

Media release for immediate release

'Buses back between Ludlow and Leominster'

After one year of campaigning Bus Users Shropshire, in partnership with Save Our Buses in Herefordshire, are delighted that there will be a re-instatement of daytime buses between Ludlow and Leominster in May, but it is with no thanks to Shropshire Council.

When Herefordshire Council decided to pull the plug on the service in 2014 as part of an overall spending reduction, it was also based on the fact that Shropshire Council offer no support for this cross boundary route. Bus Users Shropshire fought hard to get Shropshire Council to provide an alternative bus to allow Shropshire villagers and visitors at Overton and Richard's Castle a regular run into their local town of Ludlow. These calls for two additional day time buses from Leominster via Orleton, Richard's Castle and Overton have been stubbornly ignored by Shropshire Council despite pleas also having been made by Ludlow councillors Andy Boddington and Vivienne Parry. The route is evidently not in Shropshire Council's Bus Strategy despite being an 'inter-urban' service and this fact was used to avoid paying any financial support towards it.

The new buses will be funded by Herefordshire Council on a one year trial and will start on Monday 11th May 2015 subject to permission by the Traffic Commissioners. The buses will be operated by Lugg Valley Motors and will leave Leominster at 0945 and 1215 and return from Ludlow at 1020 and 1250 Mondays to Fridays. The current early morning and late afternoon journeys will remain the same.

Peter Gilbert, Chair of Bus Users Shropshire, welcomed the development, 'We are grateful to Herefordshire Council for recognising the need for a through service between Leominster and Ludlow. This follows literally dozens of complaints from passengers during the past year. Herefordshire Council have done well to source funds to make this happen. Shropshire Council's approach, on the other hand, is out of touch with people's need to cross county boundaries to access nearby market towns. Ludlow will benefit greatly from the extra shoppers who will come in each weekday. Bus Users Shropshire will be monitoring progress over the coming months.'

Members of the public who wish to join Bus Users Shropshire can do so by emailing bususersshropshire@hotmail.co.uk or by phoning 07580 564458. Or writing to BUS, c/o Shrewsbury Coffeehouse, 5 Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AE.

END OF RELEASE

Note to Editors

Bus Users Shropshire is a voluntary organisation which campaigns to improve bus services in Shropshire including cross boundary routes. It will be holding its AGM on Saturday 18 April at 1130am, in the Hobbs Room at Shrewsbury public library. For more information about this release contact Peter Gilbert on 07773 980094.

Rail For Herefordshire is a voluntary organisation which campaigns for an improved public transport network in Herefordshire, both buses and trains. It has in recent years run a campaign 'Save Our Buses' to fight against bus cuts in the county. Contact Les Lumsdon on 01584 877588 or leslumsdon@hotmail.com