



Bus Action Group  
Greystoke  
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Cumbria  
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27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### **An open letter regarding the Keswick to Penrith x4/x5 bus service**

As the tendering and procurement process for the increased x4/x5 service between Keswick and Penrith gets underway, I am writing this open letter on behalf of the Greystoke Bus Action Group to ask that the new schedule includes a detour through the villages of Greystoke and Motherby; with Newbiggin as an additional consideration.

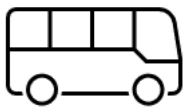
Some key facts:

1. This is a commercially viable route. There are 470 houses in Greystoke, 56 in Motherby and a further 120 houses plus 300 lodges in Newbiggin (Dacre). We calculate this equates to a total of approximately 1500 potential passengers.
2. There are around 80 businesses along this route, the vast majority with employees numbering between 2 and 50 staff. House prices are high in these villages and local business owners need public transport to help recruit and retain staff.
3. Of the 80 businesses, 2/3<sup>rds</sup> are tourism related, attracting visitors all year round.
4. Creating a 4 mile round detour off the A66, running through Motherby, Greystoke and Newbiggin is possible. The roads linking these villages are largely dual lane and straight.
5. Running every alternate bus through Motherby, Greystoke and Newbiggin; then through Stainton, Rheged and Penruddock would maximise volume of passengers and create a commercially viable service.
6. The children catching a bus to Keswick school would only pay £2 per journey, making it more likely they would choose this service.
7. The Bus Action Group meetings have a high attendance, and even high wider support, including from the parish council. This is due in part to our successful media event and subsequent appearance on ITV Border news. The people living and working in these villages are committed to using a bus if it were available

We have created route options and uploaded them to the <https://www.transport.greystokevillage.co.uk/route-options/> page and representatives of the Bus Action Group would be very happy to come and present this and supporting information / evidence to any interested party.

Yours sincerely,

Pam Wood, on behalf of the Bus Action Group



***Bus Action Group***