



Registered Charity number 1064926

Waterhouses Wanderingings

August 2006

News, Views and Events from Waterhouses and the surrounding area provided by the Waterhouses Community Association.

Progress on the Village Hall

You may not have seen anything yet but much progress has been made.

- ❖ The insurance claim has been accepted, and the plans have all been drawn up.
- ❖ Tenders to do the work are due in by Thursday August 17th.
- ❖ Once the insurance company has chosen the contractor the work is due to start early in September on a twelve week contract.
- ❖ Then once the rebuilding is complete there will be work to do on the internal fittings and furnishings, but **THE END IS NOW IN SIGHT!**



It will be good to see work starting on restoring our much loved village hall to its former glory and usefulness.

COMING EVENT: WATERHOUSES CEILIDH

Now on Saturday 14th October at 8pm in Esh Winning Community Association Hall (under the library) with Trimdon Folk Band. Cost £5 including supper with choice of soups. Bring your own drinks. Tickets from Margaret Wake (373 2380) or Pat Collinson (373 4949)

DOUBLE WHAMMY FOR BUS SERVICES TO WATERHOUSES

You have maybe already noticed that the **evening and Sunday 725 bus service** is no longer running.

In the middle of September the **44 and 52 bus services to Durham** will also be taken off. We will then be left with just the new hourly daytime 725 service to Langley Park provided by Scarlet Band buses.

HOW THE BUS CHANGES MAY AFFECT YOU

- ☺ You can get a bus at the same time each hour.
- ☺ You can get to Langley Park, Chester-le-Street and Newcastle without having to go through Durham.
- ☹ To get to Durham for work starting at 9 in the morning you'll have to leave some 25 minutes earlier (7.31 from East Hedleyhope).
- ☹ If you don't finish work in time to catch the 4.40 Esh Winning (43) bus then you won't get home until nearly 7 o'clock.
- ☹ The last buses from Durham that connect with the new 725 valley bus leave Durham at 5.45 (54 to Langley Park) or 6.10 (43 to Esh Winning).
- ☹ There will be no public transport for evening visiting at University Hospital in Durham, or for going to the pub or other evening events.
- ☹ There is no public transport on Sundays for visiting or being visited by family, or for going to church or other weekend activities - or for returning from weekend trips away.
- ☹ Currently there is no through ticketing with the 43 from Esh Winning to Durham - although it is hoped to arrange this before the 44/52 services are taken off.

At least local taxi firms will have more business as a result of the changes.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Last year, when our hourly service was reduced to one bus every two hours, our protests restored one bus an hour and even gave us buses later in the evening. So action **does** have an effect.

This time we need to make our views known to those at County Hall who allocate the money for subsidising public transport (buses down the valley can't run at all without subsidy). But what **are** your views?

Are **you** affected by the changes? Do you know someone who is?

Is our priority is to get some minimal service back in the evening and on Sundays? Or is it to get a local minibus or people carrier? **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

MAKING YOUR VIEWS KNOWN - THE BUS SERVICES TO THE DEERNESS VALLEY

If you are unhappy about the reduction in our bus services then there are two things you can do.

1 Write a letter of complaint to **Mr Bryan Shelton, The Public Transport Group, Environment Department, Durham County Council, County Hall, DURHAM, DH1 5UQ** explaining why you do not like the changes, (and how they have affected you, if they have.)

2 If the changes give you a problem (or if you know of someone who has such a problem) then please let your local councillor and community association officers know how you (or your friend) have been affected. See below for how to do this. They will then be able to give to the officers of the County Council details of specific problems these change have caused.

Your name **WILL NOT** be used. Examples will be given such as "*Mr X can no longer get to work in Durham as his work starts at 8am*" or "*Mrs K can no longer visit her husband in hospital, since the visiting times are in the evening*", "*A and B can't come and visit their granny on Sundays*".

Meanwhile your local councillors (and MP) are working to see if there is a possibility of providing a better service, or an alternative service. If you have any ideas about this then do let us know.

Give your responses to Barry Simms, the chairman of Waterhouses Community Association and your local parish councillor, on 373 4576, or drop the reply slip below off at the Black Horse.

If you drive and have a car you may think you are not affected by these changes. But cars can have accidents or be out of action due to servicing: drivers can have medical conditions that prevent them driving for a time: and the roads can be treacherous in winter months.

Some are too young or too old to drive and have to rely on public transport, or the charity of friends and neighbours.

We hope that everyone will join our campaign to get some changes made in these new arrangements. See the back page for details of what you can do.



SPEEDING THROUGH THE VILLAGE

There have been discussions in the village on various ways of slowing down traffic through the village.

The problem of speeding vehicles occurs in the stretch between the village hall and the start of Hamilton Row.

Elsewhere within the village speeding is kept to a minimum by the narrowness of the street and parked cars – and of course sometimes by roadworks and their associated traffic lights!

But there are at least two junctions where cars and people on foot cannot see or be seen as they try to join the road through the village.

Ideas suggested range from a chicane, through road humps, to mirrors at the junctions. **What do YOU think?**

In the meantime red road markings with SLOW are to be painted near the Paddock and Station Street.

*Durham Police are launching a campaign about **PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT** against those who might destroy or damage what we value. This might include*

- ⊙ Chopping down or damaging trees in the local wood
- ⊙ Vandalism in our village
- ⊙ Drunken behaviour

If you see or know who it is who is acting in this way then ring the police on 0845 60 60 365 and let them know.

For your reassurance the police will not divulge your name.

It is helpful to ask the police for an incident report number when you do make such a report, as this ensures that a record is kept of the incident you are reporting.

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RESPONSE FORM – for examples of problems caused, or for your ideas for the better bus service we might try to get.

My problems with the changes in bus services are:

My ideas are: