



MOLESEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Surrey County Council Bus Review
Passenger Transport Group
Room 312
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
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22 January 2010

Dear Sir

Proposed Changes to Bus Services in Elmbridge

I am writing on behalf of the Molesey Residents Association (MRA) about the proposed changes to bus services in Elmbridge, on which Surrey County Council (SCC) is currently consulting. The MRA is a major local organisation representing the residents of Molesey, and holds all 9 Molesey seats on Elmbridge Borough Council, and both the Molesey seats on Surrey County Council, and I hope that you will take account of our views in considering this issue.

We are particularly concerned about the impact these proposals will have on the special bus services which currently transport children to schools, including the 514 and 663 services. These proposals will have a disproportionate effect on Molesey families, as there is no secondary school in Molesey, and every child must travel some distance to school. If these services are withdrawn, or if the current subsidy is removed, there will inevitably be a significant increase in the number of parents having to drive their children to school, thereby exacerbating the levels of both road congestion and air pollution. This is a retrograde step which runs counter to wider Government and EU initiatives.

We are particularly concerned about the proposal to withdraw the 514 bus altogether. This is used by Molesey and Hersham children travelling to Esher High School, and there is no safe alternative for these children. This is a well used and popular service, and the proposal is wholly at odds with the recent announcement that the current single decker service is to be replaced by a double decker service for the next two months in order to cope with the recent increased demand.

Esher High is an improving and popular school, and many children living in Molesey are hoping to be allocated places there this September. Their choice of school may well have been made in the context of the current bus services, and there would be an element of retrospection in subsequently removing these services.

For these reasons we hope that you will reconsider and withdraw these proposals. If you need any more information about the issues I have raised please let me know.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Mike Axton