



**DT11 FORUM**  
community partnership

From: Mr. Martin (Nic) Nicol  
Chairman: Transport Action Group

5 Nightingale Court  
Blandford Forum  
Dorset  
DT11 7E

Tel:  
Fax:  
E-mail:

23 September 2013

Cllr. Spencer Flower  
Chairman  
Dorset County Council,  
County Hall,  
Colliton Park,  
Dorchester,  
DT1 1XJ

## **RESPONSE TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SUBSIDISED LOCAL BUS NETWORK IN DT11**

The DT11 Community Partnership Transport Action Group (TAG) met in Blandford on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013 to consolidate a coordinated response to the proposed changes to the subsidised local bus network in the DT11 area. Our detailed recommendations are contained at Annex A. A list of the organisations and individuals who took part in the meeting is at Annex B.

The TAG concluded that - as a minimum - a bus service must be provided at least once a week from villages into the nearest town. Removal of this basic service will deny those who are unable to drive access to hospitals, doctors' surgeries, shops and leisure facilities, and is unacceptable. The meeting was highly critical of the accuracy of the statistics in the survey conducted by DCC earlier this year. The numbers are well below those reported by bus champions in DT11 villages. We believe that a survey should be conducted over a longer period utilising the expertise of local residents.

We look to you and Dorset MPs to fight for the retention of bus services in Dorset without which our villages and towns will continue to decline. The public transport services available in rural areas provide a very poor return on local and central government taxation compared with the services available to those who live in urban conurbations and cities. The social, economic, welfare, health and political benefits of public transport services for those who have no other means of transport are well known. We have summarised the issues most import to our villagers at Annex C.

Yours sincerely,

Nic Nicol  
Chairman  
Blandford Transport Action Group



**DT11 FORUM**  
community partnership

From: Mr. Martin (Nic) Nicol  
Chairman: Transport Action Group

5 Nightingale Court  
Blandford Forum  
Dorset  
DT11 7E

Tel:  
Fax:  
E-mail:

23 September 2013

Attachments:

Annexure A: Response to proposed reductions to subsidised local bus services in the DT11 area  
Annexure B: List of those who contributed to th

Copy to  
Robert Walter MP  
David Coates DCC Transport (email)  
John Cummings (email)