

TRANSPORT REPORT - HIGHWAYS - 25TH OCTOBER 2017

Bus shelters in Stansted:

There are several bus shelters in Stansted that are in need of attention. Some are without timetables, and some that need actual attention to their infrastructure and one or two need attention in both of these areas.

In May of this year, Joy Thomas and myself received letters requesting information concerning any damaged bus shelters that we might have in Stansted. We duly replied stating our concerns regarding several shelters.

After sending many emails requesting information as to why we hadn't received any replies to our concerns, and as to why any of the work needed to be done had not yet been carried out, we have at last, in October 2017, had a reply to our requests!

It appears that our emails have been passed from one person to another, and nothing has been put in place for our work needed on the said bus shelters to be actioned! Due to this situation, we will now have to wait many more months for this much needed work to be carried out.

We have received apologies for the above, but as there is only one workman who deals with infrastructure, regarding bus shelters, in the whole of Essex, our needs will have to wait!

Bus Route 7/7a:

We have received many complaints regarding the running of the "Trusty Buses", owned by "Galleon Transport". These complaints vary from the general state of the bus, its lateness, to the way in which the bus is driven.

Ray Franklin, who is the transport representative for Elsenham, has been very helpful in contacting Galleon Transport, stating the concerns of passengers using these "new" buses. Galleon has replied that they have taken over the route at very short notice, when ACME, the previous provider, decided that, due to lack of funds needed to keep the 7/7a bus up and running, they could no longer sustain the route.

Some of the problems that have been reported concerning the Trusty Buses, are due to "unavoidable" circumstances, such as, having to wait at the Elsenham level crossing for a long time, this tends to result in lateness. Due to being late the driver then tries to make up his time by driving somewhat faster than he should. Of course this is not good and the drivers have been advised not to take this action. Also, some of the Trusty buses are very long and are not really suitable for our narrow roads, this makes manoeuvring the bus rather difficult at times. The fact that the area that the 7/7a covers has been dogged with road closures and diversions, has given rise to other problems as well.

In conclusion, we have at least got a provider who is willing to try and keep the 7/7a bus route going, despite problems, and if we complain too much, we might be in danger of losing the route altogether.

Valerie and Joy