

Bus Survey Results

Survey promoted by Wittering Parish Council

Prepared using survey data up to and including 30th April 2023



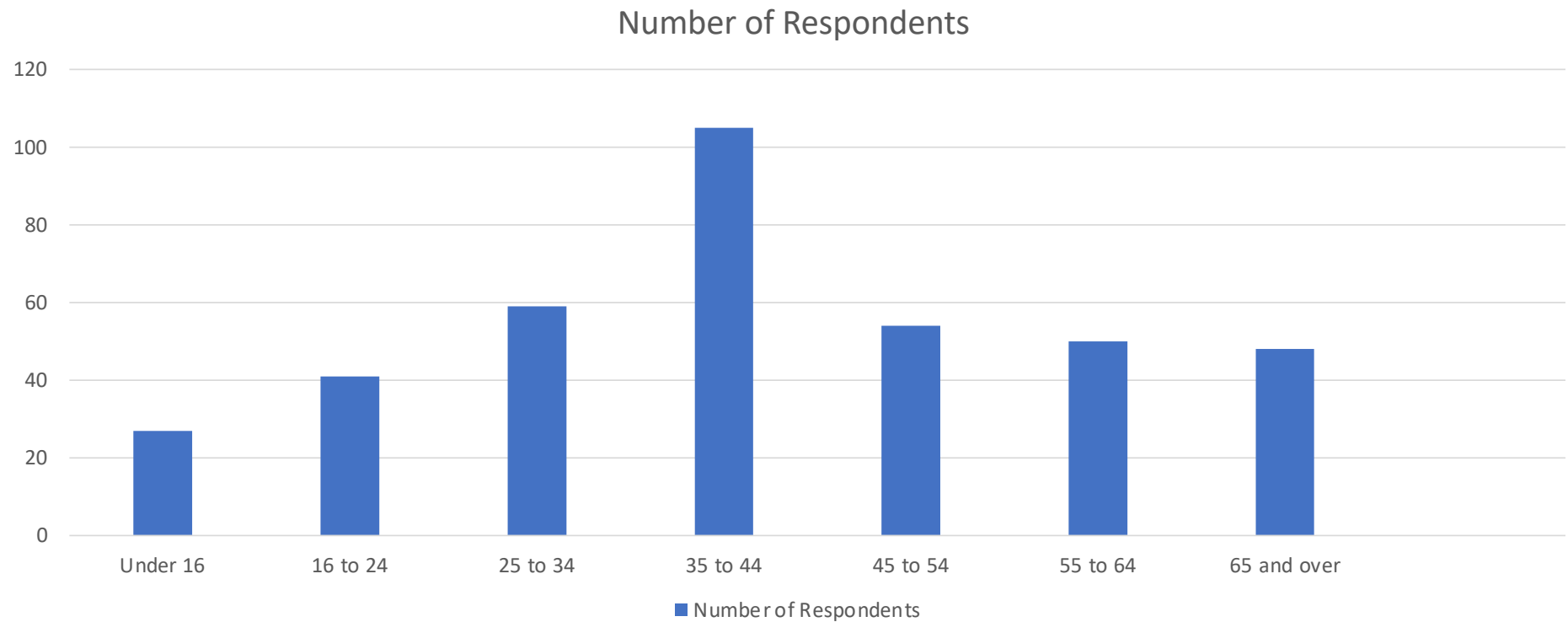
Summary

Number of respondents: 384

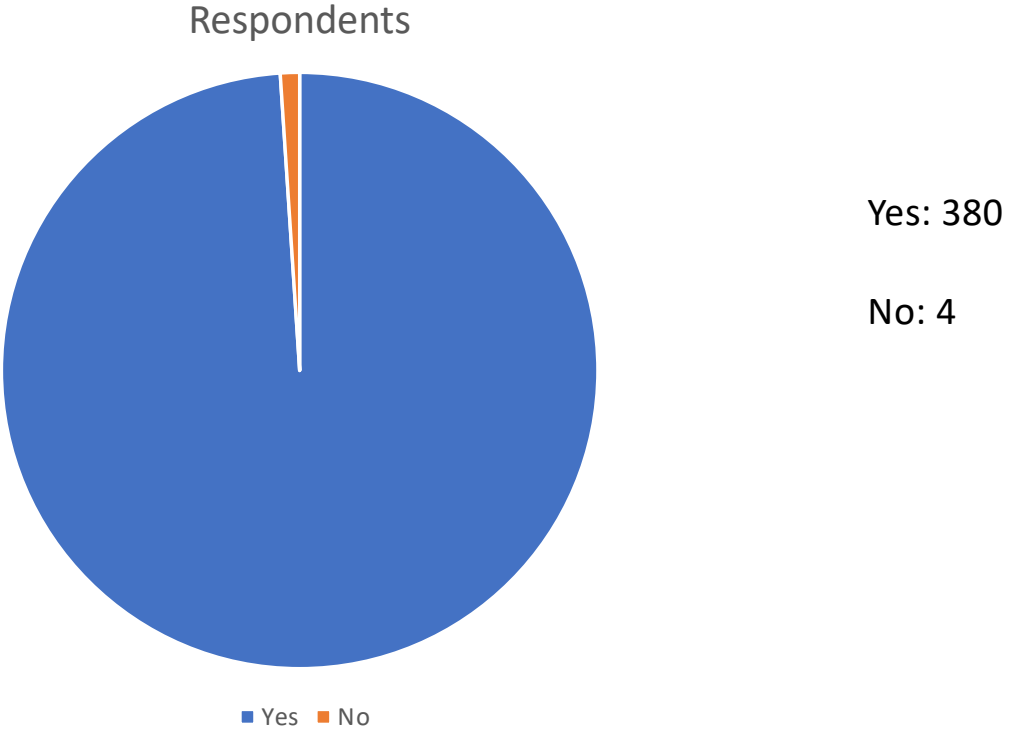
Personal data collected but not shown in this report:

