**Transport Report – May 2017**

**Good News – new trains are coming this year**

Great Western Railway have announced that new trains Class 800 will start this year on the route from London, Reading, Swindon to Bath and Bristol. To prepare for this change a number of platform alterations have to be made as the new trains will be 10, 11 and 12 coaches long and they will not wait for the electrification of the line but these trains are dual fuel and will be run as the present HST fleet are, with diesel. Swindon station will be converted over the weekend of 27-29 May, the 3-4 and 10-11 June weekends. All services from Swindon will be by bus replacement. The alternative is to use Pewsey, Bedwyn or Hungerford stations for trains to London. Chippenham station will be converted between 8-16 July – all services by bus replacement. Please consult the GWR website.

Akers Way in Swindon has various closure up until 24 August 2017. This £900K project is to lay a completely new road surface. Another local road that is closed at present, is Wanborough High Street up until 28 April. The lorries bringing clay for the embankment at Junction 16 carries on and there will be night closures from 8pm-6am going forward. The A3102 at Wootton Bassett will be reopened after the railway bridges are completed by 20 April.

For younger drivers, the current driving test is changing and will include the safe use of sat nav and there will be a motorway drive option with the time of the test taking longer.

Thamesdown Bus Company will be changing their services again on Sunday 14 May with a new bus route from Swindon to Wootton Bassett and a general improvement timewise for all of their town services.

With regard to our Stagecoach West bus services, we have a new 81 service on a Saturday morning at 07.50 from the Landmark Hotel. This service has been put on for people going to work in Swindon and people travelling by train. On the current timetable the 16.15 from Swindon now goes around the old route of the No 8, past the Farm Shop, into Draycott Road and serves the top part of Chiseldon village. This is as a result of a request put in by the parish council to enable people who cannot walk from the lower part of the village.

Some of our bus timetable boards have still not been changed as each bus company is responsible for the updates. Please use the bus company website or obtain a paper copy of the current timetable, available from the Travel Shop in the Bus Station or Thamesdown Travel Shop in Fleming Way.

Cllr David Hill

Transport Representative – Chiseldon Parish Council