

Bus service through Great Casterton

Whilst applauding the efforts of the County Council to resolve the shortfall of buses on the Stamford to Oakham route, Great Casterton Parish Council would like to record its concerns on this matter.

Much has already been written in the newspapers and elsewhere on this subject and we would not wish to repeat those arguments. However the Parish Council would like to emphasise that a regular and reliable rural bus service is an essential part of the quality of life in Rutland. Whilst Rutland is a relatively wealthy county there are people who either cannot afford a car or do not wish to drive one: some of them are elderly, others are young. A significant number of them need to get to work; to school or Further Education College; go shopping; or visit friends in Stamford or Oakham.

There are therefore times of the day outside the peak hours when an adequate, reliable and reasonably frequent service is required. Return services at reasonable hours and a service on Saturdays are also essential. An important point is that the less buses there are the less likely people will utilise them. At present the bus company uses large vehicles on this route, perhaps they should consider the use of smaller and more economical ones. The other half of the route – Stamford to Peterborough has been retained and it too calls at small villages in Cambridgeshire on the way there.

The Parish Council hopes that this important matter can be resolved in the near future.