- Names
- Addresses (for online submissions and respondents aged 16 and over)
- Consent to data processing
- Consent to email contact

Age Range



If there was a regular bus service, would you use it?

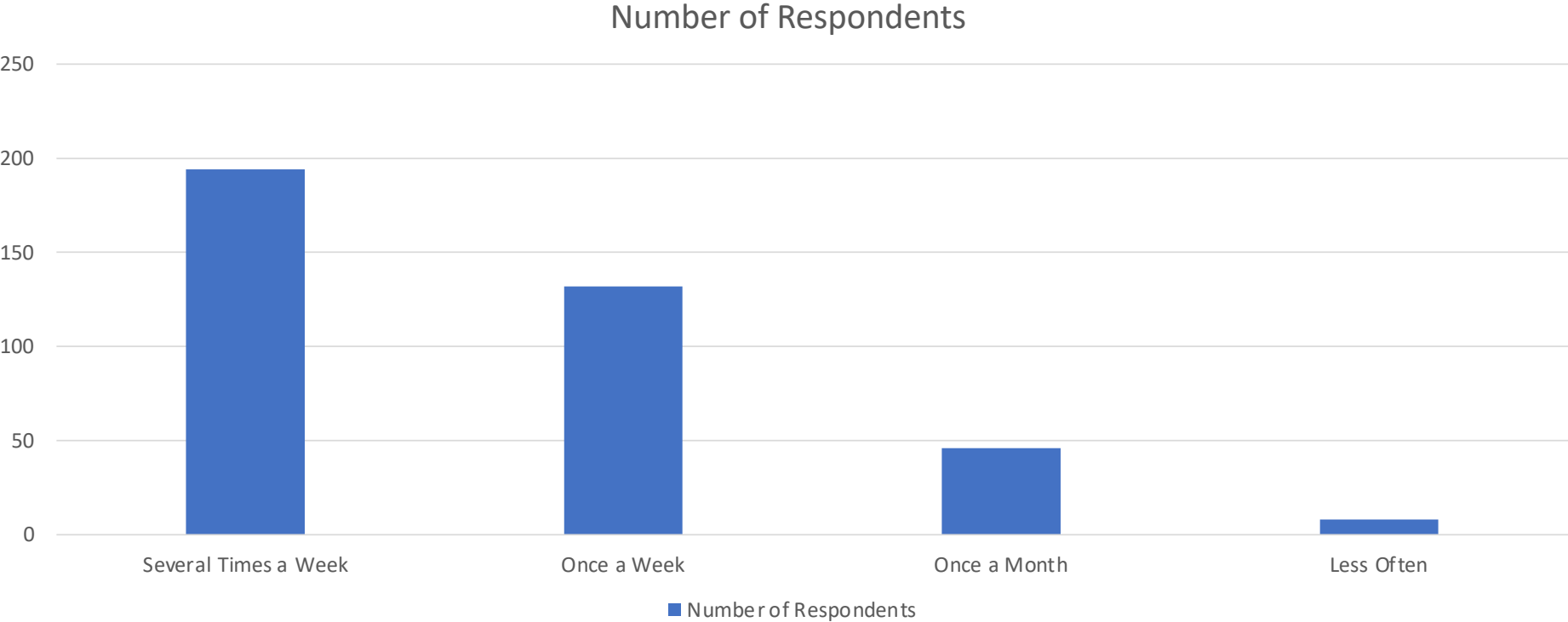


If there was a regular bus service, would you use it?

