

Transport Report – October 2018

The parish council are pleased to have helped to retain the bus services through Chiseldon parish. At the time of my last report, not all of the changes had been finalised and after the 28th August Swindon BC went ahead and resurfaced the very pot holed road, Comet Road/MOD Road linking Alexandra Park and Thorney Park. This enabled the bus company to resume the Service 81 and the new 82 which now terminate at Thorney Park, not Wroughton. These services are fully funded by SBC and the Service 9 from Thorney Park is withdrawn. There is no longer a direct service to Wroughton from Chiseldon as this was very poorly used.

The last X5 service of the day, leaving Swindon at 18.30 now comes into Chiseldon by the Esso Garage, turning into Station Road, High Street, Mays Lane and back onto New Road to leave the village by the Esso Station. This service is fully funded by Wiltshire Council and only goes as far as Pewsey. If you have purchased a return ticket earlier in the day on a Stagecoach bus you can use the return section of this ticket on this X5 service.

The Saturday morning service on the X5, currently 08.40 from the main road bus stop is unchanged. This bus runs five minutes later into Marlborough. Timetables leaflets are available from the Travel Office in the Bus Station and all the timetable boards have been changed. The new timetable for the X5 is not yet printed but hopefully will be in the next two weeks and will be available from the Thamesdown Travel Office in Fleming Way Swindon.

The current Stagecoach Service which is fully funded by Wiltshire Council has a two and a half hour gap in the afternoons from 14.35 to 17.05. This is because buses are being used in other areas of Wiltshire. We have talked to Wiltshire Council and they say we are fully serviced by the X5 with three services in this two and a half hour gap. From Swindon Bus Station 14.45, 15.25 and 16.40, but please note that this will drop you on the main road and does not come into Chiseldon village. The old 81 service at 16.15 is withdrawn.

Can I remind you of the new Saturday morning 80 service, leaving the Bus Station at 07.10, calling in at the GWH at 07.23 and arriving at the Landmark bus stop at 07.32 before again leaving for Swindon. This service has been put on for residents attending Out Patient appointments at GWH, Saturday morning now, going to work in Swindon for 08.00 and rail users using Swindon Railway Station.

We have two Monday- Friday later evening services on the Service 80, from the Landmark Hotel, one at 19.40 and the other at 20.20. This may be useful to those going for an evening out in Old Town or Swindon.

Train fare rises are going ahead from 1st January 2019 at a rate of 3.2%. The DfT have confirmed they won't split up the Great Western franchise and asked for more decentralisation of their network. The electrification of the network is approaching completion with new trains coming on line monthly.

Cllr David Hill Transport Representative – Chiseldon Parish Council