



# 31 Bus

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**REPORT 24/21**

**8 MARCH 2021**

The purpose of this Report is to ask Members to determine the future of the 31 Bus service from 1 April 2021.

**No. DETAILS**

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**1) BACKGROUND**

- a) By Minute 6/21 of its meeting of 13 January 2020 the Town Council agreed to continue the 31 Bus service at its current level of two days a week until 31 March 2021.
  - b) Although the service at this level has been budgeted for in 2021/22 no decision has yet been taken as to whether or not to continue it from 1 April 2021.
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**2) CURRENT USE**

- a) The January figures show a total of 191 passenger journeys across its eight operational days and six 'runs'.
  - b) This represents an average of 4 passengers per journey and is in line with the end of 2020 monthly averages.
  - c) There have been some concerns expressed about the fact that the driver(s) do not wear a mask.
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**3) ALTERNATIVES**

- a) Nick Cox has carried out research at the Mayor's request into the possibility of the Town Council having its own bus (es) and running an extended service.
  - b) None of the examined options have proved either feasible or affordable.
  - c) Discussions are continuing with Freshwater and the Fit Bus service around possibilities for partnership or buying in.
  - d) These discussions will take time if a viable and affordable outcome can be developed.
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**4) RECOMMENDATION**

The Town Council is recommended to continue the service at its present level for six months to allow time for alternatives to be fully explored.

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