

# Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group – Bus Consultation Response

## Introduction

This document is Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group's (BTPG) initial response to Wiltshire Council's "Proposed changes to bus services 20 and 22 Marlborough – Bedwyn – Hungerford". Within the latter are two proposed timetables known as Option A and Option B. These are shown below:

### Marlborough Area – Bedwyn services

Possible alternative weekday timetables using one bus and driver (plus Wilts & Dorset service 21)

Marlborough – Bedwyn – Shalbourne – Hungerford – Marlborough											DRAFT	Option A
	W&D 21					SJ					W&D 21	
Marlborough, High St.	--	07:16	08:50	09:55	11:55	12:58	14:05	15:35	16:55	17:33		
Savernake Hospital	--	R	R	10:00	12:00	--	14:10	15:40	17:00	R		
Cadley	--	--	--	--	--	13:03	--	--	--	--		
Burbage	07:10	--	--	--	--	13:10	--	--	--	--		
West Grafton	07:12	--	--	--	--	13:12	--	--	--	--		
East Grafton	07:14	--	--	--	--	13:14	--	--	--	--		
Wilton	07:16	--	--	--	--	13:16	--	--	--	--		
Great Bedwyn, Square	07:22	--	--	--	--	13:22	--	--	--	--		
Bedwyn, railway station	07:25	--	--	10:12	--	13:25	14:22	15:52	17:12	17:50		
Shalbourne, The Plough	--	--	--	10:18	--	via	14:28	15:58	17:18	--		
Ham, Crown & Anchor	--	--	--	10:23	--	L.Bedwyn	R	--	--	--		
Froxfield, A4	--	07:26	09:00	--	12:07	13:43	--	--	--	--		
Hungerford, Town Hall	--	07:33	09:07	10:32	12:14	--	14:42	--	17:27	--		
Hungerford, Town Hall	--	--	09:07	10:35	12:17	--	14:42	16:16	17:30	--		
Froxfield, A4	--	--	--	10:42	--	--	14:49	--	--	--		
Ham, Crown & Anchor	--	--	09:16	via	12:26	--	--	R	R	--		
Shalbourne, The Plough	--	--	09:21	L.Bedwyn	12:31	--	--	16:30	17:44	--		
Bedwyn, railway station	07:25	07:53 <sup>UD</sup>	09:27	10:52	12:37	13:35	--	16:36	17:50	17:50		
Great Bedwyn, Square	07:26	--	09:28	10:53	12:38	13:36	--	16:37	17:51	17:51		
Wilton	--	--	--	10:57	--	via	--	--	--	17:55		
East Grafton	--	--	--	10:59	--	Froxfield	--	--	--	17:57		
West Grafton	--	--	--	11:01	--	--	--	--	--	17:59		
Wilton	--	--	--	11:05	--	--	--	--	--	18:03		
Burbage	--	--	--	11:07	--	--	--	--	--	18:05		
Cadley	--	--	--	11:12	--	--	--	--	--	to		
Savernake Hospital	R	--	R	--	R	R	R	R	R	Pewsey		
Marlborough, High St.	07:42	08:10 <sup>SJ</sup>	09:44	11:19	12:54	13:55	15:01	16:53	18:07			
		Break		Break			Break					