Reasons given by the four respondents who said they would NOT use the bus service.

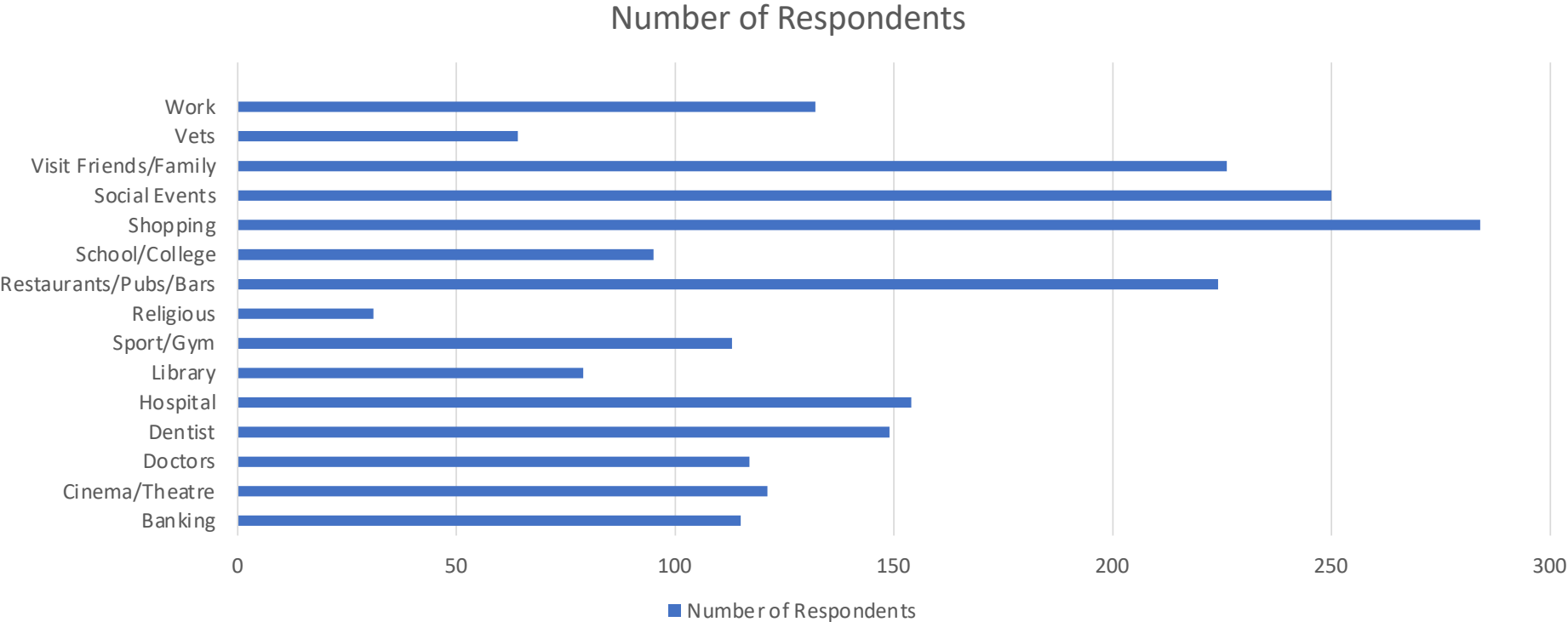
1. "Because I work 20 miles away from home and it would take me over 2 hours and at least 2 buses each way."
2. "I drive so there wouldn't need to be a reason to use the bus services. However, others who don't drive or can't drive yet would benefit this both financially and mentally."
3. "I have no need at the moment, but will need it in the coming years."
4. "I drive and Filling out this form to support the village in needing a bus. To arrant people into the village a bus service is needed as not all families have a car. This leads to isolation and loneliness and in some cases mental health issues."

How often would you use a bus service?

