**TRANSPORT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2016**

There has been much coverage of the bus services through the village in the last month. For any resident who has not seen The Advertiser or the Gazette and Herald or heard the breakfast programme on BBC Wiltshire, the X5 will stop running through the village of Chiseldon from Saturday 3rd September. This service will also stop going into the hospital, but will drop passengers on the main road. It will also stop calling for a drop off at Swindon Railway Station. This is to speed up the service between Swindon and Salisbury, cutting it from 136 minutes to 112 minutes. It is hoped that more revenue will be collected by moving more people from Swindon to Marlborough and on to Pewsey, Amesbury and Salisbury. If this happens, the bus company hopes that it will not need to go to two hourly from April 2017.

The Parish Council have talked to commercial manager of Salisbury Reds and have put our case, but also thanking them for coming through the village for the last six years. We have also talked to our MP, Robert Buckland and Chief Executive at the GWH, Nerissa Vaughan, to try to alleviate the problems with traffic and parking, though there are already plans in place to increase the number of car parking spaces at the hospital.

We think that we have lost out on this bus service because it takes such a long time to get over Junction 15 and get in and out of the hospital, going in and out of Swindon and the advent of Service No8 running through the village. The X5 will only pick up at the two stops on the main A346 and we stress to residents to be very careful in crossing this major road. There is an island in the middle to split the crossing of the road.

The Parish Council and residents were grateful to Kayley Cole, Sue Moulding and Katie Cuthbertson for setting up a petition and a residents’ meeting held on the green in Castleview. They collected 800 signatures and their petition was presented at the last Parish Council meeting. This has now been delivered for consideration to the Petitions Officer of SBC, asking to save the evening services by Thamesdown Buses 70A and 72A.

Chiseldon Parish Council have sent in comments for the current bus consultation, which closed on Monday 22nd August. This was sent back to SBC, which is proposing to cut £200K off the evening services in the Swindon area.

There have been a number of changes within the Swindon area. An increase in the number of Stagecoach 7 buses in the rush hours, changes to the Oxford Stagecoach Service 66, with the withdrawal of funding from Oxfordshire County Council.

Gloucestershire County Council have started a new service, Stagecoach 77, from Highworth to Lechlade and then through the villages to Cirencester and a new Stagecoach 50 town service for Cirencester. This links in to the improved Stagecoach 51, Swindon to Cirencester.

We have had the Annual Report from Stagecoach West with the number of new buses purchased over the year, taking the fleet size up to 248 and the opening of the new maintenance depot in Cheney Manor, Swindon.

People travelling by rail will find that the Severn Tunnel will be closed from 12th September to the 21st October 2016.

The roadworks that were suspended on the A419/A417 Junction 15 M4 to Junction 11A M5 are due to restart again on Tuesday 30th August. Closing overnight from 20.00 to 06.00. There are also a number of closures of the first Severn crossing, the M48 over the whole of the weekend from 06.00 on Saturday to 22.00 on Sunday. Check the website. This is bridge that takes you over the river to Chepstow and now 50yrs old. There are a number of roadworks planned in Swindon in connection with the Eastern Development and the changes to Junction 16 of the M4.

David Hill - Chiseldon Parish Council