



# Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

PETER TRAVIS  
CO CHAIR – SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP



8329

Clapton Pond 38

Bow 8

W8FL 2011

  
Department  
for Transport

# Bus Back Better



March 2021

# Somerset Bus Partnership

Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

Somerset Bus Partnership was established in April 2021 by bus passengers, councillors, transport campaigners, transport enthusiasts, bus user groups and individuals living in the Somerset Council area.

Chair And Vice Chair: 'Bus Users and Stakeholders Group'  
Talk regularly with Cllr Mike Rigby & his officers

We work with parish and town councils across Somerset

Facebook and website

Media spokesperson  
for bus users across Somerset



**Somerset**  
County Council



**Nearly half of  
our carbon  
emissions in  
Somerset  
come from  
TRANSPORT**

- ❖ **BUS JOURNEYS PER HEAD IN SOMERSET HAD  
FALLEN BY 43% (IN THE DECADE UP TO THE START OF COVID)**
- ❖ **WORST RATED BUS SERVICES IN ENGLAND**
- ❖ **SECOND LOWEST BUS JOURNEYS PER HEAD**
- ❖ **YET MORE BUS CUTS AS RECENTLY AS MAY 2022**

**Somerset County Council**

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)



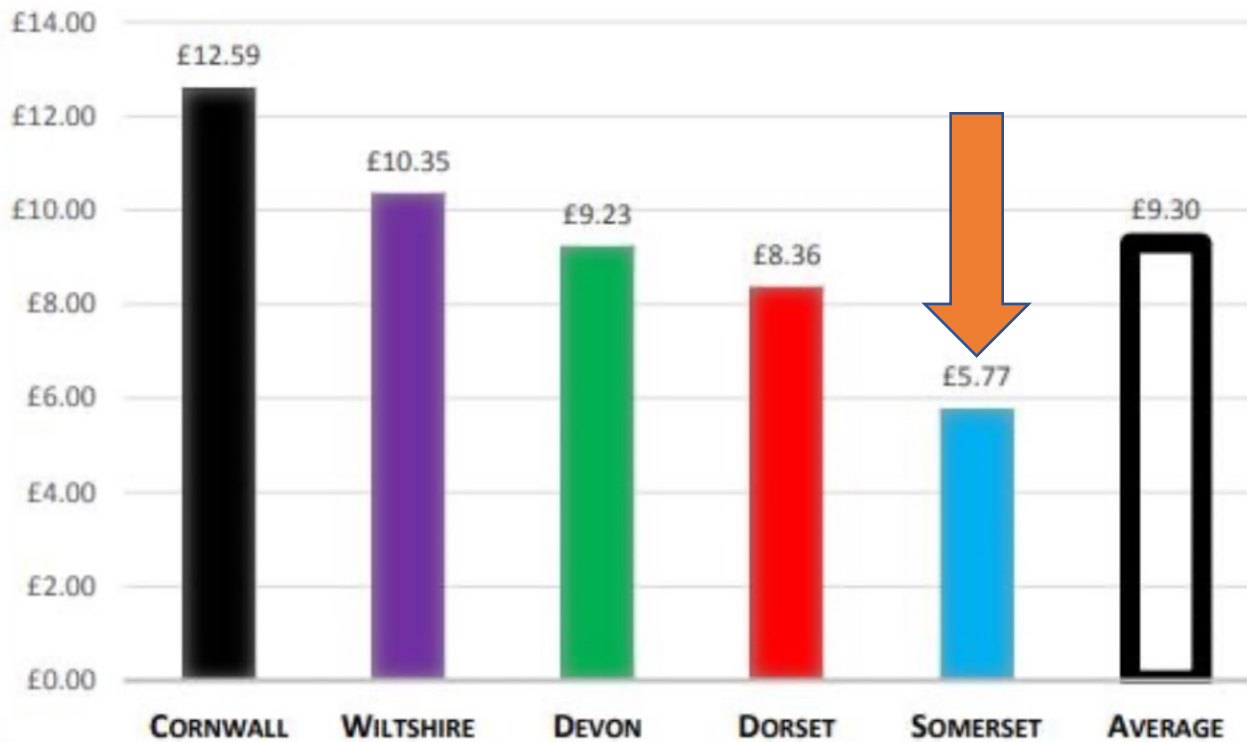
**BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN (BSIP)**

