



# Rural East Lothian Bus Users

## September 2011 Newsletter

### *Since our June 2011 Newsletter*

RELBU's organised a public meeting in Haddington Town House on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011. This was well attended by members of the public, East Lothian Councillors Barry Turner, Jackie Bell, Sheena Richardson, Tom Trotter, and Iain Gray MSP. The main concerns were from people affected by the changes to the 123 and 121 services, these routes are subsidised by ELC and have been subject to recent cuts.

#### Concerns raised:-

- Reliability of First Bus, the condition and size of vehicles used
- Loss of service to New Winton
- Route of buses via Glenkinchie to East Salton - concern over bus stop on blind corners and route which may become impassable in winter, leading to bus disruption.
- Loss of service within Long Cram/Acredales area of Haddington, which disadvantages elderly residents. First bus will only stop at designated stops within the 30 mph limit, therefore not stopping before Rosehall.
- Loss of service for workers at the Tyneholm care home in Pencaitland.
- Loss of Saturday evening buses, which were essential for social life of people living in outlying areas.
- Timetable issues with no buses returning from Haddington at the end of the working day.
- High cost of fares

Gifford Community Council have already met with ELC and First Bus Representatives regarding the many problems experienced and a petition signed by 320 people has been delivered to ELC. The overall feeling was that ELC had not given Community Councils sufficient time to reflect on changes before implementation.

Any problems experienced should be reported to David Kerr at ELC 01620 827660 or [d.kerr@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:d.kerr@eastlothian.gov.uk) or First Bus 08708727271 e-mail [Contact.Scotlandeast@firstgroup.com](mailto:Contact.Scotlandeast@firstgroup.com)

#### Also discussed were:-

- the problems experienced by East Linton school pupils travelling to Dunbar
- Demand Responsive Transport

- Reopening of East Linton Railway station
- Lack of connections between East Lothian towns
- Slow evening bus service from Haddington to Dunbar
- Ongoing problem of coach style vehicles and accessibility issues.

It was suggested RELBUs gather information on the number of breakdowns and ‘no shows’ experienced in the area and lobby First Bus to make this information available to the public, in line with those published by rail operators.

### ***Going Forward***

- Waiting for confirmation from First Bus that they are to withdraw the 253 service, which will result in Dunbar service reducing to 1 bus per hour to Edinburgh during the winter months
- Awaiting a reply from First Bus & ELC regarding the above concerns on the 123 and 121 services
- Meeting with Perryman’s buses to discuss possible improvements in their service
- RELBUs are working with Eves Coaches to run one service per day between Dunbar and Haddington to link in with their service to ERI
- We have issued a survey to all members and the Stenton bus users survey is now complete
- We want to encourage all Community Councils to join us in improving public transport within East Lothian

**RELBUs** formed in November 2011, following cuts to First Bus services between Dunbar/East Linton/Edinburgh. We have now held 5 public meetings in Dunbar, East Linton and Haddington to gather information from all interested parties. We aim to encourage bus travellers from all areas of East Lothian to join us in our campaign for better public transport links in the East of the County, where fares are high and some services unreliable.

***Get in touch with RELBUs with any problems, views or ideas***

<b>Email</b>	<b><a href="mailto:info@relbus.org.uk">info@relbus.org.uk</a></b>
<b>By Mail</b>	<b>Rural East Lothian Bus Users Sustaining Dunbar 16 West Port Dunbar EH42 1BU</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b><a href="http://www.relbus.org.uk">www.relbus.org.uk</a></b>
<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Relbus Conncting Dunbar</b>