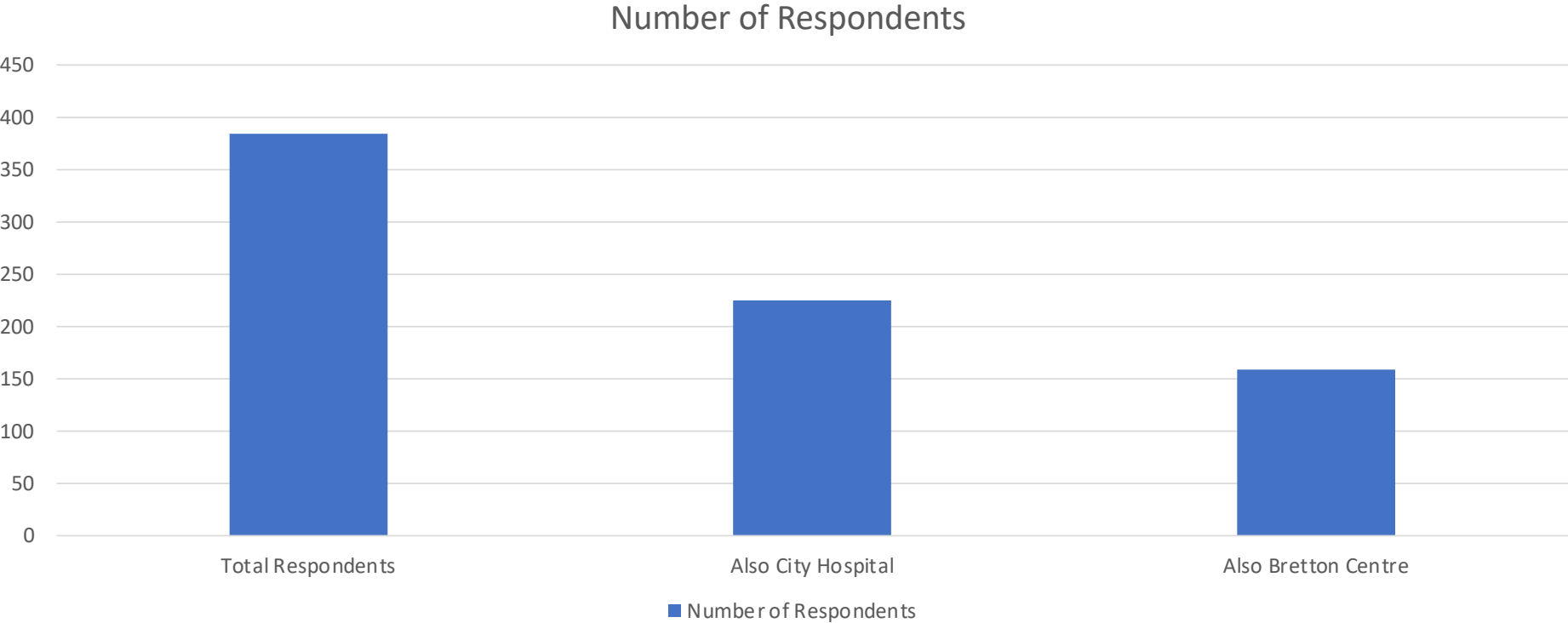


What would be your reasons for using the bus service?

