

Request for a scheduled bus service

Background

The villages of Greystoke, Motherby and Newbiggin have been without a frequently run, scheduled bus service for over 18 years. During this time there has been an increase both in population size (including those between the ages of 18 and 65) and in the number of businesses in and around the villages.

Story Homes have recently completed a new development of 40 homes within Greystoke village, the properties have been purchased by a mix of young families and retirees locating to the area.

To this end, a Bus Action Group has been established, led by people living in these villages. The volume of attendance at these monthly meetings has been high, with a great deal of support for using a service, should it be established.

Over the past six months, members of the Bus Action Group have considered the various options available to them for accessing transport; their strong preference is for a timetabled bus service that will connect people living in these villages with the towns of Penrith and Keswick.

Considerations on route options

This will be a commercial decision, however the group have given a great deal of thought to what people in these villages would welcome and use and so we outline them here:

1. What the group would **not** wish to see happen would be any disruption to the service that those living in Penruddock currently benefit from and use.
2. Whilst the group have made best efforts to engage with people living in Newbiggin, there still is no clarity what service the majority of people living in that village would like to see.

Newbiggin has a significant development of holiday homes, with over 300 lodges and therefore potentially a lot of passengers, however this route would add extra running time through the 30mph village and still run past the Skirsgill roundabout, which is known to get very congested.

Running a bus through Newbiggin would also mean missing out on the Gillwilly estate, the Omega proteins factory and Castletown, the high employment areas would generate passengers.

Trial Period

If a service could be provided on a trial basis for a period of two years, this would allow time for habits to change. Should this proposal be accepted, the focus of the Bus Action Group will shift from asking for a bus, to publicising it, encouraging people to use it and to make sure the trial period is so successful the bus provider will make the service permanent.