



31 BUS SERVICE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 64/15

13 JULY 2015

The purpose of this paper is set out proposals for developments in the operation of the 31 Bus Service for Members' consideration.

No. DETAIL

1) BACKGROUND

- a) As Members are aware, the Isle of Wight Council's funding of this service ends at 30 September this year and the Town Council has made the budget provision necessary to fund it on to 31 March 2016.
 - b) With an estimated 9,000 passengers journeys a year, the service is clearly valued by many residents and consequently meetings chaired by the Mayor have taken place in recent weeks to explore options for a sustainable funding base.
 - c) The meeting of 1 July involved the Mayor, the Clerks, our advisor Stuart George and the service providers, Minibus-plus.
 - d) Proposals for development of the Service have emerged from those discussions and are summarised here for the Town Council's consideration.
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2) PROPOSALS

- a) *Income stream*
There is considerable evidence that regular passengers value the service so much that they would rather be charged a formal fare than lose it. It is proposed that a fare be set at £2.50 for any single journey and £3 for any return journey. Free bus passes would be accepted and, with proper recording, the subsidised element could then be claimed from the Isle of Wight Council.
 - b) *Ticket Machine*
This would need the installation in the Bus of a simple ticketing machine the cost of which is not expected to exceed a one-off charge for purchase and fitting of £250.
 - c) *Signage*
Fuller use of the Service would be facilitated by the use of suitable detachable signage for the sides of the Bus as at present to identify it as the Town Council's operated 31 Bus Service.
 - d) *Revised timetable*
A proposed revised timetable is attached to this Report for Members' information that will need to be registered with the Traffic Commissioners with 56 days' notice.
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3) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to agree:

- i) the introduction of a single fare of £2.50 per journey and £3 per return journey;
 - ii) the funding of the purchase and installation to the Bus of an appropriate picketing machine;
 - iii) the development and purchase of suitable signage for the Bus;
 - iv) the revised route and timetable attached to this report and its submission to the Traffic Commissioners.
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VENTNOR, BONCHURCH, AND ST.LAWRENCE TOWN SERVICE**Mondays to Fridays** except Bank Holidays**ROUTE 31**

Ventnor Boots	-		1129	
Upper Ventnor York Road	-		1135	
Upper Ventnor St.Francis School	0937		1137	
Upper Ventnor York Road	0938		1138	
Ventnor Boots	0944		1144	
Ventnor Boots	0945	1045	1145	1245
Ventnor St.Boniface Road	0946	1046	1146	-
Upper Bonchurch Top of Shute	0949	1049	1149	1254
Bonchurch Pond	0953	1053	1153	1250
Bonchurch Shore Road Car Park	0956	1056	1156	-
Madeira Road Ventnor Towers	1000	1100	1200	1248
Ventnor Boots	1005	1105	1205	S
Ventnor Boots	1006	1106	1206	
Ventnor Albert Street	1007	1107	1207	
Ventnor Botanic Garden	1012	1112	1212	
St.Lawrence Spindlers Road	1015	1115	1215	
Ventnor Castle Close	1020	1120	1220	
Ventnor Boots	1028	1128	1228	
Ventnor Boots	1033		1233	
Ventnor Albert Street	1034		1234	
Ventnor Esplanade	1038		1238	
Ventnor Boots	1043		1243	

S – Continues to Shanklin Bus Station

This friendly minibus service operates in the Ventnor, Bonchurch, and St.Lawrence areas, serving many roads too narrow for conventional buses.

Away from Ventnor Town Centre, it will stop anywhere on its booked route where safe to do so.

Free bus passes are accepted, otherwise the adult fare is £2.50 single, £3.00 day return for any of the four loops..

We regret that pushchairs cannot be carried.

For enquiries, please phone 01983 856905 during normal office hours.