Note: This was a predefined list

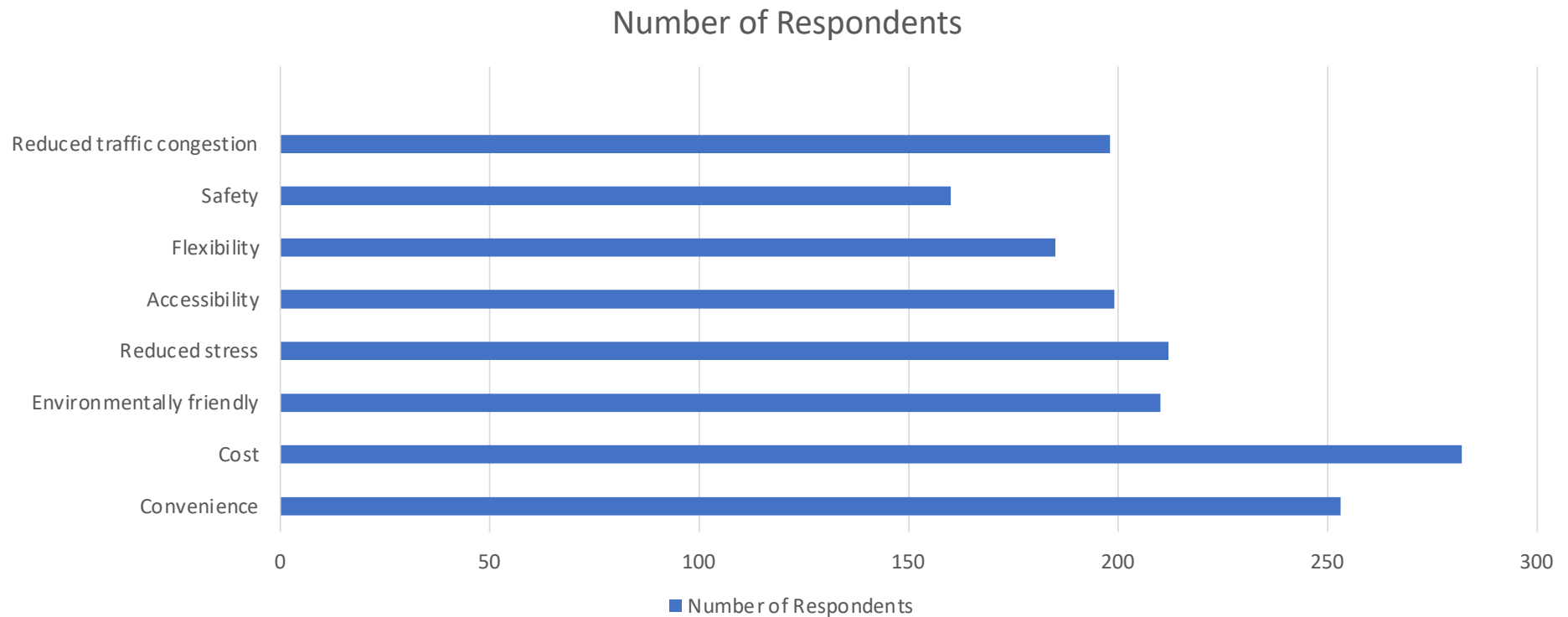


In addition to Peterborough/Stamford would you also like the bus to call at the hospital and/or Bretton Centre?



Which of following are important reasons why you would choose to use a bus rather than a car/tax?

Note: This was a predefined list of eight choices



The following text comments were left by respondents

1. “We desperately need a bus service in Wittering to combat social isolation in our village ift 2000 people. We also need a bus service to allow our residents access to basic healthcare Doctors Dentists opticians and Hospitals”
2. “I would like the bus services to be 7 days a week if possible”
3. “Running at times suitable for schools such as Kings in Peterborough”
4. “We would like the bus reinstated as it would make it easier to get our child to school in Peterborough (Kings School)reliably, safely and consistently. At the moment we have to drive them to Stamford in order to catch the bus there”
5. “Please reinstate the bus service as I for one don't drive and find it difficult to go anywhere especially when my partner is away on deployment. I also have a 7 year old son who loves getting out and about but without a bus service we feel very isolated.”
6. “My wife hasn’t been able to work for over a year now. We moved down to wittering the same month they can the bus service which my wife was relying on to get work.”

The following text comments were left by respondents

7. "It would be great for a bus to Stamford as well as majority of children school college in Stamford and can visit friends"
8. "I feel a bus service to include Wittering would be beneficial to all residents. I also feel, for many, this would be an added tool to help combat isolation and mental health issues. Not all residents have use of or even own a car."
9. "Freedom for my child to go places on their own is a main one. Also only owning one car so when the car is in use I can still go out and do things."
10. "We need a bus route. My husband military and is away alot. I don't drive and can not afford driving lessons"
11. "I'm the only driver in the household. My wife no longer has a license do to restricted sight caused by diabetes. I'm a type two diabetic and need annual retinopathy eye sight tests. My eyes are dilated and I cannot drive to the only appointments in Peterborough. Taxi costs are more than the cost of test at my optician in Stamford who can do these tests. I have over the last two years privately paid for these tests. These tests are free on the NHS. A bus service to Peterborough is a real necessity."

The following text comments were left by respondents

12. "If the service is provided, I will use it even more."
13. "Neither me or my husband drive and struggle to get out of the Village. We have to plan days out well in advance so we know we have the money to pay for travel. Also our daughter can't do after school lessons at her secondary school as we can't get her home. Seeing family also has to be planned in advance so we have time to get money for transportation"
14. "The village is isolated and shut off being enclosed within the A1 / A47. Walking to nearest larger facilities is not practical. Village has expanded with development of new estate"
15. "To not have a bus service is a huge disadvantage to me personally. I have epilepsy and can not drive, I have a free bus pass and can not use it. I am totally reliant on my husband to take me everywhere, by car which is expensive, I could also pick up my prescriptions from Wansford and meet friends in Stamford and Peterborough to see my Mother."
16. "I feel the village I live in needs a person like myself to help make this become a reality. I drive, but a lot of our vulnerable residents and teenagers that need to leave the village to socialise would really benefit with a bus route back ."

