

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER MEETING – JOBS, ECONOMY AND  
TRANSPORT**

**21 October 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PETITION FOR DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TO EXTEND  
LOCAL BUS SERVICE 80 TO INCLUDE LODGE DRIVE,  
WINGERWORTH**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To consider the County Council's response to a petition received requesting the extension of local bus Service 80 to include Lodge Drive, Wingerworth.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

**Background**

A petition was received by the Cabinet Member - Jobs, Economy and Transport on 5 August 2014 (Minute No 119/14 refers), requesting Derbyshire County Council to extend the commercial local bus Service 80, operated by Stagecoach in Chesterfield, to include the Lodge Drive area of Wingerworth.

Until July 2013, Lodge Drive was served by the commercial TM Travel bus Service 95 that operated between Wingerworth and Chesterfield. This Service consisted of three journeys to and from Chesterfield, and was withdrawn by TM Travel because it was operating at a loss and was therefore not commercially viable. This left Lodge Drive with no direct access to a bus service to Chesterfield.

It was resolved that the Cabinet Member – Jobs, Economy and Transport should be asked to investigate the matters raised in the petition.

Under the terms of the 1985 Transport Act, the County Council has to identify socially necessary bus services which are not provided by commercial bus operators. The Act does not set out the level of support required for bus services that are deemed socially necessary. In Derbyshire, 85% of the local bus network is operated commercially, that is to say, funded without subsidy from the local authority.

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### Current Situation

Wingerworth is served by local bus Services 61, 80 and 97A.

- Service 61 provides an hourly daytime service to Clay Cross.
- Service 80 is a half hourly service to Chesterfield and Brimington.
- Service 97A provides evening and Sunday journeys between Alfreton and Chesterfield.

Lodge Drive is served by Service 61 that operates to and from Clay Cross via Lodge Drive and Nottingham Drive in Wingerworth, and enables onwards travel by other services.

For direct travel to Chesterfield, the nearest Service 80 bus stop is half a mile from Lodge Drive on Longedged Lane. This is also the case for the evening and Sunday 97A Service.

Community Transport is also available, provided by CT4TC who operate shopping journeys to Clay Cross on Tuesdays and to Chesterfield and Morrisons supermarket on Fridays.

In order to ascertain what would be required to divert Service 80 as requested, Stagecoach was asked to comment and estimate the cost. The response from its Commercial Director is as follows:

*"The request for an extension of Service 80 could not be achieved within the current running time without other sections of the route being omitted or a much larger loop being put in place. Our view is that this would reduce total patronage of the service as it would become more complicated with some journeys becoming less direct and therefore unattractive.*

*I've also been made aware that we have operated on Nottingham Drive previously, when there was a petition to remove buses."*

### Conclusions

Unfortunately, it is not possible to extend Service 80 as requested by the Wingerworth petitioners. Stagecoach has stated there is no room in existing timetables to accommodate this. To change the timetable would entail either extending or altering the route, both of which Stagecoach say would be detrimental to the service overall and could affect its viability.

Any alternative provision of a direct service to Chesterfield for Lodge Drive would therefore require an additional service.

To provide a bus service to include Lodge Drive would require a new service, similar to the previous Service 95. This would not be viable due to the close proximity of existing bus services which themselves would be adversely affected by an additional service competing for patronage. This would be

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particularly so for Service 61 that is provided by the Council and serves Lodge Drive.

### Local Member Comment

Councillor Barry Lewis has been consulted and has responded as follows:

*I support the idea in this petition. It would, in the grand scheme of things, be a relatively small alteration and, I would assume, subsidy, to ensure a few people, disadvantaged by their location and mobility issues get a service that allows them a degree of independence. In the face of potentially draconian cuts to dial-a-bus and similar services it would seem that there are few options left to meet the needs of our communities."*

(3) **Financial Considerations** The Council must ensure the finite funds are best targeted to provide service provision while being mindful of best value. To provide any additional provision would be similar to the previous unviable Service 95 and would produce limited results, given the close proximity of existing services. Any additional provision would also adversely affect existing services.

(4) **Environmental and Health Considerations** Whilst a direct bus service from Lodge Drive to Chesterfield would give residents greater convenience, for those unable to make their own way the half mile to the existing Service 80, Community Transport is available. There is also the direct availability of Service 61 to Clay Cross.

(5) **Transport Considerations** As set out in the report. It is considered that the actions outlined above should not have any detrimental impact on equalities, race discrimination and crime and disorder.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources and property considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Janet Pickersgill, extension 36734.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

9.1 The request for an extension to Bus Service 80 to include Lodge Drive, Wingerworth should not be pursued.

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9.2 The local Member and lead petitioner be advised accordingly.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**