

Public transport report for Parish Council meeting 4 March 2024

1. There were 2 occasions in mid-February when the 78 service did not operate for the return trip from Ipswich. One was caused by a breakdown & the second was because of disruption to all bus services when the Orwell Bridge was closed. Unluckily these occurred on consecutive days. BUT in both instances, drivers were extremely kind to an elderly villager who regularly uses the service. One drove her home in his own car even though this was out of his way. On the other occasion a driver, who was due to do a run to pick up at Kesgrave school, took his bus via Levington to drop her off. I must commend these two drivers and, as soon as I heard about it, I wrote to my contact at First Bus to thank them.

2. Thankfully I am not aware of any recent incidents of the village bus being unable to pass parked cars in Bridge Road. Since my last report to the PC, I have been informed that the verges opposite the Hall are privately owned (as opposed to being Council-owned) and thus it appears the residents are at liberty to place the posts & stones on the verges which restrict wide vehicles passing. However, it remains a potential problem if there is a significant daytime event in the Village Hall bringing cars to that area of the village.

3. I have been trying to replace the timetable displayed at the Village Hall bus stop as this has been damaged by water ingress & is unreadable. Unfortunately the key which Julian Mann obtained cannot now be located & I have been unable to gain access to the timetable case. I have reported this to First Bus and they have promised to deal with this themselves or report it to or SCC.

4. The damaged Perspex pane in the bus shelter on the Ipswich bound side of the Old Felixstowe Road has still not been repaired. This was reported some time ago by the Parish Clerk but, to be fair, it is not too much of a problem.

Marian Rose
2 March 2024