

## ***“Travel Rights” Recent Developments as at 18 June***


*A campaign to enhance bus services to, and from, Newark*

This research and proposal was developed by Julia Smith, a resident of Goldstraw Lane Fernwood.

### **1. A Great News from the Operators!**

#### **Marshall's**

Nothing is as yet set in stone but there are positive developments in the pipeline. This infographic to the left was posted on Facebook

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| <div data-bbox="129 474 629 563"><b>Fosseway Flyer</b></div> <div data-bbox="188 576 577 598"><b>YOUR ROUTE TO THE HEART OF THE CITY</b></div> <div data-bbox="284 611 483 639"><b><u>Service Changes.</u></b></div> <div data-bbox="129 654 640 691"><p>Since February, the Fosseway Flyer has not been serving Newark Northgate Station due to the Castle Gate roadworks.</p></div> <div data-bbox="129 699 640 798"><p>During this period, we have not had to cancel any journeys, and services have almost all departed Newark on time. Even when there was an accident on the A1 and most of Newark was gridlocked, service 90 never left Newark more than 20 minutes late (by contrast, some of our Grantham buses travelling through Newark that afternoon were delayed by up to two hours).</p></div> <div data-bbox="129 805 640 884"><p>Therefore, we have taken the decision that once the roadworks are complete, the Fosseway Flyer, service 90, will continue to run from the bus station and <b>will no longer call at Newark Northgate Station, Lincoln Road or Bar Gate.</b> For an interim period, the temporary timetable will continue to operate.</p></div> <div data-bbox="129 892 640 928"><p>From Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, a new timetable will come into effect, which will bring additional benefits including:</p></div> <div data-bbox="197 938 640 1098"><p><b>Service 90A will be extended to include Fernwood</b><br/><b>Evening buses from Nottingham will leave later, giving more time to catch the bus after a theatre performance</b><br/><b>Sunday services will extend along London Road through Newark &amp; Balderton to Fernwood, giving Newark a much-needed Sunday bus service.</b><br/><b>A range of new fares designed to offer greater flexibility and value to you, including theatre &amp; event-based discounts.</b></p></div> <div data-bbox="129 1106 640 1184"><p>We appreciate that these changes may cause minor inconvenience to some of our valued passengers for which we apologise but believe these measures will benefit the vast majority by improving the punctuality and reliability of the service.</p></div> <div data-bbox="129 1192 479 1209"><p>Please keep an eye open for more details coming soon.</p></div> | <p>There are changes afoot hopefully starting 2/3<sup>rd</sup> September to provide a commuter service and some Sunday services.</p> <p>Monday to Friday, they're a bit early and rather late coming back but Marshall's have to work around fleet availability and school runs – 06.50 &amp; 07.20; returning 17.40 and 18.20.</p> <p>Sundays the 90A join up with the Nottingham service starting 08.30 every two hours finishing at 18.30 and returning 10.20 every two hours to 20.30</p> <p>Given the timings, the bus can't go around the village as of now but never say never .....and Marshall's says that getting a double decker round is just as feasible as a single!</p> <p><b>Councillor Walker could you try to get us a proper bus stop for the 24 at the Tawny Owl please? There's no signage, it took me 15 minutes to walk over there, the bus was 15 minutes late because of the sewage works in Newark. I had nowhere to sit and no shelter from the elements. Public transport is supposed to support the elderly and disabled who can't be expected to use the one on the other side and then sprint over the road when the 24 comes from Long Bennington. It's not safe to do either as it's a busy road. This bus-stop certainly needs proper facilities &amp; it's not fit for purpose!</b></p> <p>NB: One elderly resident catches the 341 to the Number 24 bus stop when she wants to go to Grantham.</p> |
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#### **Travel Wright**

As a member of the public I also discussed our plight with David Wright and I think both your correspondence and my telephone conversation got him thinking!

I spoke again with him on Thursday of last week and this idea of realigning services and reallocating budget have won over his support. He had a meeting with NCC on Wednesday last and while nothing is set in stone, in principle, services to Northgate station are not going to continue (giving the public good notice) and the budget/fuel costs be reallocated elsewhere. We can expect that we get a minimum of three services per day Monday to Friday and a couple on a Saturday – two morning and returning afternoon – allowing a maximum shopping window of probably three/four hours. It may not be operational until January 2019, but this is much better than existing.

### ***Developers' Levy***

David Wright suggested we investigate where that fund disappeared to that he said existed from DWH to support public transport provision.