The following text comments were left by respondents

17. "My daughter is starting secondary school next year and without a bus service will be stuck in wittering unless we drive her everywhere"
18. "I have a daughter who is trying to get a job but cannot drive and a bus would be so helpful for her to get to and from work Also handy for us to visit family in Stamford if my husband is away with work"
19. "We desperately need a bus service especially for the younger people they are trapped /isolated in the village they cannot get jobs or socialise with friends as they have to rely on parents to him like myself work long hours and shifts so are unable to aid my young people to get out more ,When our cars break down we have to use taxi cabs which are 25 quid and more 1 way into Peterborough very expensive for people to get to hospital appointments ,If you don't drive in this village you are seriously stuck we need a bus route for all our villagers young and old to get out and regain there freedom."
20. "I would use my car less if there was a regular bus service"
21. "Although a car driver we often used buses on weekend or of the car was out of action, for a bud to go directly to Peterborough hospital would be a huge bonusf"

The following text comments were left by respondents

22. "An evening bus (no later than 7pm) would be good to get into Peterborough for socialising as it would half the cost of taxi fares if I wanted to have any alcohol. Any kind of service would mean I could pick up my car from being repaired without having to pay for a taxi"
23. "I'm a non driver a mother of two small children and a childminder. My husband is in the military and is often away for long periods I am lost without a reliable bus service I'm desperate for it"
24. "A bus to Grantham would also be useful. There is one between Stamford and Grantham, but the timings only work for those going to school/work in Stamford and coming from Grantham, rather than the other way around."
25. "Missed the bus service, a reliable service were we can leave our cars at home and attend events would be great, rather take the bus if going out and get a taxi home. Or attending sports events leaving the car at home and knowing we have a bus service that is scheduled would be brilliant. If anything happens to the car we know we can access Stamford or Peterborough, which at present we are stranded. Also my nieces can access me as they cannot drive yet and they will be able to come and visit. Many people in the village don't drive and the call connect has not been ideal, and with living costs going up giving them access to cheaper reliable bus services gives them a life line. All villages should have access to a scheduled bus service."

The following text comments were left by respondents

26. "Wittering village, especially, can feel very isolated located next to the A1 with no public transport in and out the village. Although the A1 has a pathway, attempting this with young children can be very daunting. Having the opportunity to use a bus service to head into town for shopping/social reasons would boost anybody's mental health encouraging people to stay active. The opportunities a bus service would offer is not only of a social aspect but also would give people the ability to pursue work opportunities too."
27. "Ideally to be able to visit family and travelling to work."
28. "Wittering has nothing, have no access to doctors or dentist and i stress so much about getting to appointments"
29. "Being able to have a bus service would allow me to be able to gain a better paying job and open opportunities for not only myself but all young adults within Wittering. Wittering has very limited opportunity for work and no access to leave the village without driving which causes anxiety for many people which I know within this village leading to anti social and depressive behavior. Having the opportunity to travel using a bud would motivate many more people to gain a job and enjoy socializing with people residing within Peterborough and Stamford leading to people like myself having more drive to achieve and gain more self confidence within their selves and not having to rely and the measly resources which Wittering provides to its residents."

The following text comments were left by respondents

30. "I am strongly in support of a reinstated regular bus service. I have lived in Wittering for the last 9 years and rely on public transport twice daily, to commute to work in Peterborough. The decline of the regular bus service, and switch over to the Call Connect service is nothing short of a complete failure. The current Call Connect service is not at all fit for purpose. It causes me daily stress and aggravation, and seems to be getting worse by the week. I have to go onto the app before 6.30am daily to have any chance of booking a suitable time to travel in 7 days time. If I don't book a full week in advance there is no slot available to take me to and from work. This is in spite of the fact that the Call Connect service supposedly took over the daily service from Wittering to Peterborough. Even once I've booked my transport a full week ahead, I'm almost daily left guessing as to what time I'll actually be picked up, and even worse, what time I'll arrive into Peterborough for work. Recently, for over half of my bookings for a one week period, I arrived between 20-30 minutes late for work. This has become an ongoing embarrassment. On one of these mornings, my driver arrived 20 minutes after the latest time of the 20 minute window I was given (meaning I'd actually been stood in the cold for 40 minutes already) once I then boarded the bus, the driver called the office and arranged to collect another 3 passengers (from Southorp, and Ailsworth) on route to Peterborough. When I expressed to the driver that I was already going to be late for work he simply replied "it's on the way and won't make a difference". This voluntary addition to the route by the completely ignorant driver added another 15 minutes to the journey making me 35 minutes late for work. I've honestly given up on complaining to Call Connect, as I'm sick of the staff saying "we know, the new system is terrible, everyone complains about it" 🙄 In short the service is completely unreliable. Oscillating between some drivers who arrive 15 minutes ahead of schedule (at which point you receive a text message stating that your driver is seconds away and will need to leave shortly) and other drivers who arrive 30 minutes after schedule. So when you factor this in on top of the "20 minute arrival window" that you're given for your bus arrival, you actually end up expected to be ready and waiting for your bus for a 65 minute window, which is an utter joke. I would absolutely love a reliable and consistent bus service that I could use to get to work and back each day. To have a scheduled service would alleviate a huge amount of stress and hassle from my daily commute. Thank you for reading my rant 😊"

