**Transport Report January 2017**

Bus services on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve will be running a full Saturday service other than buses being curtailed at around 20.00 hours. This is a list of the times of the last buses from Swindon Service 81, 15.10, 80 17.25 – Marlborough only, X5 18.30 – Pewsey only and Thamesdown 70A 19.30. Times of buses into Swindon are as follows: 81 16.10, X5 18.02, 80 19.15 and 70A 20.35.

There are no buses on 25th and 26th December and on the Bank Holidays 27th December and 2nd January there is a limited service on Stagecoach No5. From Wednesday 28th December to Saturday 31st December there is a normal weekly service X5, 80, 81 and 70A and 72A.

From Sunday 8th January Thamesdown Bus Company are making one of their biggest changes to their service in a decade. There are a lot of new numbered services with amalgamation of a number of routes. If you know of somebody that uses Thamesdown buses, please make them aware of these changes. Some of the major changes are that Service 16 from the GWH will change number to 1 and 1A and have an amended route, going through the Town Centre to West Swindon. Certain services on the 1A will go into the one side of Fleming Way and then go via the Railway Station to turn around and depart from the other side of Fleming Way. This is a change, as at present the service drops passengers outside of the Bus Station.

There are a number of changes to Service 12 which will be GWH to Highworth via Blunsdon. This service will call into Badbury Park Estate which when the roads are connected through, will give them a 30 minute bus service. The No15 will change to No11 / 12 and this will allow for a 10 minute bus service from Old Town into Swindon and out to the Northern Orbital Shopping Centre. A number of business parks will lose their bus service, the Windmill Business Park and the Groundwell Business Park will lose their direct bus services and passengers will have walk out to the main roads outside to catch any bus services.

The three current shopper bus services that are sponsored by SBC will carry on.

Over all weekends in December Thamesdown are reducing their fares on Day Rider and Day Rider Plus tickets.

From Friday 10th December until Tuesday 3rd January SBC are putting an embargo on all roadworks in Swindon. This will take out over 50 different schemes and free up traffic flow. The two exceptions will be the Greenbridge Roundabout and the reshaping of the Junction 16 roundabout on the M4 which will have, over the Christmas period both East and West slip roads closed down to one lane.

The annual change of the Severn Bridge tolls increase charges by 10p or 20p dependent on type of vehicle, but from 2018 these two bridges will come back into public ownership. Hopefully with a reduction in the costs.

On the railways Paddington Station will be closed from 24th December to 29th December, trains will terminate at Ealing Broadway and passengers will need to use the Underground to complete their journeys. Alternatives would be changing at Oxford and going to London Marylebone or changing at Reading for London Waterloo.

A further rail closure will take place in South Wales from Tuesday 27th to Wednesday 28th December and Sunday 1st to Monday 2nd January. Buses will replace trains between Newport South Wales, Cardiff Central to Bridgend.

Cllr David Hill – Transport Rep Chiseldon Parish Council