



PRESS RELEASE

Support for Bus Services

Stone Town Council has secured a replacement bus service to help residents isolated by the withdrawal of former D&G bus routes.

The Council are sponsoring a three month trial of four, once a week services between the town centre and each of the Aston Lodge, Stonefield, Walton and Cherryfields areas. The services are planned to start on Friday 19th October (Aston Lodge and Walton) and Tuesday 23rd October (Stonefield and Cherryfields) 2018.

The services will be operated in conjunction with Community Link Stafford & District. Travellers will need to become members of the organisation before they can travel, for which Community Link will make a modest charge. Applications forms for membership are available from the Town Council, and will need to be sent back to Community Link in good time for them to be able to return membership cards. Details of timings, stops, travelling arrangements and charges will be provided with the application forms.

Councillor Rob Kenney, Chairman of the Council's General Purposes Committee said: *"I'm pleased to be able to confirm that service details have now been finalised. I would encourage travellers to return their application forms to Community Link as soon as possible so that they can take full advantage of the service during the trial period."*

ENDS

9th October 2018

NOTE FOR EDITORS: Copies of the scheme "questions and answers" and timetables are attached

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Stone Town Council

Bus Services to Town Centre

Scheme Guide - Questions and Answers

What services are being operated?

One service per week is being operated from each of the Cherryfields, Stonefield, Walton and Aston Lodge areas. Details of timings and stops are attached.

Who is operating the service?

The service has been organised and paid for by Stone Town Council. It is operated by Community Link Stafford and District, who are an experienced community transport provider. Buses will be able to be recognised by distinctive signs containing the logos of both organisations.

How much will it cost to travel on the service?

The service will cost £2.00 per single journey, which will be collected by the driver when you board the bus. Concessionary passes will not be accepted. Children under 16 will not be charged.

Who will be able to travel on the service?

The service will be open to anyone aged 16+ who are members of Community Link, plus children under 16 who are accompanied by a member. No-one without a membership card will be permitted to travel unless they are a child accompanied by a member.

How do I become a member of Community Link?

Membership will cost £7.00 per full or part year, and a passport photo will need to be provided. Application forms are available from the Town Council or from Community Link, and should be returned direct to Community Link at the address on the form. Please note that you will be unable to use the service until you have a valid membership card.

I use a wheelchair, will I be able to take advantage of the service?

Yes, but you will need to contact Community Link on 01785 252050 by the day prior to the service operating to ensure that they use a suitably adapted bus. Only one wheelchair can be accommodated per bus, the space for which will be reserved on a "first come, first served basis". Unless they have been notified of the need to accommodate a wheelchair, Community Link will use a non-adapted minibus, which cannot accommodate wheelchairs, as it will hold more passengers.

Can I reserve a seat on the bus?

Other than as provided above for wheelchair users, use of the service will be on a "first come, first served" basis. This will be reviewed by the Town Council if the service is regularly oversubscribed.

What will happen after the three month trial period?

This depends on usage of the service within the trial. If the service is well used, then the Council will continue to fund it into the future. Some or all of the service may be withdrawn or re-arranged after the trial if it is less well used.

Tuesday

Stone Route 2: Stonefield

Time In	Stop	Return
10.00	Oulton Wheatsheaf	13.00
10.05	Princes St/Queens St.	12.53
10.08	The Pheasant Inn	12.50
10.11	Mount Rd/Mount Ave	12.48
10.13	End of Mount Crescent	12.45
10.25	Crown Street	12.30
10.30	Granville Square	12.35

Stone Route 4: Cherryfields

Time In	Stop	Return
10.45	Valley Rd opposite Bloomfield Close	14.05
10.49	Redwood Avenue opposite Cedars Drive	14.01
10.52	Redwood Avenue /The Willows	13.58
10.55	Valley Rd/Greenway Avenue	13.55
10.58	Valley Rd/Ashdale Close	13.52
11.05	Stafford Rd opposite Walton Grange	13.45
11.15	Crown Street	13.20
11.20	Granville Square	13.25

NOTE: All timings are approximate

Friday

Stone Route 1: Aston Lodge

Time In	Stop	Return
10.00	Opposite Ullswater Drive	13.00
10.03	Springwood Drive	12.57
10.10	Esso Service station, Lichfield Road	12.50
10.12	Lichfield Rd (opposite St Michaels Mount)	12.48
10.15	Priory Rd, Jervis Rd	12.45
10.18	Priory Rd, opposite Elm Road	12.42
10.25	Crown Street	12.30
10.30	Granville Square	12.35

Stone Route 3: Walton

Time In	Stop	Return
10.45	Whitemill Lane , by St Vincent Rd	13.50
10.49	Walton Way	13.46
10.51	Meadow Way	13.45
10.52	Opposite Stuart North Close	13.44
10.54	Post box on corner of Meadow Way	13.42
10.58	Opposite Stuart Close	13.38
11.02	Redfern Drive	13.34
11.04	School on Beacon Rise	13.32
11.10	Opposite shops on Eccleshall Rd	13.25
11.15	Crown Street	13.20
11.20	Granville Square	13.25

NOTE: All timings are approximate