The following text comments were left by respondents

31. "Currently less city centre parking, and what there is, is expensive."
32. "Would be lovely if they could put a bus service back on I've got a daughter granddaughter and friends in wittering"
33. "Buses are vital for people who do not drive for any reason ie. Age, disability. Not everybody has or wants access to a car."
34. "As a child with ASD, I would like to use the bus with my mum and build up to being able to go on my own to visit my school friends, and my dad. I think this would be a great way for me to learn how to grow into an independent adult, as I might not be able to drive with my disabilities. A bus would give People in this village with disabilities more opportunities and freedom."
35. "There is not a lot to do in our village. I would use the bus to visit my friends in Stamford and my family in Peterborough. It would give me more to do and there would be less trouble caused by bored teenagers in this village. I am not allowed to play out because of the trouble, but I am allowed to see my nice friends in Stamford."

The following text comments were left by respondents

36. "A good reliable bus service can only benefit the village. It's very easy to feel trapped in the village which doesn't help with people's mental health."
37. "Would also be used by the 2 teenage children to allow them to visit friends and go shops and events when I am at work"
38. "This would be great for older people & young mothers I hope it gets the go ahead🙏"
39. "A lot of the elderly have been isolated during lockdown and not having a bus service now has added to their isolation."
40. "It is vital to reinstate the rural buses. Not causing them causes huge problems in particular with college students, who are trying to further there education. The vulnerable also need them, as they provide a vital lifeline to the outside area"
41. "My children will also need a bus to get them to Sixth Form in Stamford at the minute there is no bus service in the village"
42. "Having 2 teenage boys it's a constant taxi service to collage and neither can get jobs as its impossible to get there and back and taxis cost to much. The freedom it would give to all residents would be very much welcomed and needed with the new estate being built."

The following text comments were left by respondents

43. "I would particularly need to use the bus service for appointments with my doctor and dentist at Wansford and hospital appointments at Peterborough City Hospital. A regular service would allow me to visit Queensgate again for shopping, meeting friends and leisure activities. A reinstated regular bus service would re connect Wittering with the rest of Stamford/Peterborough and end the isolation that villagers are currently struggling with."
44. "As someone who can't drive yet due to cost yet desperately needs public transport to go to different social and work events, even going to the train station is a costly task. It's a no brainer to have a regular bus service, ever since it was cut it has isolated many village residents and has made it incredibly difficult to leave the village without expensive travel."
45. "I visit family in the village at Wittering every week, please have a bus, it's very difficult without one, only car owners do not care, the silent majority needs a bus :)"
46. "Returning a bus service to the wittering will improve transport for the locals, especially for some of the elderly residents who would more than likely have to pay for taxis to get to places, costing them a lot of money. Also It allows students and people who need to get to work in Stamford and Peterborough, ease of cheaper transport especially with the cost of living still at a high, people can't always afford to shell out for taxis all the time. The bus service should never have been removed in the first place."

The following text comments were left by respondents

47. "I would love a bus to Stamford too"
48. "Urgently Required"
49. "Would like a Stamford route also"
50. "Me and my daughter would use the bus alot in the week for work as taxi's are so expensive I car share with my husband but as off October it be difficult as he will commute further for work leaves me either walking to Stamford or taxi's to work."
51. "Would be easier to meet with friends and get to town when needed without having to book in advance or be driven by my mum"
52. "As a parent of children who would like to be independent having a bus service would be fantastic as they can go and meet friends when they would like to ."
53. "I would choose to use the bus rather than a car to support less congestion around city centre car parks too."
54. "Looking forward to seeing the feedback from the survey."

The following text comments were left by respondents

55. "We need a regular bus every hour on the hour especially on a weekend also ie Saturday and also Sundays if people don't have transport we are stuck on a Sunday as double time taxis residence might need to go shopping as work in the week"
56. "It's important for me to show my 9 year old son how to use public transport safely and respectfully before he is a teenager and using public transport without me."
57. "As a teenager/ young adult living in a rural area, it's important for me to be able to access local towns for school, work and social activities. Without a bus service I currently have to rely on others to take me anywhere I need to go."
58. "as young person getting to places now is difficult due to the cost of living crisis my mum and dad work more so they cant take me to places and with a buss going into town would help with my social life and getting to places"
59. "i have missed the bus since they stopped the service, i feel like a prisoner trapped in the village. my husband works and i have to arrange appointments that fit in after he finishes work."
60. "By having a regular and consistent bus service this would support my children being able to access Stamford etc and support if he wanted to attend college."

