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PENTYRCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL



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Cardiff Council

By Email: consultation@cardiff.gov.uk

December 8 2021

Dear Sirs,

Cardiff Bus Strategy Consultation

First, we note that it was disappointing that this consultation uses a totally different portal to all other Cardiff surveys and was not widely communicated.

That said, PCC welcomes the proposals contained in the Strategy, but would like a better understanding of how the key themes will be applied to meet the needs of the PCC area.

The community's dissatisfaction with bus services in the PCC villages of Gwaelod y Garth, Pentyrch, Creigiau and Capel Llanilltern is of many years' standing. PCC residents need ready access to a better, well-integrated and affordable transport network - the question is how and when will these proposals be delivered for the PCC area?

At the start of 2021 there were some 2,734 properties in the PCC area. This will increase by about a further 2,100 under the current LDP: an approximate 76% increase. This NW part of Cardiff has extremely high private car use already and urgently needs fast, reliable, and affordable public transport.

Under the new Strategy will the villages of Pentyrch, Creigiau, Gwaelod-y-Garth and Capel Llanilltern have easy access to a frequent and reliable public transport system which links to the proposed major transport hubs at Taffs Well, Junction 33, and to the North West Cardiff Metro route?

Will there be links to the key destinations of the UHW and the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, to the shops and essential services at Whitchurch, health services and train station at Radyr, and to the City Centre? Regular public transport will be needed for people to reach the proposed new GP surgery at Rhydlafer.

PCC would welcome a meeting to discuss the Strategy with Cardiff's transport team, so that we can provide local knowledge and input into how the Strategy is developed for the benefit of all residents. Understanding that our communities appear close on maps but are separated by long steep hills and narrow roads without pavements is essential.

The matter is urgent as the current bus/public transport service to the area is very poor and we ask that a meeting be arranged as soon as possible.

Some further detailed comments on the current bus services and some opportunities for improvement are given below:

Rover tickets, Cardiff Bus: These tickets are not recognised on the Stagecoach buses that service the PCC community. This means that local residents have to pay considerably more to travel to and from their homes and with a much less frequent service.

Evening bus services: Route 136 (Pentyrch & Creigiau) last leaves Cardiff at 18.15 and route 122 (Cardiff – Llandaff - Creigiau) last leaves Cardiff at 20.23. This means that any local person visiting Cardiff at night must use a car.

LDP modal split: NW Cardiff needs a far better bus service if the reliance on cars is to decrease and the LDP modal split targets are to be approached, let alone reached.

Proposed bus routes:

PCC area to City Centre: It would be reasonable for Cardiff to consider a bus running as follows every half hour: Pentyrch village loop - Creigiau village loop - Rhydlafer - Llandaff - City Centre. And then: City Centre - Llandaff - Rhydlafer - Creigiau - Pentyrch. This would provide the transport link to the proposed new Pentyrch Surgery site, serve the growing number of residents on developments along the A4119, reduce the communities' reliance on cars and greatly improve travel for those without cars.

Proposed local circular bus route: Pentyrch, Creigiau, Capel, Rhydlafer, Radyr Station and Gwaelod y Garth y Garth, Pentyrch. This route would provide:-

- A service for residents, particularly those from Pentyrch, but also from Creigiau and the new Capel Llanilltern village to and from the proposed surgery at Rhydlafer.
- A service to and from the rail link at Radyr train station. This would also apply to Gwaelod y Garth residents. By being DDA compliant it may serve the needs of elderly residents from Gwaelod y Garth who have difficulty accessing Taffs Well train station on foot.
- Residents in Gwaelod y Garth cannot reach Cardiff directly by bus: they have to change at Whitchurch
- Such a service could integrate with a wider transport strategy linked to the Metro and perhaps link to the Park and Ride facility at Junction 33 on the M4.

City-wide, PCC considers it essential that there are smooth public transport connections within the city and across the region including park and ride interchanges on the M4.

The urgent need for cleaner air means that electric buses running in smart bus corridors can help to reduce emissions while providing a better public service.

The drop in road traffic during school holidays shows the importance of school transport that is cheap and easy for children to use to reduce reliance on cars.

PCC considers that fast, clean, reliable, and affordable public transport is key to making the capital city of Wales a better place to live.

We look forward to hearing from you about arrangements to meet.

Yours faithfully,

Helena Fox

Clerc i Cyngor Cymuned Pentyrch
Clerk to Pentyrch Community Council

CC: Cllr Gavin Hill-John