to the separate 'bus war' in Ipswich between First Group plc and Ipswich Buses Ltd. The period of calm we have enjoyed for the last few months is now coming to an end, with major changes to bus services in our area.
2. From Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, the following changes take place:-
  - First N&S service 63 (Ipswich - Woodbridge - Wickham Market - Framlingham) is reduced to a schooldays journey to/from Thos Mills High School;
  - First N&S service 64 becomes Ipswich - Woodbridge - Wickham Market - Saxmundham only, running hourly;
  - New First N&S service 64A Saxmundham - Leiston – Aldeburgh, running hourly and replacing the outer end of the current 64;
  - First N&S service 65 becomes Ipswich - Woodbridge - Rendlesham - Snape - Aldeburgh (direct), running hourly;
  - The SCC-sponsored evening service 64A is unchanged but renumbered 64B;
  - SCC has awarded a contract for new a twice daily (Mon-Fri only) Woodbridge - Wickham Market - Framlingham service 62.

The timetables for services 64 & 65 are co-ordinated to give a half-hourly service between Melton Chapel and Ipswich. Services 64, 64A and 65 are interworked, thus retaining through links to/from Leiston.
3. From Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, the following changes take place:-
  - Anglian routes 165 (and 164 Saxmundham - Woodbridge - Ipswich) will cease operation, without replacement.
4. Taken together, these changes will also be having the following adverse impact:
  - Wickham Market, Ufford and the Yarmouth Road in Melton will have their service to Woodbridge and Ipswich halved to one per hour, the lowest it has been for decades;
  - Melton Road and Melton Hill will have go from a bus every half hour, plus the odd extra, to just the odd extra;
  - The Ipswich - Woodbridge - Wickham Market - Framlingham service, hourly until November 2009, will be reduced to one schooldays journey and two Monday to Friday buses to/from Woodbridge. However, since 1996 Framlingham has had a much quicker direct service to Ipswich *via* Witnesham, sponsored by Suffolk CC;
  - The village of Blaxhall and some estates in Kesgrave (*e.g.* Fentons Way, Edmonton Close, Oxford Road, Cambridge Road) will lose all buses.

5. The national timetable changes from 19<sup>th</sup> May see very little alteration to train services across East Anglia. The only change on our local East Suffolk Line is that, on Mondays to Fridays, the 18:17 Ipswich - Lowestoft will leave at 18:13 and stop at Westerfield.
6. Updated versions of the *Guide to Local Public Transport* have been prepared and will be published in late May and late June to reflect these changes.
7. It is **recommended that**
  - a. The contents of this report be noted; and
  - b. Concern about the implications of the reduced level of bus service from 29<sup>th</sup> June be expressed to both Go-Ahead Group plc and Suffolk County Council.

Cllr. Geof Butterwick,  
Chairman of Planning & Transport Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2013