

To Paul Irwin  
Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport

Cc Cllr Patricia Birchley

Dear Paul Irwin

**Re: Council-Supported Rural Bus Review**

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council discussed the provision of the supported local bus service route 149/194 at its last meeting. The Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Council-Supported Rural Bus Review being conducted by Bucks County Council.

The Parish Council strongly supports the continuation of the 149/194 bus service. There are no shops or post offices in the four villages or in the outlying communities served by this bus. Consequently, the nearest shopping locations are at least five miles away in one of the nearest towns, Berkhamsted, Chesham, Tring and Wendover village. As a consequence a number of residents, typically in the older age-group who do not have access to a car, rely on this service to shop for food and essential household supplies and access services such as GP surgeries and post offices. Given that the bus service already operates with only a single return journey to Chesham on each of three days per week (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) and to Tring only one day per week (Wednesday) the utility of the service is already modest reflected no doubt in passenger usage statistics. However any further curtailment, let along the total withdrawal of the service, would have a devastating impact on the continued wellbeing of those residents who currently make use of this service, or through change in their circumstances those who would rely on this service in the near future.

The Parish Council recognises that the County Council is under increasing financial constraints and has a responsibility to seek all possible avenues to rationalise both the range and the quantum of services it operates and sometimes has to consider making difficult decisions to realise savings. Accordingly, the Parish Council would respond positively to any invitation from the County Council to discuss opportunities to maintain the provision of the 149/94 bus service and importantly consider how it might be better promoted in the future so that use of the service increases rather than deminishes.

Yours.....