

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.08 /17

Date: 31 May 2017

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: To provide an update on bus services to ASDA, Gillingham Pier

At the meeting of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 December 2016, the issue of bus access to the ASDA store at Gillingham Pier was raised via a petition.

In September 2016, Arriva withdrew their 176/177 bus services which served the site from Monday to Friday from approximately 9.30am until 2.30pm. The reasons cited were a lack of patronage, and the time taken to access and egress the site which Arriva stated added time which affected punctual operation of the service.

From September 2016 until March 2017, Nu- Venture operated a service into ASDA from Chatham Bus Station on Monday to Friday from 10am until 2pm. Again this was withdrawn following a lack of usage.

Following representations made by Gillingham North Councillors, Integrated Transport officers have investigated to see if any provision can be made for bus services into the ASDA site at Gillingham Pier.

After liaising with colleagues at Kent County Council, and Nu-Venture, there will be a new service from Twydall to ASDA via Gillingham North. This is in conjunction with some amendments to the 130 service which operates from Twydall to Maidstone. This will provisionally go live from 22 July 2017.

Provisionally called service A (this name may change in the final publicity), it will operate 3 times a day Monday to Friday from Twydall to ASDA via Hazlemere Drive and Grange Road, Church Street. This will leave Twydall Shops at 1020, 1115, 1315, and return from ASDA at 1045, 1140, and 1340.

To accommodate the new ASDA service, the existing 130 service has been slightly amended.

This includes the withdrawal of the 0716 from Maidstone to Twydall, and the 1405 from Twydall to Maidstone which had already been agreed as part of the budget review for 2017/18. Timings have been rejigged during the day to include the journeys to ASDA.

This is at no additional cost to Medway Council.

Nu-Venture are required to give 56 days to the Traffic Commissioner for any changes in service, which is why the service cannot start until July.

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