

Sunday buses - for *bustling* town centres

Shropshire lost its Sunday services in 2011. Neighbouring counties still provide services to their towns. It's time for Shropshire Councillors to bring them back.



Shrewsbury bus station was bustling with passengers on Sunday 13 March 2011.

Buses are worth millions to the Shropshire economy. Since Sunday services were suspended 18 months ago, it has been estimated that Shropshire businesses may have missed out on £2.25 million of spending. (Research by TAS Partnership for Confederation of Passenger Transport.) With bus passenger destinations concentrated in town centres, Sunday buses are vital for revitalising Shropshire's town centres.

Young people use buses. Young people need the bus to get to college, to work, and to meet up with friends. About one in five young people are unemployed, and most don't run a car. Young people's life goals are limited if they aren't provided with reasonably priced 7 days a week bus services.

Older people and disabled people. Many older or disabled people don't drive or have disabilities that make driving impossible. Getting to the shops, to see grandchildren, a partner in hospital, or to church or social activities are important – for these journeys and many others Sunday buses are crucial.

Buses make business sense. Our Sunday services were subsidised by £85,000 a year yet delivered all these social benefits *and* an income to Shropshire businesses that may have been as much as £1.5 million a year. That's a 17:1 return on investment. And at a cost of just 65p per Shropshire household per year.

✕ Election Day – Thursday 2 May 2013

Ask your Shropshire Councillor why she or he voted in 2011 to abandon Sunday services. Tell your prospective councillor that you want a pledge that, if elected, Sunday buses will be reintroduced.