

## Connectivity & Getting Around

Some Transport Matters

John Boal 3 September 2014

This contribution should be seen as a supplement to John Haskey's (JH) "Transport Services" paper, with a view of the bus operator's "position".

While Findon has two good Worthing bus services, these are almost entirely commercially based. However since May, I believe through SDNP support, the Sunday #1 service (which used to terminate at Pulborough) has been extended to Midhurst, with a new connection service to/from Petersfield – both of them "main" urbanisations within the SDNP!

The commercial nature of the #1 & #23 service has meant that operator are very sensitive to sharing service statistics, and WSCC claim to have none - though they are funding concession travel. Nevertheless, Compass have sent data for the #23 Sunday & Bank Holiday service for the year July 2013 to 2014 comprising a total of 684 bus journeys of which 60% were concession fares. In the year, 486 outbound and 284 inbound Findon passengers were carried, being slightly over 1% of the total Worthing/Horsham passengers carried. Proportionate extrapolation to the weekday services may be inappropriate; in any event it seems likely that Findon will not carry much weight in campaigning for operator service improvements. Such as:

This Compass Sunday service is shared with the #1 service meaning that the two services (12 returns trips) provide, Findon, a hourly service **from** Worthing to Midhurst & Horsham on alternate hours. However, **to** Worthing (from Horsham & Midhurst) the two separate services, arrive/leave Findon 5 minutes apart, at 2 hourly intervals. This; is far from satisfactory!

Mon-Sat there is an absence of evening services, which impairs village(r) access and SDNP ingress & egress especially at weekends. Encouraging access to the village, its services, and the SDNP, calls for improvements.

@ [http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk/se/XSLT\\_TRIP\\_REQUEST2?language=en&timeOffset=15](http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk/se/XSLT_TRIP_REQUEST2?language=en&timeOffset=15) use of the "More" button, & "times from my stop" option can get a complete printable timetable (see Nephcote Corner "South" attachment). Note inclusion of the Mon&Wed R4 to Rustington Sainsbury's, and Mon X2 to Holmbush Tesco. Such a complete, yet compact, timetable could be included in the Findon News from time to time. See JH's "15"

Arun Co-Ordinated Community Transport, <http://arun-cct.org/index.html> & 01903 723584, a charity that operates shopping, dial-a-ride & mini-bus services focussed on Littlehampton & Arundel, currently have a Findon resident driver! They can provide a round trip Findon to Worthing hospital, inclusive of 90 minutes waiting time for £14. Where there are 6 or 7 participants "trips out", for those unable to use buses, and subject to acquiring an additional Findon area driver, might also be arranged. See JH's also "12" & "13". "14"

See JH's "9" & "10": Withdrawal of National Express (NE). In the continuing absence of the NE coach service to London **via Findon**, the #23 service might be extended to Gatwick through Crawley, providing more direct access to extensive NE coach and rail services, rather travelling via Worthing. On this topic Metrobus recognises the possibility, but today it is fraught with poor business case issues, however they do not rule it out in future. Also #23 Horsham & train OR #1 Pulborough & train are other alternatives to NE & rail from Worthing for points north.

Finally on "Transport" my FoI enquiry regarding WSCC's data on traffic in and around Findon, plus any "models" of traffic flows within the village, still awaits a response.