

# WEST CHRISTCHURCH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

7 Hurn Road, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 2RJ 01202-473-658

[www.wcresidents.co.uk](http://www.wcresidents.co.uk)

Cllr Robert Gould  
Leader, Dorset CC

26<sup>th</sup> June 2015

By e-mail

Dear Robert

## **Yellow Bus Services 24 and 111**

We understand that the contract between DCC and Yellow Bus for services 24 and 111 that both run through West Christchurch linking Bournemouth Hospital, Christchurch Hospital and Christchurch Railway Station comes to an end in July 2016 and that DCC has told Yellow Bus that it will not be in a position to subsidise these services beyond that time. Yellow Bus has decided that these routes cannot be operated without financial support and has consequently withdrawn them with effect from 6 August 2016.

As a direct result, yet another group of vulnerable old age pensioners will be left holding a bus pass that they can't use because there are no buses – something that is rapidly becoming a feature of life across the whole of DCC's diaspora.

We are acutely aware of DCC's need to reduce costs following its failure to balance the books for the last two years. We believe that DCC's entire establishment costs remain far too high and that as an organisation it is inefficient with buildings that are not conducive to modern methods, low clerical productivity and high sickness and absence rates. We can understand that it is less painful for DCC to attack the poorest and weakest in society rather than address its own internal shortcomings.

Thanks in large part to our local activity DCC's recent public consultation concerning these buses received over 1,000 replies. However, it now appears that DCC had decided to remove the subsidy before it undertook the public consultation. We deplore such cynical behaviour and have asked our umbrella organisation ACRA to write to you separately about that on behalf of all Christchurch residents.

Yours sincerely

Jim Biggin  
Chairman

Copies: Cllr Ray Nottage; Cllr Margaret Phipps; Christopher Chope MP

**Representing over 1,800 homes in West Christchurch**