

Mr Robert Patterson  
Business Development Manager,  
Arriva Southern Counties,  
Invicta House,  
Armstrong Road,  
Maidstone  
ME15 6TX

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

Date:

Dear Mr Patterson,

### **REMOVAL OF SEVENOAKS WEALD FROM ARRIVA 402 BUS ROUTE**

I am writing to you regarding Arriva's recent decision that the 402 bus would no longer serve Sevenoaks Weald. I understand that this is as a result of timetabling problems caused by congestion in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. I would like to express Sevenoaks District Council's disappointment with this decision and to highlight 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. Whilst KCC has sought to compensate residents of Sevenoaks Weald by extending the 421 tendered route between Sevenoaks and Dartford to Sevenoaks Weald, this bus only runs from Sevenoaks Weald 4 times per day, with the first service leaving at 10:20. This service also does not provide access to Hildenborough, which is an important centre for services for residents of Sevenoaks Weald.

Sevenoaks District Council have asked that Kent County Council uses its highways and transport planning responsibilities to seek to resolve the issues that led to the withdrawal of 402 service from Sevenoaks Weald. SDC hope that Arriva will be keen to listen to your customers and adapt your services, in accordance with your company's Corporate Responsibility pledges.

Yours sincerely

Peter Fleming  
Leader of Sevenoaks District Council