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As you may be aware the 123 bus service that runs between Ashford and Biddenden, through your village, is under threat due to cuts in spending. This questionnaire, which is being run jointly by: Egerton, Pluckley and Smarden Parish Councils, is designed to understand what impact this will have on our communities and what we might be able to do to find an alternative solution.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could take 5 minutes to complete this questionnaire, regardless of whether you have ever used the bus service, as we are trying to look at alternative transport arrangements that might better suit the needs of the villages today. You can either fill in this paper questionnaire and return it to one of the drop off points detailed at the end of the questionnaire or by clicking <https://www.warpsurveys.com/bus> All of your answers will be treated in confidence and there is no need to provide contact details unless you would like to be involved in further discussions.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss anything please feel free to either call Guy Washer on 01233 840078 or email guy.washer1@gmail.com

1. Do you or any members of your family ever use the 123 bus?

Yes Go to question 2 and then complete the rest of the questionnaire

No Go straight to Question 6

2. How often do you or other members of your family use the bus? Please complete the grid for each member of your family that **uses** the bus and tick just one box for each family member to show how often they use it.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Myself | Partner | Child 1 | Child 2 | Child 3 | Other family member |
| Twice daily |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once a day |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 – 3 times a week |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once a week |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once a fortnight |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once a month |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than once a month |  |  |  |  |  |  |

3. The 123 bus runs from Ashford to Biddenden. Please indicate the bus stops you use by circling the number that corresponds to the bus stops you use.

Ashford Park St 1 Egerton – Rock Hill Road 9

Ashford Railway Station 2 Egerton Forstal – Forge Lane 10

Ashford Hare and hounds 3 Smarden - Maltmans Hill 11

Hothfield – School 4 Smarden – Biddenden Green 12

Little Chart - The Swan 5 Smarden – The Chequers 13

Pluckley – Crossroads 6 Smarden – The Flying Horse 14

Pluckley – Westfields 7 Smarden – Bethersden Road 15

Egerton - The George 8 Monks Hill 16

Biddenden – The Weavers 17

4. If the bus service is withdrawn do you have any alternative means of transport?

Yes No Not sure

1 2 3

If you have an alternative means of transport please let us know what it is in the space provided.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

5. Do you or any other members of you family qualify for a free or subsidised bus pass?

Yes No Not sure

1 2 3

6. The Parish Councils, in association with Wealden Wheels, are looking into the demand and feasibility of a “Dial a Ride” type bus service. The idea is for a service that you could access by phoning or emailing and booking a ride when you needed to make a journey to: a station, the shops, pharmacists, to see friends etc.

Would a service of this type be of interest to you or any other members of your family?

Yes continue to question 7

No go to Classification section Question 11

Not sure go to Classification section Question 11

7. Which members of your family would it be of interest to?

Myself My partner My children Others, please specify

1 2 3 4

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

8. How often do you think that you or other members of your family would use a “dial a ride” type service?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Myself | Partner | Child 1 | Child 2 | Child 3 | Child 4 |
| Twice daily |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once a day |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 – 3 times a week |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once a week |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once a fortnight |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once a month |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Less than once a month |  |  |  |  |  |  |

9. Which of the following places would you be interested in using a “dial a ride” bus service to get to? Please indicate by ticking the places you’d be interested in getting to and from and tick as many as you would like to be able to reach.

Pluckley

Station 1

Farm Shop 2

Main Square (post office, butchers, school etc.) 3

Egerton

Centre (School, The George, Village hall etc.) 4

Egerton Forstal 5

Rose and Crown 6

Smarden

Post Office 7

School 8

Pubs 9

Headcorn

Station 10

Shops 11

Doctors/Pharmacist 12

Charing

Doctors & Pharmacist 13

Shops 14

Other. Please tell us where else you’d like to be able to get to

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

10. While the Parish Councils will look to secure financial subsidies for the service, particularly for those who are entitled to free bus passes, there may well be a charge for the service. How much, per mile, would you be prepared to pay for a “dial a ride” type service? Please note the average cost per mile for a taxi is around £2 per mile.

£0.25p per mile 1 £1.00 per mile 4

£0.50p per mile 2 £1.50 per mile 5

£0.75p per mile 3 More than £1.50 per mile 6

**Classification Section**

Please tell us a little more about yourself and your living arrangements

11. Which of the following age bands will you be in at your next birthday?

18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-65 66+

1 2 3 4 5 6

12. Are you

Male 1

Female 2

Or do you describe yourself in another way? Please write in your gender identity in the space provided …………………………………………………………….

13. If you have children, what age are they? (please circle as many age bands as necessary)

Under 3 3-10 10-16 Over 16 I don’t have children

14. How many people are there in your household? (please circle the appropriate option)

1 Person 2 people 3 people 4 people 5 people More than 5 people

15. Do you or any of you family suffer from any mobility or disability issues?

Yes No Not sure

16. Which of the villages do you live in?

Egerton Pluckley Smarden

If you would like to be involved with this initiative or would like to be kept up to date with developments please provide your contact details below

Name Phone Number eMail

……………………… ………………………….. ………………………….

Once you have completed this questionnaire please take it to any of the following places

Pluckley Village hall Egerton Millennium Hall

Pluckley Butchers Smarden Post Office and Stores

Pluckley Farm Shop Smarden Charter Hall

Luckhurst Butchers Smarden