



Interim Report on various Parishes' responses to Hadleigh Community Transport's request for funding for 461/2 Bus Route

Emails were sent to all the parish Councils who have a stop on the Hadleigh-Stowmarket 461/2 bus routes, canvassing for their response to the request for funding from Hadleigh Community Transport.

There is a stop that is in a parish that does not have a council (Little Finborough), and no email contact details were found for the relevant chair of the parish meeting (at the time the email was sent). So, this parish was not canvassed.

Responses have come back from most of the parishes, and so an interim update seems suitable. Thank you to all who took the time to respond.

The table below details the route stops, the relevant parish, the contact details of the interested parties, whether contact was made, a response given, and a very short synopsis of any such response.

After this table, I include the detailed responses received, in no particular order.

In brief though: there is one council who has said no; a couple who have deliberated post the email and prior to this report, but have not yet sent an update; many who are waiting to see what others do; many who suggest a proportionate grant is possibly in order; and two that have suggested that a meeting of representatives of all effected parishes would be beneficial.

Dave Smith – Clerk to Ringshall Parish Council.

22/11/2019



Route 461

Any struck though email address is a duplicate. Responses etc. will be given against the unstruck through one(s).

Listing are in stop order.

Stop	Council	Email address	Emailed	Response
Ringshall adj Phone Box	Ringshall	pc.ringshall@gmail.com	Yes	In favour, but want to see what others are doing, as feel a coherent response would be best. To discuss again on the 26th Nov
Wattisham, Bus shelter	Ringshall and Great Bricett	pc.greatbricett@outlook.com , pc.ringshall@gmail.com		
Great Bricett, adj Bricett Hall	Great Bricett	pc.greatbricett@outlook.com	Yes	Would like to see what other councils are doing before committing to any action. Considering on 26 th Nov.
Stowmarket, adj Station Road West	Stowmarket TC	davidb@stowmarket.org	Yes	Considered at meeting on 20th November. Will revert with their decision in due course.
Great Finborough, Opp Post Office	Great Finborough	pc@great-finborough.suffolk.gov.uk	Yes	Willing to participate in a meeting between effected parishes, as they feel a



				cohesive approach would be better than lone action.
Buxhall, adj The Crown	Buxhall	buxhallpc@live.co.uk	Yes	No reply as of yet.
Naughton	Nedging with Naughton	pc@nedging-naughton.suffolk.gov.uk	Yes	Initially in favour. Further discussion took place in meeting during week of the 10th Nov.
Cross Green	Wattisham or Hitcham <i>(Not sure which sits in so emailed both)</i>	parishcouncil@hitchamsuffolk.org.uk , spmcd7@yahoo.co.uk	Yes, Yes	No reply from wattisham as of yet.
Hitcham Causeway	Hitcham	parishcouncil@hitchamsuffolk.org.uk	Yes	Yes to funding.
Bildeston	Bildeston	clerk@bildeston.suffolk.gov.uk , councillor.Tuck@bildeston.suffolk.gov.uk	Yes	Made a grant early on. Reconsidering in meeting on 11 th Nov.
Semer Bridge	Semer	pc@semer.suffolk.gov.uk	Yes	No response as of yet
Whatfield	Whatfield	pc@whatfield.suffolk.gov.uk	Yes	No response as of yet.
Elmsett	Elmsett	clerk@elmsett.suffolk.gov.uk	Yes	Offered to host a meeting to discuss.
Aldham	Aldham	aldhamparishclerk@gmail.com	Yes	No reply as of yet.
Hadleigh	Hadleigh	staff@hadleightowncouncil.co.uk	Yes	No reply as of yet.



Route 462

Stop	Council	Email address	Emailed	Response
Hadleigh	Hadleigh TC	staff@hadleightowncouncil.co.uk		
Whatfield	Whatfield	pc@whatfield.suffolk.gov.uk		
Naughton	Nedging with Naughton	pc@nedging-naughton.suffolk.gov.uk		
Great Bricett	Great Bricett	pc.greatbricett@outlook.com		
Wattisham, Bus Shelter	Great Bricett/Ringshall	pc.greatbricett@outlook.com , pc.ringshall@gmail.com		
Ringshall	Ringshall	pc.ringshall@gmail.com		
Battisford	Battisford	clerk@battisfordpc.org.uk	Yes	Discussed on the 19th Nov.
Little Finborough	Little Finborough Parish Meeting	???	No	
Combs	Combs	combsparishcouncil@gmail.com	Yes	Not funding at this time.
Stowmarket	Stowmarket TC	davidb@stowmarket.org		



Detailed responses

Ringshall

Would like to support rural bus services. In favour though of a cohesive response across all effected parishes, and has reached out to this effect. Will be discussing again in meeting on 26th November.