### ***Stagecoach number 3***

Ken Tagg at Marshalls suggested I speak with Stagecoach to see if they'd consider extending their Number 3 service which goes to Balderton. I spoke with a really helpful and informed person, Siobhan Belshaw there this morning - she has asked me to email in which I'm going to do, and she will forward and get someone with a decision-making ability to perhaps take this forward.

***The above offers some green shoots of optimism and a genuine willingness by operators to improve the service to reflect our needs. If we can at least improve what we can with all three operators, at a later stage it might be possible to streamline our service!***

## **2. NCC Public Sector Initiative: New scheme set to encourage greener travel in Mansfield – this applies to Newark as well**

On 14 Jun 2018, at 15:36, "Lynn.Preece@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk" <Lynn.Preece@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk> wrote: I think that my colleague Helen Ellison (Health Improvement Officer) knows more about the scheme and I have copied Helen in – in case she can advise further about the Travel Choice Scheme.

Helen called today and said that the scheme has four targets:

- Employers in Newark
- School leavers
- Job Seekers
- Residents

Travel Choices offers to create a travel plan for individuals, so I've asked that she can do one for me hypothetically as I know what the answers are already!

Helen has asked that I send the two Travel Rights docs direct to her, so she can share with colleagues as she says until they are aware of need, they cannot help.

I'll stay in touch with her and see what happens.

## NCC Travel Choices News item

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/newsroom/news/new-scheme-set-to-encourage-greener-travel-in-mansfield>

11 June 2018

Mansfield residents are being offered free travel advice on their doorstep - to encourage more people to use greener transport to help improve air quality, tackle congestion, promote a healthier lifestyle and improve access to job opportunities. The two-year County Council-led scheme, known as Travel Choice, comes on the back of £845,000 funding from the Department for Transport.

Personalised travel plans will be offered to approximately 9,000 households in the Mansfield area with travel advisors out and about in the town from next week ( Tuesday 19 June) asking householders about their travel patterns. On the back of these conversations, householders will be then be sent a free, personalised travel pack full of information, including maps showing local walks and other green travel tips.

Councillor John Cottee, Committee Chairman for Communities and Place, at Nottinghamshire County Council, said: "Encouraging more people to walk, cycle and catch the bus is part of the Council's long-term plan to help promote sustainable transport, improve air quality and the local economy. We know many residents are already doing their bit and improving their fitness by walking, cycling or using the bus – but we hope this free advice will inspire even more people to make small changes – such as leaving their car at home for short journeys, car sharing or trying public transport."

Postcards have recently been delivered within the Mansfield area to let residents know that a travel advisor will be visiting soon. Households have been given the option to 'opt-out' so a travel adviser doesn't call. Similarly, households can of course choose not to take part when a travel advisor visits.

Travel advisors will also be running sessions at local secondary schools and job centres to help advise job seekers and school leavers on their transport options for accessing jobs, apprenticeships or further education. The next sessions for job seekers is planned on 27 June, 10am-2pm at Mansfield Jobcentre Plus.

Local employers will also have the opportunity to get involved as the Travel Choice team is offering a variety of tailored free advice, discounts and benefits to businesses to encourage employees to travel more sustainably for business travel journeys and the commute to work.

ENDS

### ***3. Freedom of information disclosure***

As requested I was asked to enquire under FOI about county council spend on bus services. Here is my email.

"I am a resident of Fernwood Newark and I have noticed a massive disparity in bus services in our area. Under FOI can you advise please on the following:

*1. How is the bus transport budget allocated - is it per head of capita?*

A) The budget is used based on a range of factors but not including per head of capita

Is there weighting to less affluent areas?

A) Current contracts are assessed using a range of criteria, cost, use, availability of alternative transport, car ownership, index of deprivation and other statistics drawn from the National census. Requests for new services can also be assessed using this method.

2. *How much budget is allocated to Fernwood's 341 bus service to Newark?*

A) Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) currently spends £51,600 on the 341 service, this is fully funded by the council.

And then the 67 Newark to Collingham Service?

A) NCC spends £134,800 supporting the 67 route, this includes the cost of school services as part of the contract.

3 what is your sustainable transport policy with regards to buses - I'd prefer the one-page reference not a 100-page read to sift through if you don't mind

A) Information regarding transport strategy is at <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/public-transport/plans-strategies-policies/local-transport-plan#ltps>

4 and lastly for now your policy with regards to travel services and social inclusion

A) as 3, above

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