



Anderton Parish Council

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Re: Scrutiny Consultation on Public Transport Services in Chorley

Sirs,

I write in response to your request for parish views on public transport services in Chorley Borough. I presume that this is primarily aimed at bus services but I will include comments about local rail services also.

Generally we in Anderton enjoy a very good and frequent north/south bus service (Stagecoach Service 125) that runs between Preston and Bolton and utilizes the A673 which is our main road through the parish. Daytime frequency is 10 minutes and evenings 30 minutes.

From time to time we receive questions from the more outlying areas of our parish about the possibility of a more limited, but more local bus service. In the past we have proposed the idea of a possible 'Adlington Circular' route and more recently suggested the extension of the 3/3A Service from Lower Adlington to take in Grimeford Lane, New Road, Major Bottoms and Babylon Lane. Unfortunately neither LCC nor Stagecoach felt they were in a position to support or fund even a limited trial of such a route.

We still think that a local area interlinking bus service would be worth a trial and ought to be of benefit to our residents for visiting local services and facilities. As a parish council we may be prepared to contribute to the cost of a limited trial but due to our small precept it is unlikely we could enter into any long term support/partnership agreement.

It may also be worth mentioning that some time ago we had the X61 express service to Manchester going through our parish which some people found very useful. It made a useful alternative to the train which recently, with the many disruptions to local rail services, would have been very welcome. Unfortunately owing to lack of passenger numbers apparently, the service was regrettably discontinued.

In respect of rail services you will be aware that our 'local' railway station is Adlington although with the new housing developments to the south of our parish, near the Horwich boundary, Blackrod is also a viable alternative to some of our residents. Indeed, through other initiatives we are trying to pursue the possibility of linking our existing public footpath network to Blackrod station with the ultimate aim of providing residents and visitors with alternative options and potentially reducing local car use. It may also be noted that Blackrod lies within the Greater Manchester area of travel where a different rail fare regime operates.

Regular train service frequency from Adlington is generally on an hourly basis with a slight increase at peak times. We are aware that Adlington Town Council has been trying to

pursue an increased frequency of service and we would support this. The currently ongoing rail infrastructure improvement work is intended to bring about improved services so it was disappointing to note that in the latest re-franchising proposal, Adlington seems to be in the position of losing a further service.

I hope these comments are of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Ian Horsfield
Chair - Anderton Parish Council