

Response ID ANON-BGG7-4EJN-R

Submitted on 2014-09-23 17:57:11.004036

Introduction

What is your email address?

Email:

chair@biglocalnortheasthastings.org.uk

Our Plan

1 Do you have any comments to make about our plan?

comments about our plan:

The plan is too general and does not take sufficient account of areas like north east Hastings where significant numbers of people do not have a car.

The plan discriminates against those who work shift work or on Sundays by prioritising residents who need to get to work during "peak times".

The plan does nothing to support business, learning providers, leisure and community groups that depend on people accessing them during the evening and on Sundays.

Access to "essential services" on two days a week is not enough. For instance, access to healthcare when residents need it will be made more difficult if the days on which buses run are not the same as the days on which appointments are available.

Proposed changes to the supported bus network

2 Do you have any comments to make about our proposals for the supported bus network?

Any comments about our proposals for the supported bus network:

You fail to draw attention to and justify the proposed 30% increase in fares on the bus services that you will continue to support financially.

You are saying to residents who do not have access to a car and cannot afford a taxi "don't bother going out in the evening and on Sundays because you are not worthy of a bus service; and don't bother trying to go to work or access "essential services" and Dial a Ride unless what you want to do happens to coincide with the days on which we the council and bus operators decide you can travel by bus. We expect you to make more use of internet services but we are not going to invest more in adult education to help you learn how to do that – and even if we did you probably wouldn't be able to get to the classes if we cut the bus service."

To those with a car and who can afford taxis you are saying "forget what you have heard about cutting down on car journeys and the problems brought about by congestion and pollution, we want you to make more journeys by car and not use the bus. And just to reinforce that we are going to make travelling by bus more expensive. But we won't be reducing car parking charges or organising more car sharing schemes."

Fare Increase

3 Please tell us how you feel about this proposal.

I would be happy to support this increase:

Strongly Disagree

I understand why this increase is necessary:

Disagree

I think this is a reasonable proposal:

Strongly Disagree

Proposed changes to services

4 If you would like to comment about the proposed change to any of the services below please select the service(s) from the list.

20,21,22 Ore-Hollington, 28 Hastings-Conquest Hospital, 344 Hastings-Northiam, 347 Hastings-Pett, Hastings Dial a Ride

4a Please provide your comments about the service(s) that you have selected in Q4. If you are commenting about more than one service please include the service number your comment refers to.

if we were to make the change what difference would it make to your life?:

Services 20, 21, 22, 28, 344, 347 and Hastings Dial a Ride are essential to residents in our area. The hills and valleys of north east Hastings make movement between its neighbourhoods, the town centre, Hastings Old Town, rail stations and hospital difficult without access to motor transport. In a public consultation for Big Local North East Hastings carried out in 2013, residents made clear that they wanted better bus services not the worse service which these proposed changes to the supported bus network and Dial a Ride will bring. Cutting service and increasing fares will do nothing to help us combat social isolation and nothing to help residents improve their own lives. Your proposals go against one of the key outcomes that Big Local is striving to achieve, namely that people will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

Changes to services to schools

5 Do you have any comments to make about this proposal?

do you have any comments to make about this proposal:

No - they do not operate in our area of Hastings

Any other comments

6 Are there any other comments that you would like to make about Our Plan or our proposals for the supported bus network?

any other comments:

The survey form will put off many people from responding.

The 36-page technical note includes reference to the adverse impacts on employment, health and wellbeing, family/friends, leisure and recreation facilities of proceeding with these cuts and fare increase but there is no mention of these in the questionnaire or the summary documents which most people will read.

How did you hear about this consultation

7 How did you hear about this consultation?

Via Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter etc), Your County, residents magazine, Another person

***If other, please specify::**

About your organisation

8 Please provide details about your group or organisation

Organisation name:

Big Local North East Hastings

Your name:

Ron Bennett

Your position in the organisation:

Chair

Contact details including postcode:

Big Local

Ore Centre

455 Old London Road

Hastings

TN35 5BH

email: chair@biglocalnortheasthastings.org.uk

www.biglocalnortheasthastings.org.uk

9 Are the members of your group or the people your organisation represents primarily:

Other*

Please specify:

All residents who live, work or use the facilities in north East Hastings

10 If we needed to find out more about the comments you have made would you be happy for us to contact you? If so please ensure you have provided your contact details above.

Yes