



Press Release

Issued on 24 May 2022

Auchterarder Town Bus - Service 49 Improved

Auchterarder Community Bus Group (ACBuG) have concluded their review of the Auchterarder Town Bus Service and are implementing timetable changes from Monday, 30 May 2022.

Andrew Warrington, Chair, ACBuG, noted “After careful consideration of the results from a Survey of Users - and seeking feedback from key stakeholders - the ACBuG Trustees decided to introduce an improved six day a week timetable on Service 49, operating Monday to Saturday daytimes.”

Service 49 will continue to serve the established housing areas to the south of the High Street and Townhead - where usage to date has been consistently the highest - linking them with the Town Centre and St Margaret’s Health Centre/Hospital.

The revised Service 49 timetable sees the addition of Tullibardine Road and Glenorchil Crescent to the overall routing. It is hoped that having a regular six day a week service to the Glenorchil area - rather than just trips on a Wednesday - will generate a good number of new bus users.

The consistent and reliable hourly timetable for Service 49 is retained as this is seen as crucial to achieving an increase in passenger numbers in the months ahead.

It was also decided to continue to serve the expanding housing areas to the north of Hunter Street. Despite additional door to door leaflet drops, usage in the Sycamore Avenue and Cypress Court area has been consistently low and so this estate will no longer be served. In addition, Service 49 stops earlier than before on a Saturday, with the last journey completing at 13:24. Again, this is due to very low passenger numbers on the later afternoon journeys.

Regrettably, the Wednesday only Service 49A is withdrawn; with the last day of operation on 25 May 2022. Passenger numbers have always been lower on Service 49A than Service 49 and since the easing of the COVID lockdown restrictions usage has been particularly disappointing.

Andrew Warrington highlighted “Trustees are keen that regular passengers benefit from the timetable changes, but also want to encourage and facilitate additional usage and we are confident that the new timetable will achieve good growth in passenger numbers, which is essential if we are to continue to attract the funding necessary to keep the Town Bus running.”

Neil Anderson, ACBuG Treasurer commented “A fully updated timetable leaflet has been produced which is available on the Town Bus and from a number of local outlets. The timetable will also be promoted via social media and on local websites.”

Linked to the new improved Service 49 timetable, Neil Anderson emphasised that “ACBuG continues to promote the Travel Assistance for Independent Mobility (TAIM) project for people who are not too sure about using the Town Bus. ACBuG are keen to provide assistance and dedicated one-to-one support - and will accompany locals on their initial journeys on the Town Bus.”

The Town Bus can accommodate mobility aids and is wheelchair accessible. ACBuG Trustees are encouraging anyone who thinks the Town Bus may help them to get around Auchterarder to telephone them on 07510 303862 or e-mail acbug2018@gmail.com.

It is important to appreciate however that the Town Bus is available for use by everyone irrespective of age or mobility. Most holders of National Entitlement Cards, including young people under 22 years of age, will travel free of charge. Other passengers will pay £1.20 per trip.

ACBuG is a SCIO, charity number SC048669, and it would not be possible for us to operate the Auchterarder Town Bus Service without the invaluable financial support of Auchterarder Community Facilities Fund, Friends of St Margaret’s, the Community Investment Fund and Perth and Kinross Community Transport Fund.

Further information available from:

Andrew Warrington
Chair
e-mail andrewwarrington59@gmail.com
acbug2018@gmail.com
mobile 07823 406159