

Dr James Davies MP

Member of Parliament for the Vale of Clwyd / Aelod Seneddol dros Ddyffryn Clwyd



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jens Abromeit – Managing Director, UK Bus
Arriva
Doxford International Business Park
Sunderland
SR3 3XP

Our Ref: JD20885

30 October 2023

Dear Mr Abromeit,

In recent days, I have met representatives of Dyserth Community Council to discuss the reduced bus services in the village. As you may be aware, Arriva previously operated a route which was used by residents of lower Dyserth to access the businesses and services along Dyserth High Street. In early 2017, Arriva chose to stop this service due to concerns relating to traffic congestion and the impact of this on the timetable. A well-attended public meeting was held on this topic in March of that year, at which residents and I voiced our concerns and disappointment.

Since then, the county council has carried out works to improve a particular pinch point along the High Street. This has addressed issues which had previously impeded traffic at busier times of the day.

Despite the works being carried out, I am aware that at present, buses climb Waterfall Road before turning right, avoiding Dyserth High Street. This means that an increasing and often elderly population in lower Dyserth has no bus service to access village facilities – including the Post Office, shops, pharmacy and doctors' surgery. A sizeable petition has emerged, supporting the reinstatement of a link to the Dyserth village facilities. To do so would add several minutes only to the overall journey but would be extremely beneficial to hundreds of residents.

I am told that in more recent discussions, the community council has been told that Arriva will not consider reinstating the High Street link, despite improvement works, citing reasons such as delays incurred by the 20mph speed limit and the assumed non-profitable nature of any High Street diversion.

While I believe your existing arrangements in Dyserth are managed as profitable services, not in receipt of council subsidy, I understand Arriva does nevertheless receive a payment from the Welsh Government to assist in delivering public transport networks.

The topography of the village is relatively unique with the upper and lower part of the village separated by steep hill. Therefore, whilst the distance is relatively short, it is not possible for many residents to walk between the two.

I feel it is important that this important local link be restored and would value your comments. I am copying this letter to the county council for their perspective also.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Davies'.

Dr James Davies MP

Cc: Dyserth Community Council
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