This Somerset BSIP was  
finalised and submitted to the

**£163,000,000**

**£11.9M**

## EXPENDITURE ON BUSES IN THE SOUTH WEST PER CAPITA 2019-20



## SOMERSET BUS MANIFESTO

### 6. MEANINGFUL FUNDING OF BUS SERVICES

*To meet the aspirations in this Bus Manifesto and to provide the level & quality of bus services that Somerset deserves, the new Unitary Authority needs to provide increased financial support for services, as well as investing to improve infrastructure & vehicles.*

- ❖ **Bring Somerset's bus budget up to the average for similar rural local transport authorities across the South West by 2026.**
- ❖ **Invest in bus transport by making funds available from the new council's capital programme and from the Community Infrastructure Levy.**



2023

**1 BUS  
= 30  
CARS**



SOMERSET COUNCIL  
LAUNCHED THE  
**BUS IT**  
CAMPAIGN  
TO ENCOURAGE  
MORE BUS TRAVEL



Somerset Bus Partnership  
Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

**Bus it!** You know it makes sense.

**BUS IT**

**£2-fare**

**Bus it! for less this summer**

From now to October 31 2023, a single bus journey will cost no more than £2 on most routes across Somerset.

Somerset Bus Partnership  
Connecting communities and encouraging public transport.

Help for Households

HM Government

Somerset Council

**£2 FARE:** Initially from January to March 2023

**£2 FARE:** Extended to July 2023

**£2 FARE:** Extended through to end of October 2023

**Pay less to travel by bus**

**£2**

**single fare cap**

from January 1  
until October 31

**16%**

**INCREASE IN BUS  
TRAVEL**

**ACROSS SOMERSET**

**JAN - MAY 2023**

**£2.50**

**£2:50 FARE:**  
For 12 months  
through to  
November 2024





**24%**

**INCREASE IN BUS USE  
IN TAUNTON SINCE  
THE £1 FARE WAS  
INTRODUCED**

# NIGHTTIME BUSES TOO

Somerset Council is subsidising evening services from Monday to Saturday connecting Taunton with the towns of Minehead, Bridgwater, Wellington and Chard after 8pm and running to at least 10.30pm.

**BUT STILL  
NO NIGHTTIME**

**54**

**TAUNTON-  
YEOVIL**



# 1st is June

## FREE bus travel day!

Anywhere on the D2/D2x  
between Bath & Frome.

No tickets, vouchers or codes needed.  
Simply jump on the bus!

**First**  **Bus**



**Good News**



**MOBILITY HUBS  
IN  
TAUNTON & SOMERTON**

**126  
TO GO THROUGH TO  
WESTON SUPER MARE  
FROM SEPTEMBER**



**WORKING WITH  
GWR & SWR  
TO PROMOTE  
BUS/RAIL LINKS**

**DDRT  
SOON TO BE TRIALLED  
AT SOMERTON**

**Not-So-Good News**





# DISRUPTIONS TO BUS SERVICES

- FAR TOO MANY CANCELATIONS  
IN BRIDGWATER AND TAUNTON
- MAJOR ROADWORKS IN YEOVIL





# Yeovil Refresh

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# WHEN?



bususers







**LONG ESTABLISHED BUS USER GROUPS**  
**FROME AND VILLAGES (FAVBUG)**

**BUS USER GROUPS FORMED WITH SUPPORT FROM**  
**SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP**

**YEOVIL**

**BRIDGWATER**

**WELLS**

**TAUNTON**

**WELLINGTON**

**SHEPTON MALLET/GLASTONBURY/STREET**

**CHEDDAR**

**CHARD**





**“In Celebration ‘Better Transport  
Week and The Great Big Green Week”**

**Yeovil Bus Users & SBP are holding:**



**“A Catch the Bus Event”**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 10am-4pm**

**In the Tesco’s Extra Store.**

*Come along and join us in supporting and  
improving our bus services future.*



SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP

CATCH  
THE BUS  
WEEK

CATCH  
THE BUS  
WEEK

CATCH  
THE BUS  
WEEK

SOME  
CATC BUS

BETTER  
BUSES FOR  
SOMERSET

CATCH  
THE BUS  
WEEK

CATCH  
THE BUS  
WEEK







# BUSES NEED..

FEEDBACK  
ON LOCAL  
BUS ISSUES

ENSURE  
CURRENT  
TIMETABLES  
DISPLAYED

PUT  
TIMETABLES  
ON  
COUNCIL  
WEBSITE



POST ON  
LOCAL  
FACEBOOK  
PAGES

PROMOTE  
IN PARISH  
MAGAZINES

BUS STALL  
DURING  
CATCH THE  
BUS MONTH

*So 'Get on Board'.. and help protect  
the future of our Bus Network.*



**Yeovil Bus Users Group.**

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