



FRIDAYTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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TRANSPORT REPORT 2ND NOVEMBER 2015 CLLR S. Halfpenny

New Fridaythorpe Parish Councillor, Sue Halfpenny (SH) volunteered to attend the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) public transport event at Pocklington Arts Centre on the evening of 8th October 2015. District Councillor Andy Burton was also in attendance but in his ERYC capacity as the chairman of the Planning, Highways and Transportation Committee:

Planning, Highways and Transportation

- Highways
- Footpaths and Local Transport Plan (LTP)
- Casualty reduction
- Car parking
- Planning delivery
- Transport

SH can report that this meeting was to explain what public transport is currently available, but in order to continue it they need individual communities to carry out surveys to ascertain need. A Parish Transport Toolkit was provided in return for the name of someone to take on the role of Parish Transport Champion. SH put her name forward. The survey needs to have been completed and results sent to ERYC by the end of December 2015 then ideas to tweak the current provision will be put forward to the budget committee.

Having asked an ERYC officer, Chris Mottershead (CM), at the Pocklington meeting for numbers currently using the Fridaythorpe to Driffield service bus 135 which is subsidised by ERYC, Chris provided the information on a strictly confidential basis a week later. SH can confirm it showed that very few people use this service although she is unable to say how many start or finish their journeys in Fridaythorpe.

Other services available and subsidised by ERYC are the once a month Mibus/York shopper and the Monday to Friday daytime on-demand Medi-bus to take residents to local and regional medical appointments. Both cost either £10 return or free with a bus pass.

SH's personal view on this is that ERYC are looking to save money in the current economic climate and if we cannot come up with a proven need for any of these services we may lose them.

Following her e-mail questioning to ERYC and a further visit to meet CM and Adam Fowler (AF) from the charity CHEF (Hull and Humber Environment Forum) in Driffield on 29th October, SH has been able to confirm that it may be possible to tweak the current services to meet actual need. but as said before this will need to be proven by actual hard evidence of need and demand.

SH asked ERYC if they had a legal obligation to provide local bus services for residents, especially those with bus passes. They confirmed that they have no such obligation. If lots of people were using the services they currently provide (whether they were riding for free or paying) they would be more inclined to continue them. SH is not allowed to divulge the numbers using the services but she personally believes that the figures are so low that they are bound to discontinue them by the end of this financial year i.e. March 2016. However if there were increased passenger numbers in the next few months they may reconsider. SH reiterates that ERYC have neither agreed or disagreed with her analysis. She also discovered that the return fare to Driffield from Fridaythorpe is £7.10 for paying passengers (which she considered to be quite high) and she gained the impression that of the few that do use the service the vast majority have free bus passes.

SH asked ERYC if there is any space on school busses for local residents and the answer appears to be 'yes' however she is waiting for confirmation. She also asked if local residents would be allowed to use these services to Driffield and back and the answer was 'yes' although they would have to pay if they did not have a bus pass. She will report when she has more news.

Other reasonable alternatives to the existing transport services (besides your own car, motorbike or bicycle) to our remote rural village are:

- voluntary car scheme
- moped loan scheme
- taxi or private hire car
- private hire minibus
- car share scheme

So the first thing to do is to attempt to get everyone in the community to fill in a transport needs questionnaires. SH, with the assistance of the parish council will create the questionnaire and ERYC are prepared to print it out free of charge. All we have to do is collect it in Beverley. As Laura Waites (LW), the parish clerk, works in Beverley it is suggested that she be asked to collect it and bring it to SH in Fridaythorpe. Then the whole village needs to be issued with the questionnaire and persuaded to fill it in. It is further suggested that a higher percentage of replies would be received if councillors and volunteers delivered these personally and attempted to get them filled in on the doorstep. SH does not yet know if enough people could be recruited to help with this, however it is hoped that councillors would door knock in their own roads.

SH will be attending another parish transport meeting in Shire Hall, Beverley on Tuesday 10th November however it is hoped that the questionnaire will already be printed by then and ready to deliver, if not already partially delivered.