**Transport Report – June 2017**

**Big Changes to Thamesdown Buses**

Since the takeover of Thamesdown Bus Company by the GoAhead Group a number of changes are going to happen. A new colour scheme for the buses which will change to green at the front, red in the middle and blue at the back. The title on the buses will be Thamesdown Swindon’s bus company with number of routes changes and timings from Sunday 14th May. New timetables are available at their travel office. With the launch of the new R1 Swindon to Wooton Bassett every 15 minutes Monday-Saturday, this service can be used on the Swindon Travel Plus ticket, connecting with the service X5, 80 and 81 at the bus station. Dogs may now travel free on Thamesdown’s buses and the company is making a donation to a dog charity.

We still waiting for SBC to put in the missing bus stops between Chiseldon and Wroughton for Service 81. Considering this service started in the first week on November 2016, it seems a very long time for the council to get around to doing this work.

Any residents looking at the smaller red type timetable boards will not see the evening bus service times any longer, as these boards are owned by Stagecoach West and the evening service is provided by Thamesdown.

An appeal to all residents that user the bus services, numbers are being recorded on the 81 service Chiseldon to Wroughton and the 70A and 72A evening buses and the new 07.50 Saturday morning bus into Swindon. If you get chance to use these services, it may save them from being cut later in the year.

There are a number of changes to the train services in both Swindon and Chippenham with the outset of the number Azuma class 800 trains, replacing the HST’s, that are starting in October 2017. Upgrades at Swindon are now taking place on the 27th-29th May and 10th-11th June, two weekend only. The upgrade at Chippenham Station will now take place between the 8th and 16th July. To fit new larger trains. During these dates all services will be operated by bus replacements.

On the M4 motorway there are a number of planned closures between J13 Newbury and J12 Theale. There is an ongoing programme of resurfacing to take place between J15 Swindon East and J14 Hungerford over the next few months, with night closures and cut backs in the number of lanes available.

The parish clerk updates our new website and puts a number of items on the Chiseldon Facebook site between the monthly reports that appear in the Ridgeway Bell.

Cllr David Hill

Transport Representative – Chiseldon Parish Council