

Dear Friend

A NEW BUS SERVICE FOR THE WILBRAHAMS - YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Parish Councils in the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom need your support. After many years of suffering an almost non-existent bus service, this could all be about to change. There is now a real prospect for an **hourly** bus service through the village. **We need your help** to make the case for change to key decision makers, and secure a frequent, publicly supported connection to vital local services, amenities and employment centres.

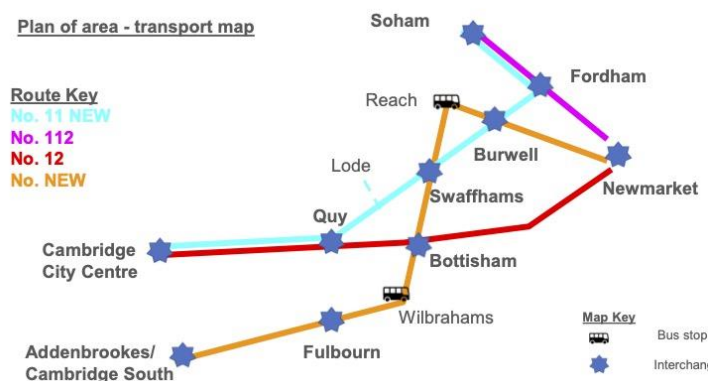
Background and Proposals

Compared with the historic service, and the existing service of other nearby villages, the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom suffer from especially poor access to public transport, with just a single return service each day to Cambridge City Centre, supplemented by one return service to Newmarket each week. This leaves village residents totally reliant on access to private cars, with the associated high running costs, or journeys by taxi, with a return journey into the city costing over £40. Parents know only too well the constant running around needed to ferry children to schools and other activities. Families have little choice but to run two or more cars, just to be able to go about their daily lives.

But there may be an alternative.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) is developing plans for improvements to the bus network across the county. CPCA aims to add more buses to the network, providing a comprehensive network that better connects people to places across all parts of the region and beyond¹. An emerging plan was presented to key decision makers on CPCA's Board on 20 March. This included a proposal for an hourly bus service between Newmarket and Addenbrooke's via Burwell, Swaffhams, Bottisham and the Wilbrahams. From Addenbrooke's, frequent onward bus connections already exist to local research parks, schools, employment centres and shops and services. Eventually the service will connect with the new Cambridge South station.

The Parish Councils know this service would be transformative for the village, opening up a wide range of journey opportunities that currently can only be made by car. We believe the proposals are credible, supported by clear evidence of need recently presented to CPCA by the A to B1102 group²



¹ Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, November 2023 ([CPCA-LTCP-Strategic-Document.pdf](https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk))

² Submission to CPCA, A to B 1102 Group, February 2024 (<https://atob1102.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/submission-to-cpca-public-transport-services-20240226.pdf>)

(as featured in the Cambridge Independent³), and supported by funding which has been secured specifically for bus service improvements⁴.

What we need

Our Parish Councils must throw their full support behind these proposals. But we want our campaign to be driven by real stories about the difference this service could make to **your** lives. We think this service could:

- Help our young people be more independent, by providing better access to schools and colleges.
- Open up better access to quality employment opportunities.
- Support our local economy by providing access to local businesses along the route.
- Provide access to local community facilities, including leisure facilities, healthcare and hospital services.
- Support families concerned about their environmental impact to reduce their car ownership.
- Better connect the Wilbrahams to other nearby communities, opening up new opportunities to socialise or take up new hobbies, helping to tackle loneliness and isolation in our community.

So, whatever your thoughts, **we want to hear from you.** What difference would this bus make to you? How would you use it? Where would you go?

The Parish Councils will gather all your feedback to prepare a clear narrative for change, which we will use to convince key decision makers and influencers to back this change. Please complete the questionnaire, which is available online on <https://forms.office.com/e/qPA68d3qX4> or by scanning the below QR code.



If you want help to do this please contact our clerk at 07369 248998.

For the first time in more than 40 years there is a real prospect of a bus service that can deliver a huge, positive change for the Wilbrahams. Please help us to make it a reality!

Great Wilbraham

Hilary Burton
James Harmer
Max Laverack
Jackie Beadsmoore

Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom

David Gill
Claire Daunton

³ Campaign survey reveals need for new bus routes to sixth forms and Addenbrooke's, Cambridge Independent, 18 March 2024 (<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/campaign-survey-reveals-need-for-new-bus-routes-to-sixth-for-9357659/>)

⁴ The funding for the proposed bus services comes from: £11 million funding from an additional mayoral precept on all properties, banded according to council tax bands; a further £4 million from other sources will fund low fares for those under 25; and £0.5 million to provide or improve bus shelters. There will be increments on this each year over the next five years, if all goes to plan.