Marlborough – Bedwyn – Shalbourne – Hungerford – Marlborough											DRAFT	Option B
	W&D 21					SJ					W&D 21	
Marlborough, High St.	--	07:16	08:55	10:03	11:03	11:58	12:58	14:25	15:35	16:55	17:33	
Savernake Hospital	--	R	R	10:08	--	12:03	--	14:30	15:40	17:00	R	
Cadley	--	--	--	--	11:08	--	13:03	--	--	--	--	
Burbage	07:10	--	--	--	11:15	--	13:10	--	--	--	--	
West Grafton	07:12	--	--	--	11:17	--	13:12	--	--	--	--	
East Grafton	07:14	--	--	--	11:19	--	13:14	--	--	--	--	
Wilton	07:16	--	--	--	11:21	--	13:16	--	--	--	--	
Great Bedwyn, Square	07:22	--	--	--	11:27	--	13:22	--	--	--	--	
Bedwyn, railway station	07:25	--	--	10:20	11:30	--	13:25	14:42	15:52	17:12	17:50	
Shalbourne, The Plough	--	--	--	10:26	--	--	--	14:48	15:58	17:18	--	
Ham, Crown & Anchor	--	--	--	10:31	--	--	--	R	--	--	--	
Froxfield, A4	--	07:26	09:05	--	--	12:10	--	--	--	--	--	
Hungerford, Town Hall	--	07:33	09:12	10:40	--	12:17	--	15:02	--	17:27	--	
Hungerford, Town Hall	--	--	09:12	10:40	--	12:17	--	15:02	16:16	17:30	--	
Froxfield, A4	--	--	--	10:47	--	--	--	15:09	--	--	--	
Ham, Crown & Anchor	--	--	09:21	--	--	12:26	--	--	R	R	--	
Shalbourne, The Plough	--	--	09:26	--	--	12:31	--	--	16:30	17:44	--	
Bedwyn, railway station	07:25	07:53	09:32	--	11:36	12:37	13:35	--	16:36	17:50	17:50	
Great Bedwyn, Square	07:26	--	09:33	--	11:37	12:38	13:36	--	16:37	17:51	17:51	
Wilton	--	--	09:37	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17:55	
East Grafton	--	--	09:39	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17:57	
West Grafton	--	--	09:41	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	17:59	
Wilton	--	--	09:45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18:03	
Burbage	--	--	09:47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18:05	
Cadley	--	--	09:52	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	to	
Savernake Hospital	R	--	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	Pewsey	
Marlborough, High Street	07:42	08:10 <sup>SJ</sup>	09:59	10:59	11:53	12:54	13:52	15:21	16:53	18:07		

The following sections contain consultation results and comments on the above two timetables. BTPG is meeting with Ian White (Head of Service - Passenger Transport, Wiltshire Council) on May 17<sup>th</sup>. **This Issue 2 is a revised issue for that meeting; changes from the previous (Issue 1) are shown in red.** BTPG may release a revised version of this document after that meeting.

## Local Consultation

BTPG has consulted locally and the following themes have been raised:

1. The fares are too high. This puts people off using the buses. If they were cheaper they would be used more.
2. A number of retired and non driving residents depend on the buses from Great Bedwyn to Marlborough. Typically they could cope with a two hourly service with the core hours being between 0930 (departure from Great Bedwyn) and 1530 (return from Marlborough).
3. There needs to be suitable buses for teenagers attending college in Swindon. This same bus would be regarded as the main bus for people that work in Marlborough and Swindon. Preferably this bus would actually go to Swindon (calling at the hospital and the colleges) as a direct bus in the morning and one direct back in the evening. If not there must be good connection times in Marlborough. One such comment was: “However to get to Swindon on public transport even with the current levels of service requires a certain diligence, hanging around for ages in Marlborough for connections and likewise in the afternoon. Without the ability to get to Marlborough which has no other educational provision for our youngsters, and then onto Swindon, there would be a whole lot of young people faced with the possibility of 'no possibility' . Living rurally may seem ideal but access to resources taken for granted by people living in cities is really difficult and I feel strongly we need to support and assist these particular challenges with good robust infrastructure.”
4. There needs to be a morning bus from Great Bedwyn to Hungerford and a return giving at least 70 minutes in the town.
5. Children require a bus for returning after school clubs in Marlborough. They are namely the weekday service no 20 at 1620, 1730 and 1830.
6. Also Saturday mornings from Bedwyn to Marlborough at 0927 and returning to Bedwyn in the afternoon at 1335, 1510, 1615 and 1715 are popular with teenage children.
7. Teenage children use buses on a Saturday to visit friends in other villages.
8. The majority of bus arrivals and departures with Marlborough need to tie with buses to and from Swindon.
9. There needs to be a bus from Great Bedwyn to Marlborough for primary school children’s after school activities (e.g. swimming pool)

## Local Consultation Fit with Option A and Option B

Consultation Point	Option A	Option B
1	No	No
2	Yes	Yes
3	No	No
4	Yes	Yes
5	No	No
6	Unknown	Unknown
7	Unknown	Unknown
8	No	No
9	No	No

## Train Use Consultation

For a wider use of the bus BTPG has the following comments:

1. Buses should be able to wait for delayed trains (perhaps with a limit to how long they can wait). Alternatively, to make bus/train connections palatable, there should always be a seven minute connection time. Especially when arriving into Bedwyn Station and the next bus might not be for another two hours.
2. A bus to serve the 1332 / 1330 HST trains in / out of the village. This is currently a missed opportunity by the buses. Two HSTs stop in the village (one going east, the other west) within two minutes of one another. One bus could take passengers from Marlborough that wish to travel both east and west and in so doing could pick up arrivals from the west and the east.
3. There needs to be buses that are targeted at commuter times. This would require buses (from Marlborough) to arrive at Bedwyn Station at 0640 and 0834. It would also require the following bus departure times from Bedwyn to Marlborough: 1831 and 1942. It has been suggested that the 0545 Swindon to Ludgershall bus could divert via Great Bedwyn to arrive in Bedwyn around 0640. The evening trains could be served by the 1743 and 1843 departures from Ludgershall. **A suggestion has also been made regarding extending the Connect 2 service.**

## Train Use Consultation Fit with Option A and Option B

Consultation Point	Option A	Option B
1	No	No
2	Yes	Yes
3	No	No

## BTPG Comments on Wiltshire Council's Proposed Timetables

Option	Bus	Comment
A/B	0716 from Marlborough	The arrival at Hungerford Town Hall (0733) does not tie with the 0734 train departure.
A/B	0742 arrival in Marlborough	Will this connect with a suitable service calling at Swindon New College?
A/B	0810 arrival in Marlborough	Will this connect with a suitable service calling at Swindon New College?
A/B	0810 arrival in Marlborough	Should such a service not be taking the Wilton / Graftons route to allow students from these villages to attend college in Swindon?
B	0932 arrival into Bedwyn	The train departs at 0936 making this a tight connection. Ideally the bus should arrive at 0929. This only effects Ham and Shalbourne users.
A	1012 arrival into Bedwyn	This is the first bus from Marlborough for rail use and is not that good given the train departs at 1038. An arrival around 1030 would be better.

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Option	Bus	Comment
B	1020 arrival into Bedwyn	Although better than Option A an 18 minute wait for the train is not attractive.
B	1130 arrival into Bedwyn	This is good as it connects with the 1138 train departure. This is something that Option A lacks.
A/B	1237 arrival into Bedwyn	Does not connect with the 1238 train departure. This only effects Ham and Shalbourne users.
A/B	1325 arrival into Bedwyn	Ideally this should arrive at 1323 to make the 1330 train to Taunton a more attractive connection.
A/B	1335 departure from Bedwyn	There are two train arrivals into Bedwyn at around this time. These are the 1332 and the 1330. Ideally this bus should depart at 1339 to make it a more attractive connection.
B	1442 arrival into Bedwyn	Misses the 1438 train departure. Ideally this should arrive at 1431.
A/B	1636 departure from Bedwyn	The train arrives at 1631. Ideally the bus departure time should be 1638 to make it a more attractive connection.
A/B	1750 departure from Bedwyn	The train arrives at 1745. Ideally the bus departure time should be 1752 to make it a more attractive connection.
A/B	1733 departure from Marlborough	At present the last connecting bus from Swindon would be the 1640 departure from Swindon Bus Station. To satisfy Swindon workers, college students and after school club activities in Marlborough the 1830 Marlborough to Bedwyn service should be retained in addition to this proposed 1733. This would connect with the 1740 departure from Swindon Bus Station.
A/B	General	Will Castle Road, Wansdyke, <b>Little Bedwyn</b> etc still have stops?
A/B	General	Option A slightly favours Froxfield. Does this sway one in favour of the other?
A/B	General	<b>Will the bus still stop on the A4 as well as looping into the hospital grounds?</b>
A/B	General	<b>Will any help be available for people with dementia who rely on the bus? The change of routine will be a struggle for them.</b>

## About Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group

Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group was formed in 2006 to protect and improve the Bedwyn rail service. As part of our activities we have worked with Wiltshire Council (WC) and First Great Western (FGW) to improve the interoperability of the train and bus services. Our notable achievements have been:

- We formed a working relationship between ourselves, FGW and WC to correct, where possible, the drift between the train and the bus timetables. This had resulted from the council and FGW not communicating for a number of years.
- We successfully campaigned for the buses to be shown on the FGW printed timetables. E.g.

