



Local Transport Representative

77.09.01 Review of the Actions delegated by full Council.

No change since last meeting.

77.09.02 Bus Services.

As briefly mentioned at the March meeting, changes to the routes and timetables of many services in the area took place on Monday 7th April. Details have now been obtained, and an updated edition of the Melton & Woodbridge Local Transport Guide has been produced and is now on the parish council website. It is hoped to produce a printed version as soon as possible. Fears that services would be reduced have proved ill-founded, with a wide range of destinations still being accessible either direct from Melton, or by changing buses at Woodbridge Turban Centre. A much wider range of destinations throughout east Suffolk is now available by changing buses at Framlingham or Saxmundham.

Major changes to travel concessions for people aged 60, disabled, and blind or partially-sighted people over came into effect on 1st April. From that date, a new National Bus Pass has been introduced, giving free off-peak travel on *any* bus service within England (it is not valid in Scotland or Wales). People living in Suffolk will continue to be able to travel on buses *within Suffolk* 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but in many other parts of the country free travel on Mondays to Fridays will be restricted to 9:30am to 11:00pm. All existing bus passes are being replaced by new smartcard passes. As this is happening throughout England, there has inevitably been a delay in some people receiving their new passes, but existing ones will remain valid until the new ones arrive.

77.09.03 Railway Station Car-Park.

A letter has now been received from the East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership, giving a brief outline of the scheme. *"The part of the former goods-yard nearest the station remains in Network Rail ownership and plans are actively being developed for it to become a car-park for rail users, with up to 40 extra spaces becoming available. As a part of this, it is envisaged that the whole area between the main road and the station would be refurbished and reorganised, so that much more effective use would be made of the space. The cost of the proposals currently under development would be around £250,000, which is a very considerable sum. Network Rail, National Express East Anglia, Suffolk County and Suffolk Coastal District Councils are working together with the East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership to try to put together a partnership to help fund the scheme, which is not affordable for any of the partners acting alone. If funding can be secured, the scheme is likely to go ahead in the financial year 2009/10. ... I am therefore writing to ... keep you informed about the scheme and to flag up the possibility that we will be seeking further partners"*.

The parish council's Finance & Risk Management Committee will be considering the implications of this letter at the meeting on 16th April.

Geof Butterwick
Local Transport Representative
8th April 2008