

Pearl Mc Ardle
Richmond Hill Bus Action Group

Speech about the state of buses in the Richmond Hill area.

The Richmond Hill, East End Park and the Cross Green area has in recent years suffered from a deteriorating bus service.

Our group was founded after meeting last year attended by around 60 local residents angry at the poor Bus service.

The area used to be served by two bus companies First Bus and Black Prince but since the takeover of Black Prince by First bus a whole host of bus services have been cut in effect First Bus took over Black Prince to close its routes down and eliminate any competition without regard to the residents of the area.

The number 61,62 and 63 services have all been cut In recent years

The area has a high proportion of older and poorer residents who rely on Public Transport as their only means of getting about.

Buses now run less frequently and those services are not reliable with people having to wait an hour or more for a bus that doesn't arrive.

Lord Mayor

Leeds City Council

We are told by Metro that not very much can be done as First Bus is a private company and outside Sundays all the routes are run for profit.

We need buses reregulated like in London so a proper planned service can be provided to our community and others like it across Leeds.

I ask council to pressure First Bus and Metro to provide a decent bus service for the residents of our area.

Residents who rely on the bus for getting to work have ^{SEVERE} ~~serve~~ problems with buses not coming and making them late for Work. It has effected peoples ability to get employment. How can people be expected to obtain and keep a job if they cannot get there on time or at all?

First bus don't seem interested in the area . They have a policy to concentrate services on main arterial routes such as York Road or Hunslet Road which are difficult or Impossible for many residents to access. We are told that not even new bus shelters will be provided as the main arterial routes are given priority for new bus shelters so we have to wait along time for a bus, and get wet if it rains.

First Bus do run a service the no 37 which runs down York Road to Halton Moor every Ten minutes and why cannot some of the no 37 services be redirected through Richmond Hill and East End Park before going to Halton Moor.

The number 61 which is a short route from the City Centre through Richmond Hill is very unreliable and seems to be the first route cut if First bus have a driver shortage.

I have a letter which I wish to read out from Richmond Hill Elderly Action about the problems older people are having getting around the area.



Richmond Hill Elderly Action

Registered Charity Number 1114792

19th February 2007

Dear all

As a local charity for older people we would like also like to voice our opinions about the local bus service through Pearl McArdle.

Pearl will have given you many of the facts but we would like to add that since the routes around Richmond Hill have changed, we have seen a drop in the number of people who attend our activities purely because they now have no way of getting to the community centre where we are based. We do try and spread our activities across the Richmond Hill, Cross Green and East End Park areas but again we face the same problem of accessibility.

At our AGM in 2006 we carried out a questionnaire that local residents who attended filled in. One of the questions we asked was "what would prevent you from taking part in community activities" and the overwhelming response that was given was "lack of transport".

~~We meet older people who struggle continuously with getting about and we~~
have heard many times that the local bus service is inaccessible, not frequent enough and indeed sometimes never turns up at all. Of course this is a major problem and makes every day tasks such as shopping, going to the post office, socialising and getting to medical appointments a hard task.

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If it would help we are happy to speak to residents and provide simple case studies of the problems encountered if this would help. Please speak to Darrell Xavier (Outreach Worker) at the address below if you would like some case studies.

Yours sincerely

Tricia Gradys, Darrell Xavier & Joan Swaby
Richmond Hill Elderly Action

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