



Richard Arrowsmith (Chair)
Romsley Parish Council
167 Bromsgrove Road
Hunnington
Worcestershire
B62 0JU

ruth.mullett@btconnect.com

2nd March 2016

Sarah Evans
Transport and Community Allocations Officer
Worcestershire County Council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcestershire
WR5 2NP

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Dear Sarah

Further to my telephone conversation I was extremely disappointed to learn Romsley and Hunnington would be losing the 147 bus. Romsley has an elected Parish Council consisting of seven councillors and one County Councillor. One wonders in this age of Local democracy and Open Transparency how neither party were consulted or even notified officially of this decision massive decision to cut our only bus service. Sadly we were made to look like fools by being told by bus users of which I informed them it was just idle gossip.

We completely agree that Government cuts to bus funding is having a devastating effects on many local bus routes and none more than rural communities as emphasised on the recent Countryfile programme. But buses are an important part of Romsley's infrastructure and are heavily relied upon by many of our parishioners including the elderly, disabled and children/teenagers using them to get to the nearest town to then catch another bus to College. Cutting this critical lifeline will mean many of these vulnerable bus users will be unable to get into the local town, attend hospital or doctors' appointments and just general socialisation. They will be completely cut off from access the local town as we have no other form of public transport i.e. Train station.

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Have there been any alternatives looked at and if not what can we do as a Parish Council to help our vulnerable parishioners. We would welcome an urgent meeting with yourselves to explore these issues further and would ask you to strongly reconsider your decision to cut our bus service.

Kind regards

Richard Arrowsmith
Romsley Parish Council Chairman

CC : Simon Geraghty, Leader Worcestershire County Council
Sajid Javid MP
Rachel Jenkins, County Councillor
First Midland Red Bus Company