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Attn: Mr Mathew Taylor (Chairman)

11 April 2017

Dear Mr Taylor

**Re: Proposed Withdrawal of the X16 Bus service**

Thank you for your letter dated 29th March 2017, in which you request further clarification on a number of aspects relating to the proposed withdrawal of the X16 bus service that currently serves the village of Marshfield.

In your letter you state that no formal consultation has been undertaken with the village at large. However, I can confirm that officers of the council attended the public meeting arranged by Marshfield Community Council held on the 17th January 2017 and all comments raised at that meeting were noted to inform the decision making process.

The meeting was well attended by 34 residents and all were encouraged to respond to the Councils budget consultation. The report submitted by the Community Council at the meeting was included in full within the Cabinet Report in February as it detailed the issues and concerns that the community had on the proposal.

Responses to the budget consultation from the Marshfield ward were the second highest number of responses (27 by ward) across the city. This in itself indicates a good level of awareness within the community.

There was a wide range of responses to the consultation which are detailed below:

- Some views suggested that only commercially viable bus services should be run and the Council should not subsidise non-profitable services.
- Some responses referred to the alternative rail and bus services which serve some areas on the route e.g. Rogerstone
- Some responses were concerned that the service runs to Cardiff rather than Newport city centre and suggested that Newport does not get the benefit of the subsidy
- Responses suggested that public transport services are necessary to reduce congestion and reduce air pollution and so have a wider benefit to the local population and environment

- Impacts on pupils who regularly use the service from Marshfield to Bassaleg School
- Impacts on older residents and disabled people from Marshfield who cannot access the alternative services which stop on the A48
- Limitations of the 'on demand' service which serves Marshfield but must be booked in advance

From the general public consultation 139 people were in agreement with the proposal to reduce bus services in Marshfield (68.5% of the responses for this proposal) and 52 comments were received mostly expressing opposition to the proposal.


In terms of raising awareness of the budget consultation, Newport Matters gave notice that consultation would be taking place in both the November and January edition. Additionally, all Community Councils were contacted through One Newport e-mail communications during the course of the consultation requesting their participation and promotion.

I can confirm that notice has not yet been served on the operator delivering the X16 service, until we conclude discussions with the Community Council and residents, and the exploration of all opportunities that may have the capacity to deliver an effective and sustainable alternative service.

This includes a number of options, such as the registration of the enhanced "Demand Responsive (DRT)" service, which will include a transport link to the 30 service to both Cardiff and Newport, together with stops requested by residents at St Mellons to facilitate health care. Please be assured that all potential opportunities are being explored to ensure we procure the most effective service possible. As soon as we have finished this process, the Council will undertake further engagement with Marshfield residents to update on the current position.

As you will be aware, the Welsh Local Government Elections will be held on 4th May 2017. As stated in my previous correspondence, I am therefore unable to confirm the attendance of the Cabinet Member at the meeting on the 12th May 2017. However, I will ensure that an officer representative of the Council contacts you to agree ongoing communication with the Community Council and residents.

Yours sincerely



Mrs B Owen  
Strategic Director – Place