

Cllr Brian Sweetland
Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Direct line:
Ask for:
My ref:
Your ref:
Email:

Date:

Dear Cllr Sweetland,

REMOVAL OF SEVENOAKS WEALD FROM ARRIVA 402 BUS ROUTE

As you will be aware, Arriva recently took the decision that the 402 bus would no longer serve Sevenoaks Weald, as a result of timetabling problems caused by congestion in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. I am writing to you today to express Sevenoaks District Council's disappointment with this decision and to ask that you join me in writing to Arriva to explain the hardship that this has caused for residents of Sevenoaks Weald by reducing their access to key services and facilities, such as schools and GP surgeries. This reduction in access to services is contradictory to what KCC's Local Transport Plan 2011-2016 and Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport are seeking to achieve.

You will also be aware that Kent County Council has sought to compensate residents of Sevenoaks Weald by extending the 421 tendered route between Sevenoaks and Dartford to Sevenoaks Weald. However, this bus only runs from Sevenoaks Weald 4 times per day, with the first service leaving at 10:20. Furthermore, this service does not provide access to Hildenborough, which is an important centre for services for residents of Sevenoaks Weald. In addition to utilising KCC's highways and transport planning responsibilities to seek to resolve the issues that led to the withdrawal of 402 service from Sevenoaks Weald, I would ask that KCC consider what more it can do to compensate residents of Sevenoaks Weald for the loss of the 402 service.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Peter Fleming
Leader of Sevenoaks District Council