



MAYOR OF FAVERSHAM – CLLR TREVOR MARTIN
Town Hall, 12 Market Place, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7AE
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23rd May 2022

Mr Joel Mitchell,
Managing Director,
Stagecoach South East
The Bus Station
St George's Lane
Canterbury CT1 2SY.

Dear Mr Mitchell,

Withdrawal of Bus Services

Faversham Town Council object strongly to the withdrawal of bus services in our area. We fail to see how the withdrawal of services marries with the government's "Bus Back Better" strategy. We understand that with high inflation, and high fuel costs, the cost of running transport services are increasing. However, the recent decision to withdraw services along Lower Road in Faversham and the relatively new X4 service between Canterbury & Maidstone, which serves Faversham and Ospringe, is one that we fail to understand.

The X4 service was instigated less than a year ago. Popularity of the service was still building, however, short notice cancellations over the last few months were having an impact.

The loss of the X4, along with services along Lower Road means residents in the south west of Faversham and in Ospringe will have no accesses to bus services within a mile of their homes. It also means that bus stops we have recently provided benches for will be served by just 3 buses per day in the AM peak, provided by another company.

It also means that there will be no direct service between Sittingbourne and The Abbey School. We know with the increased development in South Sittingbourne, and between Sittingbourne and Faversham and a lack of secondary school places in Swale, that a number of students now travel to the Abbey School utilising this service.

Residents in the North of the town have already had to cope with the loss of services, as no buses have served Davington and North Preston since the start of the pandemic.

We understand that these are commercial routes, however, at a time when Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council and Faversham Town Council are encouraging Active Travel and the Use of Public Transport to help tackle the climate and biodiversity emergency and towards a modal shift in order to reduce congestion and air pollution issues, the decision to cut services appears short-sighted at best. Faversham Town Council requests the decision to withdraw these vital services in reconsidered, that an urgent review of routes within and around the town is undertaken, to ensure that residents across our area, and in the surrounding villages are able to access the town and it's services by public transport.

We also ask that the council be furnished with details as to how the viability of bus services/routes is calculated so that we can best understand how to prevent future losses of services.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



The Worshipful Mayor of the Town and Port of Faversham,
Cllr Trevor Martin
On behalf of Faversham Town Council.