Operator	Notes	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	GW	
Facilities																							
Plymouth	d	0853	-	-	-	-	1044	-	-	1255	-	-	1323	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exeter St Davids	@d	0958	-	-	-	-	1155	-	-	1358	-	-	1501	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tiverton Parkway	d	1013	-	-	-	-	1209	-	-	-	-	-	1515	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taunton	d	1028	-	-	-	-	1224	-	-	-	-	-	1530	1523	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Cary	‡d	-	-	-	-	-	1245	-	-	1423	-	-	1551	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frome	‡d	-	-	-	-	-	1242	-	-	1444	-	-	-	1555	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bristol Temple Meads	@d	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bradford-on-Avon	d	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trowbridge	d	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westbury	d	1105	-	-	-	-	1305	-	-	1503	-	-	1608	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pewsey	‡d	-	-	-	-	-	1321	-	-	-	-	-	1625	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marlborough High St	‡d	-	1105	-	-	-	1230	-	1415	-	-	-	1620	-	-	-	1730	-	1830	-	-	-	-
Bedwyn	‡d	-	1138	-	1238	-	1332	-	1438	-	-	1536	-	-	1644	-	1736	1755	-	1903	-	-	-
Hungerford	‡d	-	1143	-	1243	-	1339	-	1443	-	-	1541	-	-	1639	1649	-	1741	1800	-	1908	-	-
Kintbury	‡d	-	1148	-	1248	-	-	-	1448	-	-	1546	-	-	1654	-	1746	1805	-	1913	-	-	-
Newbury	a	-	1155	-	1255	-	1348	-	1455	-	-	1553	-	-	1648	1703	-	1753	1812	-	1922	-	-
Newbury	d	-	1155	1213	1303	1313	1348	1413	1455	1513	-	1553	1613	-	1648	-	1713	1753	1813	1853	-	-	-
Newbury Racecourse	‡d	-	-	1215	-	1315	-	1415	-	1515	-	-	1615	-	-	-	1715	-	1815	-	-	-	-
Thatcham	‡d	-	1200	1220	1308	1320	1355	1420	1500	1520	-	1558	1620	-	1655	-	1720	1758	1820	1858	-	-	-
Midgham	d	-	-	1224	-	1324	-	1424	-	1524	-	-	1624	-	-	-	1724	-	1824	-	-	-	-
Aldermaston	d	-	-	1228	-	1328	-	1428	-	1528	-	-	1628	-	-	-	1728	1804	1828	-	-	-	-
Theale	‡d	-	1208	1233	1316	1333	1404	1433	1508	1533	-	1606	1633	-	1704	-	1733	1809	1833	1906	-	-	-
Reading West	d	-	-	1240	-	1340	-	1440	-	1540	-	-	1640	-	-	-	1740	-	1840	-	-	-	-
Reading	‡a	1150	1217	1245	1327	1345	1415	1445	1519	1545	1550	1616	1645	1649	1715	-	1745	1821	1845	1916	-	-	-
Slough	‡@a	-	1239	1309	1414	1409	1439	1509	-	1609	1624	1639	1709	1724	1739	-	1814	1854	1909	1947	-	-	-
London Paddington	@a	1223	1252	1329	1409	1429	1444	1524	1554	-	1624	1657	-	1724	1754	-	1846	1854	1931	1954	-	-	-

Train continues to

- We successfully campaigned for the buses to be shown on the Internet station screens. E.g.

Trains								Last updated: 12/05/2012 12:14:09	
From	Timetabled Arrival	Expected Arrival	Platform	To	Timetabled Departure	Expected Departure	Operator		
<a href="#">London Paddington</a>	1231	1235	1	**Terminates**			<a href="#">First Great Western</a>		
<a href="#">Bedwyn</a>				<a href="#">London Paddington</a>	1307	On time	<a href="#">First Great Western</a>		
<a href="#">London Paddington</a>	1329	On time		<a href="#">Taunton</a>	1330	On time	<a href="#">First Great Western</a>		
<a href="#">Exeter St Davids</a>	1332	On time		<a href="#">London Paddington</a>	1333	On time	<a href="#">First Great Western</a>		

Buses							Last updated: 12/05/2012 12:14:09	
From	Timetabled Arrival	Expected Arrival	To	Timetabled Departure	Expected Departure	Operator		
<a href="#">Bedwyn</a>		Bus	<a href="#">Marlborough (Bus)</a>	1218	Bus	<a href="#">First Great Western</a>		
<a href="#">Marlborough (Bus)</a>	1257	Bus	**Terminates**		Bus	<a href="#">First Great Western</a>		
<a href="#">Bedwyn</a>		Bus	<a href="#">Marlborough (Bus)</a>	1300	Bus	<a href="#">First Great Western</a>		