

Bus services between Faversham villages and rural areas – next steps

At our September meeting we passed a motion which included the following proposal: That an investigation/report be made into reviewing existing community transport models to see what might be suitable for the Eastern area.

Nothing has been done since to move this proposal forward. In the meantime the government has announced a new national bus strategy, there have been reductions in local services along the A2 and the borough's draft local plan has proposed that there should be significant development along the length of the A2 which should increase demand for public transport. As a result it is probably helpful to bring the issue back to the committee to see what members want to do next.

Possible options could include:

- Making improved bus and other community transport a priority for the committee during 2021/22 and funding the production of a report on improving transport links within the area.
- Identifying to the cabinet that improving bus and related community transport services is a priority for the area and that we would like to see the Borough work with partners to improve bus services along the A2 and to find ways of networking local villages in with those services.
- Writing to Kent County Council requesting more information on how they can support the development of better bus services in Eastern Swale.

But members may have other suggestions.