

## Summary Budget Consultation Responses as at 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### Response 1

In favour of:

- More activities for teenagers. For example more teenage friendly gyms offering boxing etc. There's nothing in the east of the city.
- Improved cycling facilities, more off road signage, more lighting on redways, make cycle routes busier so they're safer, assess how safe routes are after dark and improve, and offer more bmx facilities for kids etc. Support local thriving MKBMX club by providing facilities near the track, community centre and toilets etc.
- Introducing swimming facilities in the east of Milton Keynes.
- More history and culture centres like MK Gallery.
- Better public transport, more buses, cheaper prices.
- Expanding parking at the hospital and make hospital parking free.
- Improving care and facilities for the elderly.
- Increasing parks trust spending. The green areas of Milton Keynes are the best features of this area and attract visitors and business.
- Increasing tourism.

### Response 2

In favour of:

- Activity that would (over time, where possible) remove the 1cm gap between the road surface and dropped kerbs, thus assisting residents with limited sight.
- More activities for teenagers.
- The council continuing to support the current public transport timetable, and more promotion/marketing of route timetables in order to encourage greater public use of buses. Do not cut subsidised routes as this may lead to greater hidden costs for the council.

### Response 3

In favour of:

- Closing the full time elections team (Chief Executive to organize elections as needed).
- Stopping Councillors' allowances and expenses.
- Stopping refreshments for Councillors at meetings.
- Number of council meetings should not exceed 12 per year.
- No outsourcing of council services to private contractors.

### Response 4

I wish to object to the current proposed budget.

The various budget cuts that involve job losses that are unhelpfully disguised by such descriptions as restructuring or redesigning will inevitably result in the loss of valuable public services.

### Response 5

#### **Submission to Budget Consultation**

**Milton Keynes bus route no 18 bus schedule (Bletchley Bus Station to Central Milton Keynes passing through Fenny Stratford, Simpson and Ashland, Old Woughton and Campbell Park) operated by Z&S.**

*This submission is made on behalf of the Ward Councillor for Middleton.*

#### **Background**

Up to April 2012, there was an hourly service on this route in both directions and continuing on to Bradville, Monday through Saturday. May 2012 saw a reduction to a service at two-hourly intervals. In September 2012, the service was revised again being further reduced and irregular in its timings (see attached timetables).

#### **The problem**

The 18 service provides an important and enabling facility for residents along and to the side of the corridor from Fenny Stratford, through the aforementioned Parishes, to the city centre. The population is aging and this bus route offers residents access to shops, doctors and pharmacies. As an example the population of Old Woughton that is over 60 is 36% compared to 16% in Milton Keynes as a whole.

Observations on the current timetable include: northbound a two hourly interval except in the afternoon when there is a gap of over three hours, southbound buses vary in timings from the city centre with greater variation from the railway station. Here buses leave in the afternoon earlier on school days but at different times depending on whether it is a Monday or Friday or whether it is a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. During school holidays (the dates of which are not publicised) this irregularity is removed when the timetable is the same as Saturdays.

Additional problems for residents include inconsistencies between Saturday morning first bus time posted on bus stops and the drivers' schedule and out of date time tables appearing on websites, most notably on the site of the bus operating company, Z&S. Reliability, of what is now such an infrequent service, has its shortcomings.

### **Proposal**

The proposal is therefore to request funding to reinstate an hourly service, with timings the same every hour (irrespective of whether it's a school day or not). Council officers have said this will cost £43k. The Parish councils have given considerable publicity to this issue and plan to market and promote the service to reduce the level of possible ongoing subsidy.

**Peter McDonald  
Ward Councillor**

**Responses 6 and 7** are in support of Cllr McDonald's submission:

Both my wife and I agree 100% with the attached proposed budget to get the 18 bus returned to an hourly service.

And

My husband and myself would like to show our support for Peter McDonald (Cllr)'s submission (which you will find attached, for your perusal)

We have happily attended the meetings etc., on this subject, over the past months and previously I had written to the parish council, regarding our disappointment with the state of the bus service.

We decided to move to a retirement complex, for our latter days, some time ago. We spent time in choosing where we should live and the criteria to go with it. My husband had deep reservations about the '1 hourly bus' service. I persuaded him that we could work with that, especially as it went to the hospital, where he has several appointments a year, due to Glaucoma and separate to that, every two months, to the Ear, Nose & Throat specialist. We moved August 19th 2013 and only a couple of weeks after, the bus service changed to every 2 hours (well in real terms, not even that) imagine how we felt then. Especially myself who had gone a long way to press my husband that all would be fine. We love it in Simpson, so this is the only thing that doesn't work well.

We also know that buses' generally have to make a profit, but there are times, when there has to be a loss-leader, because other things have to come into play. To us, the fact that we have lived and worked in this area, (living first in MK6, then MK7 and now MK6 again) all of the last 37 years and before that in Bletchley shows our commitment to Milton Keynes. We have three children, all living in MK with 5 children between them.

In our complex there are many elderly people, many on their own, that the bus is a lifeline. At the moment they have to try and work it out from this meagre and confusing bus timetable.

## **Response 8**

I would just like to say that I have worked for Brook for over sixteen years in various roles. We have worked hard to build relationships with young people and build a service that young people have confidence in and trust.

These same young people are our future doctors, teachers, politicians. They are our future society, how can we build a stable society if we do not invest in them when they are young. More and more funding is being cut from all the areas that young people can get support, resources and understanding. We are seeing on a daily basis the effects of this on young people's mental health, drug and alcohol consumption and behaviour. We should be increasing funding and resources not decreasing. To lose funding could have a huge impact on what and how we provide services, this then could have a delayed knock on effect of reversing the progress we have made in teenage pregnancy, infection testing and education.

Brook is so much more than sex and condoms, for many young people we provide a space that they feel safe, not judged and listened to. We support the transition from child to young adult which can be a bumpy journey at the best of times.

I understand that with limited funds come tough decisions, although I would also consider that these same young people could be making the future decisions on what resources and support are available to you in your older age. Choose wisely.