

Dear friend and neighbour,

Our local once weekly (Wednesday) bus service is under threat due to the recent cutbacks at Suffolk County Council. It will be a big blow if this is to be axed as it's a lifeline to me and my neighbours who either don't own a car, can't drive or are elderly. If you live in and around Bury, Gt. Barton, Ixworth, Grimstone End, Fen Road, Pakenham and Bardwell etc please could you sign my on-line petition - Save Our Local Bus Service Route... 315 - Gasthorpe to Bury St. Edmunds service run by Mulleys Coaches. This bus comes through Grimstone End at 10.05 am and returns at 1.00 p.m. every Wednesday and has become a popular and well used service.

<http://petitions.web-labs.co.uk/suffolkcc/public/PetitionIndex.aspx>

Below are the details I have included in the petition:

"We the undersigned object to Suffolk County Council's proposal to withdraw its financial support for Bus Route 315 with effect from 1/4/2011 as this will effectively deprive Grimstone End and Fen Road, Pakenham, residents (and its neighbouring villages) of its only source of public transport – once a week on market day. This proposal will serve to increase public dependency on the motor car and as such contravenes all current transport & environmental policy statements. It will also increase the level of rural deprivation and isolation of our village communities and will have a disproportionate impact on the more vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community. For those of us who do not drive or are elderly, it is our only form of transport into Bury St. Edmunds once a week. This service has only been running for about five years or so but in this time has become a popular service with Grimstone End, Ixworth, Ixworth Thorpe and Bardwell residents. We believe that the residents and Council Tax payers of Grimstone End and Fen Road, Pakenham and its neighbouring villages have as much right to a public bus service as their neighbouring town dwellers. If this service was more widely advertised, we are sure that this service could be used by tourists and residents of Bury St. Edmunds in the Spring and Summer months to take them to and from the Watermill here in Grimstone End which is a very popular tourist attraction which also has a gift shop and tea shop. We demand that a fully detailed public review of the viability of the current bus service is undertaken and that public user input is obtained and taken into account before any changes are made to the current bus service. To this end we consider that a stay of execution beyond 1/4/11 should be granted so as to give us all adequate time in which to investigate and implement acceptable alternative arrangements"

You could also write to our local MP David Ruffley <http://www.davidruffleymp.com/text.aspx?id=1> and Guy McGregor at SCC <http://www.guymcgregor.org.uk/contact-guy/>

Many thanks for your help and please, if you can possibly make use of this service in the next few months, it might just save it. Use it or lose it as they say.

Cheers, Sandy (Jackson) - February 2011