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Please Reply to:  
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May 2 2023

Dear Sirs,

West Hunsbury Parish Council request a meeting with yourselves to discuss a proposal that we have regarding a partial reinstatement of a bus to cover our area.

We have received numerous and continuing requests from our Parishoners to “try and do something” about the total cancellation of the bus service to the majority of West Hunsbury which happened in October 2022. The topography of West Hunsbury, built on the side of a steep hill, does not seem to have been considered when the decision to only have a bus to Dayrell Road, Camp Hill was made. This has caused concerns for many of our residents who are elderly and others with young families who find they are now “cut off” and find it difficult to make the steep climb to Camp Hill to our nearest bus stops with any service.

We would like to propose the following loop:

An extension of the existing bus route so instead of turning right into Dayrell Road, but to continue to the 2<sup>nd</sup> mini roundabout and turn right into Hunslett Lane, continue onward turning left onto Ladybridge Drive, follow this though to the roundabout junction on Towcester Road, turn left and head to the junction with Hunsbury Hill Road and return to Dayrell road and resume the service. (See attached map)

- The proposed loop is 2.5miles long. (4.02km)
- 2 loops = 1 gallon of fuel (based on ratio of 4-6MPG on Single decker and Hybrids at 8-10MPG)
- There are 7 existing bus stops along the proposed route therefore utilising existing shelters that provide resting seats for people to use while waiting.
- This route would take approx. 20 minutes (stop allowance of 2 mins per stop + onward travel)
- Operating costs for route £4.03 to £4.25 per mile (Source DFT Public Vehicle Operating Survey: revenue per KM Eng 2021-2023 BUS 04gi\_mi and table BUS04ci\_mi : costs include admin & depreciation)

We are not a rural community but part of Northampton Conurbation and feel this too should be considered.

What this route would mean to all the people of West Hunsbury is:

- Ability to get into town especially for those without a car.

- Access to GP surgery, dentists, chemists, post office, Schools, St Benedicts Church, the Abbey Centre, Library, local shop and wider bus links from Tesco.
- Safer access to work and schools.
- The elimination of a steep hill climbs for all but especially the elderly, infirm and young parents with toddlers.
- Prevent more car travel and therefore reduce fuel carbon emissions in our area as people resort to other means.

We note that the advertising slogan on the rear of your buses asks for people to “use the bus and ditch the car” this would be impossible to do here in West Hunsbury at this moment in time!

Moving forward we hope you will agree to our proposal which we believe is much more realistic and meets everyone's needs. We suggest that you consider our request favourably and as a necessity for the residents of West Hunsbury. It would make sense for us to have a meeting with yourselves to fully discuss all possibilities /permutations.

We await your response.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Young

**Clerk, West Hunsbury Parish Council**

Proposed Bus route Extension.

The arrow shows the route and bus direction.

The bus currently comes and returns to Briar Hill.

The route shown links to same entry and leaving points and incorporates all of West Hunsbury.

