



# Meriden Parish Council

*the centre of england*

## **Questions and issues raised by residents at the Parish Council meeting on 28 June 2010 were emailed to Simon Mathieson of National Express and Dawn Harris-Roper of Centro who attended same meeting.**

Responses received to date are featured below. National Express responses are highlighted in blue and Centro responses highlighted in red.

**1. Unlike Balsall Common and Hampton in Arden, Meriden does not have a railway station and is therefore wholly reliant on its bus services. However, these services are being continually chipped away.**

The new 82 service will give a link to Hampton in Arden rail station for people living in Meriden and Millison's Wood. The new 82 gives a direct link to Coventry and Solihull

**2. Staff at Bablake House which is situated at the far end of Millisons Wood expressed concerns over how their staff, who finish work at 10pm will get to Coventry for their connecting service. There are 40 staff of which 30 use the buses. There is concern over their staff's safety having to wait for long periods for a bus.**

The withdrawal of the 900 service from Millison's Wood in the direction to Coventry is a commercial decision and outside of the control of Centro. Centro can provide a public subsidy for services to operate if there are no alternative services available. Our standards state that in the continuously built up areas of the West Midlands, people should be within 400m of a bus service during the daytime and 700m during evenings and Sundays. However these can be extended to 1.5km in rural parts of the of the West Midlands. There is also a minimum patronage required of 5 persons per journey for a maximum level of subsidy. The revised route of the 900 bus service will leave most of Millison's Wood within a 700m walk to the 900 service in the Coventry direction. Given the patronage levels of the service unfortunately there is no case for the provision of a public subsidy for a replacement service.

**3. Can you please confirm whether the Travel West Midlands pass can be used on the 82 service. If this is not possible, then passengers will be paying**



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**additional fair as they will now have to use x2 buses when they are currently using x2. Your comments on this would be welcomed.**

National Express tickets will not be valid on the 82 service.

In the email below from Simon he has confirmed that NX tickets will not be valid on the 82 service. However there are other options available which may be of interest to some passengers i.e. An NBus day ticket can be purchased for £3.70. Monthly travelcards are also available. These tickets are valid on all Central Connect and National Express West Midlands services throughout the West Midlands so are valid on both the 82 and 900 service.

**4. One suggestion was to move the bus stop at Brick Hill Lane to Oak Lane where it was originally. Although passengers will have to cross the A45 it was felt that this would be a possible solution. Could enquiries be made with the Highway Authority to ascertain whether this is possible?**

I am happy to have a look at this stop being reinstated. Perhaps Dawn could take the lead on this?

I must admit I have some reservations as to the safety of people crossing the A45 to access a bus stop, however please let me know if you wish me to pursue this request and I will arrange a site meeting with the Highway Authority (Coventry CC I believe), Simon would you or a NX representative be willing to attend?

**5. Would it not be more economically viable for Centro to fund the Millison's Wood / Park Hill sections of the 900 service than running a completely different service to cover those areas?**

Julie can I please come back to you on this question, as I just want to confirm a couple of points with my head of section.

**6. As the 900 will no longer be going to Park Hill, will it still call at Allesley?**

The 900 will still call at Allesley.

Yes as answered by Simon.

**7. Please clarify the fare on the 82.**

The Centro specification for fares is £1.70 for a normal single journey or £1.50 for a short hop. Central Connect may introduce special offers; I would have to ask them.

**8. The Taxi Bus is not considered to be a suitable replacement service to Balsall Common which residents in Meriden need access to for a number of**



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**reasons. To get to the Heart of England School/Sixth Form College at exam time. To access facilities at the leisure club at Heart of England School. To access the Balsall Common Doctors Surgery which will soon be expanding and having additional services. For social groups such as CAMEO (Come and meet each other). The list is endless. The Taxi Bus sometimes has to be booked a week in advance at the moment. How will Centro ensure that the Taxi Bus will cope with the additional demand?**

*Wmsnt are aware of the situation and Centro believe there is sufficient capacity for all of those who wish to use this service. Concessionary passes are valid on the service as well as network and NBus tickets.*

*On a separate note all of the orders have been placed for the ID tags and timetable cases to be fitted to the shelters and I understand from a colleague of mine that some of the shelters have now been fitted with RTI. I am not sure if the Id tags and cases have been fitted to date, are you able to confirm please?*