

Public transport report for the Parish Council Meeting 7 July 2025

First Bus continue to operate a regular service with numbers 75 & 77 running between Ipswich & Felixstowe via the Old Felixstowe Road (aka the old A45). This of course is only useful for those who can get to these bus stops under their own steam. Regular visitors to Parish meetings know that I frequently mention the overgrown verges, in Bridge Road, which make walking to the bus stops difficult, when trying to get off the road to avoid traffic. SCC (or the DC?) have recently cut back the verge along Bridge Road which has improved this situation. However the problem of overgrown hedges, at head height, along the stretch between Red House Walk & the Barn remains. The PC have arranged for this hedge to be cut back by the land owner, after the nesting season, thus this should be done in the next few weeks.

The PC had promised to instigate a 'clear up' day around the village when we planned to trim back other verges & also give the bus shelters another clean. I mention this as a reminder that a date has not been fixed, as far as I am aware.

Another issue which concerns me is that it is often difficult to get bus drivers' attention when waiting at the Ipswich-bound bus stop at Bridge Road. One is forced to watch carefully for the bus & wave frantically to get them to stop! I raised this problem during a video conference call in May, organised by Suffolk County Council & SCC have accepted my request for work to be done to improve visibility at this location.

I have also been trying to get vegetation cut back at the bus stop on the Ipswich-bound side of the Old Felixstowe Road, by Stratton Hall Drift, opposite Walk Farm. The bus stop sign is barely visible behind the greenery. I sent a photo of this to an SCC bus contact & his comment was that I should report this using the SCC Highways reporting online tool. He felt it was so bad that it would be marked for immediate attention. However, having reported as instructed, they replied that they did not feel this came under their 'intervention criteria'! I emailed back to my contact & also to our SCC Councillor on 23 June, asking for their help, but neither has replied to me. I wrote again yesterday (6 July) asking for their advice as to how we can get this work done. This bus stop is often used by visitors, who have moored at the marina so are unfamiliar with the area, thus a clear indication of where the buses stop is vital.

I have confined this public transport report to the local bus services only as I feel this is the element most affecting our parishioners.

Marian Rose

Public Transport representative for Levington & Stratton Hall Parish Council

6 July 2025