

CAREBUS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Provided by **C**arebus **V**olunteer **G**roup in the eastern parishes of West Berkshire District



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West Berkshire Council
Council Offices
Market Street
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RG14 5LD

FAO: Peter Walker, Matthew Metcalfe, Louise Martin

WEST BERKSHIRE BSIP

Dear Colleagues,

My latest illness has resulted in the day-to-day running of Carebus being handed over to others (see footer). The silver lining is that I can quietly concentrate on strategic matters like this as Special Adviser.

Firstly, let me say that your BSIP accurately recognises the factual local context and goes on to honestly state a vision of what is and is not possible here when attempting to improve our bus services. We are one of the community transport operators providing car services and group minibus services (with 4 Euro 6 powered vehicles and drivers' own cars) to which the BSIP refers but given the uncertainty of recovering from the decimation by COVID of our group minibus activity, the use of our vehicles and volunteer drivers in the near future could very well be channelled into services like the proven Section 22 route 75.

The BSIP refers to the desirability of links from the villages into Pangbourne and from residential and business areas in Theale village and surrounds to Theale Station and these are elements to which Carebus could give consideration, but as the BSIP also highlights this would require financial input (borne out by the fact that Carebus cross-subsidises route 75 to bridge the gap between costs and concessionary fares).

In conclusion, the submission of this West Berkshire BSIP is endorsed and strongly supported.

Graham Reeves
Special Adviser

President: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Benyon
Group Chair: Mary Jacobs BA, **Secretary:** Anne Woodage, **Finance Manager:** R S Jacobs

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19 October 2021

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