

PEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Working for Pembury People



Kent County Council
FREEPOST BUS SAVINGS

5 April 2022

Dear Sirs

Bus Funding Reduction Consultation

I am sending this to you on behalf of Pembury Parish Council, following a resolution passed at last night's Full Council meeting and in relation to the above consultation and the proposal to withdraw substantial subsidies from the bus services serving the village of Pembury.

The Council wishes to make the following points:

1. Withdrawing the subsidies per se will adversely affect many residents in this village and in our view is the wrong way to be going about things.
2. To achieve the Government's target of "Net Zero" for climate change purposes, we believe that the County Council, along with all other councils in Kent, need to encourage residents to walk and use bicycles when they can, rather than cars and to use the public transport system.
3. If more residents use public transport rather than their private cars, road wear and tear will decrease; there will be fewer potholes etc. and the County Council will in the long term save on its highways expenditure. Clearly, it will also cut down on emissions, especially if the buses running are smaller than at present and electric powered.
4. We accept that running expensive double-decker buses through the village with few, if any, passengers is not financially sustainable.
5. We believe that the County Council needs to encourage more people to use the bus services and would suggest that for this to happen the services need to be:
 - (a) Frequent
 - (b) Flexible
 - (c) Reasonably priced
 - (d) To run at times when residents evidence demand and to destinations where residents want to travel.

6. That it is no good running bus services which were designed for the beginning of the 20th century, and which are no longer fit for purpose in the 21st century.
7. That the Council needs to persuade the bus companies to run smaller buses on some services; to upgrade buses to modern standards and to use electric powered vehicles; that they should consider flexible models, such as "dial a ride" and that the services need to take full advantage of new technologies that are now available and to be creative in their approach.
8. That the County Council needs a true integrated transport policy, rather than looking at individual areas in isolation.
9. Pledges to support and work with the County Council in designing such a system not only for this village, but which can be replicated in many other towns and villages throughout the County.

Yours faithfully,



Helen Munro
Clerk, Pembury Parish Council