

16 JANUARY 2019

COMMUNITY BUS UPDATE

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 This report updates the Town Council on the latest position and next steps.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council's round-Bridport bus service, Service 7 operated by First Wessex, has been running since August 2018. A trial period of six months was extended to twelve at the last Committee meeting, with an option to extend further to the end of Summer 2019. This was to allow for changes to the bus route and timetable to encourage more passengers.

2.2 Although the service is valued by those who use it, passenger statistics as reported at the last meeting need to improve if the service is to demonstrate community benefit.

3.0 UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

3.1 The stakeholder working group met in November and has liaised by email since then to develop a revised route and timetable, with the main aims being:

- More regular visits to the town centre and Morrisons
- Shorter journey times to the town centre
- Addition of the Hospital to the route
- Removal of parts of the route that are not well used or are difficult for the bus to negotiate

3.2 A revised route as shown at Appendix A in effect breaks the round-town journey into three sections:

- a) Bradpole/St Andrews Road/Sea Road North/Jessopp Avenue/Town Centre
- b) Allington/North Allington/Town Centre
- c) Bothenhampton/Morrisons/Skilling/Town Centre

3.3 The route no longer includes West Bay, as this appears to be adequately served by the existing X53 bus service.

3.4 The new route and timetable provides for alternating circular routes around sections (a) and (c), and then (b) and (c). This enables the bus to visit the town centre more frequently, and reduces the longest journey times to the town centre by up to half an hour.

3.5 The route and timetable have been submitted to First Wessex for registration with the Traffic Commissioner and is planned to take effect by the end of February 2019.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

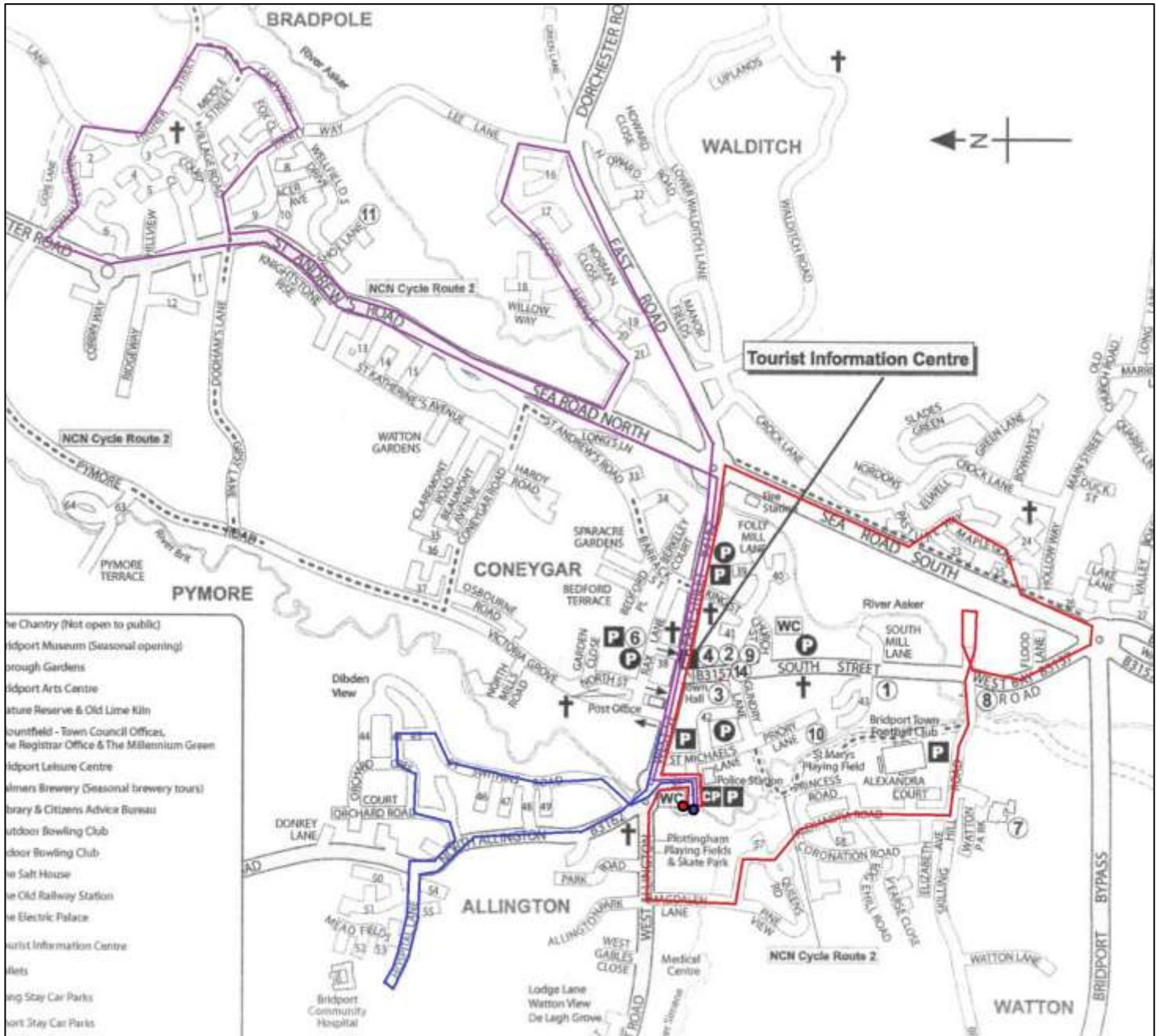
4.1 The Town Council allocated £15,000 in its revenue budget for 2018/19 and 2019/20 to support the community bus project. Bradpole PC has contributed £1,100, and Allington PC has agreed £250.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Committee is asked to note the update shown above.

9 January 2019

Will Austin
Town Clerk



- the Chantry (Not open to public)
- Bridport Museum (Seasonal opening)
- Wotton Gardens
- Bridport Arts Centre
- Nature Reserve & Old Lime Kiln
- Wottonfield - Town Council Offices, the Registrar Office & The Millennium Green
- Bridport Leisure Centre
- Womersley Brewery (Seasonal brewery tours)
- Library & Citizens Advice Bureau
- Indoor Bowling Club
- Indoor Bowling Club
- De Lash House
- Wotton Old Railway Station
- Wotton Electric Palace
- Tourist Information Centre
- Cafes
- Long Stay Car Parks
- Short Stay Car Parks

Appendix A