

Travel newsletter

Issue 2

Latest news

by **Reggie Tricker**, Somerset County Council

The past year has been a period of change in the public sector, with a new Government and economic priorities. Among the changes we have seen is the withdrawal of the Highways Agency (HA) from direct involvement in area travel plans. However, the HA still fully supports the principles of travel planning and is active in securing these for new developments.

After a period of review, Somerset County Council is continuing its work on travel plans, albeit with the removal of its non-staff budget for work in this area. This means that work on the Junction 25 will be of small scale, and will rely on the active involvement of employers more than ever to take things forward – the Big Society in action.

Thank you to Peter Brett Associates who have helped organise the Repair & Ride Cycle Repair sessions for April 2011, and for the additional administrative support employers are providing to the employer meetings including employers who have hosted.

This newsletter brings together the projects that were carried out in 2010/11 and highlights some of the improvements that are in the pipeline, as well as highlighting changes in the local transport network.

Among the initiatives last year was the Commuter Challenge (see Employer Spotlight), pictured below.



The West of Junction 25 travel project is here to help employees and visitors get to and from Blackbrook, Dane Gate, and Heron Gate Business Parks, and the leisure and retail area at Hankridge.

This project was initiated by Somerset County Council and the Highways Agency, and now local employers are beginning to take hold of the project.

This is the second in a series of travel newsletters to help keep employees and businesses informed. Further information is available from www.movingsomersetforward.co.uk/j25

Contact
movingforward@somerset.gov.uk

Ring 01823 358079

Google group for employers
<http://groups.google.com/group/westj25>

Next employer meetings

Every four months employers meet to discuss travel issues and ideas to promote through the project. The project relies on having champions from businesses in the area to promote events and different ways of working.

These are held at lunchtimes and are quite informal.

The dates of the next employer meetings are as follows.

13th July
17th November

Commuter Tit Bits

Cycle promo

We are running further cycle events during April to help employees prepare for the summer:

15/21 April **Repair and Ride Bicycle Maintenance**

Changes to bus services in Taunton

In response to Somerset County Council's budget for 2011/12, financial support provided to local bus services has been withdrawn for a number of bus services in the County.

This means that some services that are not profitable to run will no longer be subsidised by Somerset County Council.

However, most of the services that serve the West of Junction 25 run independently of any subsidy and so these will continue, and there will be no discernable difference to bus services for travelling to or from work.

Some changes to evening services are being made, and these will affect workers who work outside of normal commuting hours. These changes are as follows:

- **Service 1** from Stop A
Services to Blackbrook unaffected.
- **Service 4** from Stop E
Evening services withdrawn: All journeys after 1842 from Taunton Parade to Lane Estate are withdrawn. In the opposite direction all journeys from 1857 onwards are also withdrawn.
- **Service 21A** from Stop D and F
Evening services to Burnham withdrawn: The Monday to Thursday evening journeys at 2005 from Taunton, Musgrove Park will now terminate at Bridgwater, Bus Station and will no longer go on to Burnham.
Evening services withdrawn: The Monday to Thursday evening services leaving Taunton, Bus Station at 2125 and 2240, and leaving Burnham-on-Sea at 2120 and 2230 are withdrawn.
Friday and Saturday evening services continue to operate on a trial 'use it or lose it' basis despite the local authority withdrawing its support.
- **Service 30/30A** from Stop B and F
Evening services withdrawn: All Service 30A evening, Sunday and Bank Holiday journeys are withdrawn.
- **Service 54/54B/54C** from Stop B and C
Evening services withdrawn: All journeys on Sundays, Public Holidays and Monday – Saturday evenings are withdrawn

Information provided by First. www.firstgroup.com

Summer special offer – transport promotions

Several employers have signed up to pledges to take part in the West of Junction 25 travel project.

As a one-off promotion, using remaining resources from last year, we are able to offer employers some incentives to help them promote this year's national travel events.

We are offering **5 walking bags and two t-shirts per workplace** (subject to demand) to any employer willing to sign up to promoting two days in 2011.



You can choose from any of the following:

9-13 May - -----	Walk to Work Week
16-20 May - -----	Walk to School Week
20 May - -----	National Work From Home Day (TBC)
June - -----	Ride to Work Day
5 June - -----	World Environment Day
17-26 June - -----	Green Transport Week
	and Bike to Work Day
16-22 September - ----	European Mobility Week
October - -----	Walk to School Month
3-7 October - -----	Liftshare Week
14-18 November - -----	Commute Smart Week

This can be from anything as simple as

- downloading posters from a website and displaying them in prominent places in the workplace to make staff aware of the days, to
- providing extra incentives such as allowing staff the chance to try working at home
- providing a free breakfast for cyclists or
- marking out special parking spaces for car sharing.

We'll provide a factsheet for each day providing further advice. Please contact us if you wish to take part and we'll send you a short summer events pledge form to complete.

Employer spotlight

Commuter Challenge

At the end of Summer 2010 we ran a commuter challenge. Various awards were given out. Both Peter Brett Associates (PBA) and AC Mole put in terrific efforts and BSI were awarded for team effort.

Travel plan popular version

A short version of the travel plan is now available on our website.

Google group

A google group for employers to talk about travel matters in between meetings has been set up as a trial. If you have not received the password please let us know.

Travel Information Sheets

The travel information for Junction 25 has now been updated. All employers attending the meetings should have received a pad each.

We have enough for all employers in the area to have a pad which contains enough copies for staff and visitors.

We've also provided them to other businesses such as the Hydrographic Office and Blackbrook Pavilion.

Contact us if you need more copies.

New bus journey planner coming soon – see next issue!