

Item 6 – Bus service provision and access to medical services

Possible representations:

Ms Josephine Osbourne
Councillor Lynne Stagg

Written representations:

Councillor Peter Eddis sent the following to all members of Portsmouth City Council on 22 October.

Following concerns raised by HOSP members at their last meeting please all note agenda item 6 for the meeting this Thursday 25 Oct is dealing with bus services to medical facilities, particularly but not exclusively QA, so also including St Marys, St James and medical centres.

The General Manager of First bus and the Commercial director of Stagecoach are attending to answer questions. It would help our debate enormously if all Ward Councillors can feed in any concerns from their residents to democratic services, copy me. If relevant, deputations from residents or Councillors will be welcome. Please note our discussion will be strictly limited to services, or lack of, to medical facilities from the City and SE Hampshire.

The following comments have been received in response:

Councillor Darren Sanders Baffins ward

The main problem people in the Baffins and Copnor parts of Baffins ward face is that, as far as we can see, there will be no direct bus from Baffins and Milton Roads to the QA. This is unlike the 1C, which currently does go to QA.

This was raised at the recent Milton forum, where Danny Johnstone of PCC said this would mean people in Baffins would have to change at Cosham to get to QA. This raises issues of people having to pay twice to go to hospital, unless through ticketing occurs.

This is a significant concern for local people, several of whom have approached me worried that the changes will mean further cuts to services. I do not believe them but, as many people affected by these changes are elderly, it remains an issue.

The direct link to St Mary's and St James' on the 13 bus is a bonus for people living in south Baffins and north Milton and I want reassurances that this will stay.

I cannot be there in person due to work commitments, but thought it sensible to raise these issues now.

Councillor Luke Stubbs
Eastney & Craneswater ward

Only to say that my concern is at night, when anyone wanting to go into the city will have to change at Hilsea (I think).

Councillor Hugh Mason
St Jude ward

The concerns which I have had raised with me about the new timetables for buses to and from QA are:

1. Although the 2 will run to QA, the 7, which runs from the southern part of Southsea, only runs as close as the end of Southwick Hill Road, which makes it a stiff walk for the elderly or infirm into QA.
2. The last bus from QA on the 2 route will be as early as 6.38pm on weekdays and 5.36 pm on Sundays which will mean that people visiting relatives in hospital in the late afternoon or early evening will have to change at Hilsea or Cosham, at additional cost.
3. The earliest route 7 from Southsea shopping centre to QA on a Sunday is 9.19am which is late for people who need to go to work at the hospital - even on weekdays the earliest 7 will be forty minutes later than the present route 3.
4. The fact that the 2 will link both to St Mary's Hospital and QA has been generally welcomed.

Item 6 – Bus service provision and access to medical services

Melissa Seeley
Staff Nurse, QAH

Issues are as follows;

There will be no bus service from the hospital after 18:30Hr if the new amendments take place. Staff need to walk to Cosham to catch the bus home.

- Bearing in mind that evenings during winter time are cold and dark.
- Weather could be unpredictable during this time of the year
- Most of the staff finished after 8pm and myself after 9pm as well as the rest of (the team). Walking from QA to Cosham will be a few minutes. And we are expected to be back to work again by 07:30Hr

I don't drive and my means to come to work is through the bus service. It will surely affect me and it has caused me a great worry in the past couple of weeks. And to be honest it crossed my mind to change profession. I do love my job and it gives me great pleasure helping patients.

There has been a petition going around and if you want me to trace a copy and send it to you, please let me know.

Thank you so much for hearing me out and I believed that the rest of the population affected of the changes would be grateful as well.