Dave Smith - Clerk

Great Bricett

Would like to see how other effected parishes are responding before committing to any response to HCT. Will be rediscussing on meeting on 26th Nov.

Jennie Blackburn – Clerk

Stowmarket

Stowmarket Town Council will be considering this matter at its Council meeting on Wednesday, 20th November, 2019.

The Council will receive the recommendations of a Task & Finish Group which has been set up to consider the impact of reduction of funding by Suffolk County Council for local bus services and to assess the following options:

Option 1: doing nothing: the default option against which other options should be evaluated.

Option 2: supporting community bus services: could community bus services be better promoted and supported financially in the future around Stowmarket in response to the withdrawal of local bus services?

Option 3: funding local bus services: would it be financially viable for the Town Council to fund local services that a larger local authority is unable to afford and should the Town Council commission and operate local bus services independently, in partnership with others or through a third party?

I will share the decision of our full Council in due course.

David Blackburn - Town Clerk

22/11/2019



Nedging and Naughton

There has been discussion at recent Nedging with Naughton Parish Council Meetings.

It has been established that there is little or no use of the 461 Bus Service by our parishioners. The Council, however, did support continuation of the service and were prepared to consider contributing funding, but only in proportion to potential usage. Initial suggestions put to us were for equal contributions by all parishes, but we are a small parish and would only consider the possibility of a contribution proportionate to annual parish precepts.

Lynn Allum - Clerk

Elmsett

I have also been tasked by my council to arrange a meeting with all concerned parishes to discuss a way forward. I believe that Elmsett would not be against the principle of making a proportionate contribution, providing that all others take a similar view.

Elmsett PC would still be happy to host a meeting if you think it appropriate. I suggest an evening would be better - Mondays are good for us.

Andrea Newman - Clerk

Battisford

Battisford Parish Council meet on the 19th November and I will be able to respond after this date.

Bildeston

I represent Bildeston Parish Council on rural bus service issues. Funding for bus routes 461/462 is on the agenda for our Parish Council meeting on 11 November.

Bildeston is served by the 461 bus route on Monday and Thursday.

22/11/2019



Bildeston agreed to contribute £500 when Hadleigh Community Transport (HCT) requested funding up to the end of March 2020. This of course was not needed when SCC came up with additional funding to cover that period.

HCT are now seeking annual funding of £22,500 from 17 parish/town councils. Divided equally, this amounts to just over £1,300 each. HCT has not explored any other sources of funding, for example, corporate sponsorship. I think this is worth exploring, especially with retailers in Stowmarket.

Bildeston PC is also being asked to contribute approximately £500 towards funding bus route 112, Hadleigh-Sudbury operated by Suffolk Norse.

As you may know, County Councillor Robert Lindsay has requested a meeting with the new SCC cabinet member for Highways, Cllr Andrew Reid with passenger groups for the three bus routes in his division - 112, 461/2 and 120 - which are under threat from subsidy withdrawal.

If you arranging a meeting between Parish Councils along the 461/2 I shall be happy to attend.

Virginia Tuck - Councillor
[Ed. - Robert Lindsay was also copied into this email]

Finborough

Great Finborough are on the end of the route to Stowmarket and have discussed this but with reservations about how effective any lone contribution might be so have consequently done nothing to date. We would definitely be open to reconsider as part of a cohesive approach so please do keep us in the loop.

Paula Gladwell - Clerk

Combs

Combs PC discussed this a while back and I canvassed the only user waiting at the stop in the village that week.

It is our understanding that the bus is only lightly used and the one Combs resident that we know of who uses it is aware of the dial-a-ride scheme but prefers the bus as she can use her free bus pass.

22/11/2019



The Council has not received any representations about the proposed cessation of the route and councillors have concluded that to contribute to funding of it would not be prudent use of council funds.

We appreciate that some villages may have stronger concerns about this and I should be happy to report any views to the Council for further consideration.

Tony Bamber – Clerk

Hitcham

I did not receive their email as it was in response to an initial email by Great Bricett. I currently have no further details than the yes to funding already given above.