The following text comments were left by respondents

61. "As we have no Bus service provided for the village if i want to meet friends or go to gym or do any of my sports or work my mum has to constantly drive me and i want to be more independant but i cant due to having no means of transport"
62. "Peterborough City Council are being given in excess of £22 million pounds as part of the Government's levelling up program. Some of this £22 million should be used to re-instate the bus service. I may use the bus service once per week at present but there are a lot of people in the village are being isolated because there is no bus service. A good, reliable bus service would be essential to make the village more attractive to potential house buyers."
63. "Oh please please please please!!!!"
64. "Always used the bus before it was taken off route now have to depend on other people"
65. "Parking in both Peterborough and Stamford is extortionate. I would rather get a bus than have to drive in, and waste money on both fuel and parking."
66. "I also have teenagers. Some of work age, some coming up to work age and none of their friends live in the village. A bus service would allow them to seek employment and also allow them to meet up sociably with friends."

The following text comments were left by respondents

67. "We are OAPs and we could use our bus passes, saving us some money"
68. "I used the bus at least 3 times a week, when we had a regular service. Im partially sighted and unable to drive, Visiting family, shopping, going to the doctors/Dentist. Since losing the bus service, life has become so difficult and stressful trying to get anywhere. Isolation is the hardest part to deal with, feeling trapped in the village. My husband works 6 days a week and can be a distance away from home. Losing the service has isolated me and my teenage daughter. She gets very frustrated she can't get out of the village to meet her friends and go shopping. Call connect is a good service unfortunately it's not reliable or available when you need it. Travelling to your destination can be timely. So unable to make appointments. I would like to see a daily, regular, predictable service reinstated, that is easier to use. Reduce the stress of trying to get to anywhere."
69. "I also have a 16 year old, which would really benefit from a bus service to find work, collage and social."
70. "Just hope we get this service"
71. "I have recently felt the frustration of not having a regular bus service in Wittering due to my car being off the road. Although a fairly good service, the connect bus doesn't quite suit mine or my families needs, it's just too inconsistent and the booking service is sub optimal. A regular service with pre set times and stops would be much more ideal. The ability to hop onto a bus in P'boro/Stamford for a few drinks would be great knowing exactly what time they depart. I often have my mother visiting too who is a non driver but likes to explore all the same. Something she would easily be able to do with a regular, cost effective bus service. Therefore for those reasons I'm very much for bringing back a regular service."

The following text comments were left by respondents

72. "If it is deemed not financially viable, please can the reasons (minimum number of regular users) be made public please?"
73. "I think the village needs a reliable bus service to occupy people who do not drive."
74. "I have 3 teenagers aged between 13 and 16. A bus service would provide them with an independent means to be able to travel out of the village to socialise with school friends, use the Stamford skate park, and generally develop life skills independently."
75. "We definitely need buses back as I don't drive and my partner does shift work so is handy for me to get the bus and for doctors or hospital appointments also to do any shopping I need"
76. "No village should be isolated , its like going back to the middle ages!"
77. "I can't drive so I am stuck in the village and don't get to see my friends"
78. "Living in wittering I have to rely on my parents for lifts"
79. "A regular bus service would help the younger generation who are unable to drive and get to see friends in other areas. Also to get to and from college outside of the college bus times. It would enable them to become more independent and not have to rely on parents and grandparents availability to give them lifts.

The following text comments were left by respondents

80. "I currently am stuck in the village, I cannot drive and find getting to things such as doctors appointments extremely difficult. It also has a high negative impact on my mental health being so secluded to the village"
81. "I am not able to get anywhere without getting lifts or my mum paying lots of money for taxis"
82. "I have a Council provided bus pass. When the Bus service was removed it imposed restrictions on getting from point A (Wittering) to any other location and virtually made its use redundant. Additionally, I have heard talk of a £12 levy being introduced by P'Boro council to maintain/retain a bus service in other areas. If this is so I would definitely need to see the bus service restored in Wittering!!"
83. "The original bus service went via Thorpe Wood and easy access to Peterborough District Hospital. This route is covered by by a Stagecoach route. Now the hospital is close to Bretton any new bus service should go via the new hospital."
84. "Need to support residents with public transport access."
85. "Please bring back the bus, I am desperate."
86. "Please bring bus back"

The following text comments were left by respondents

87. "As I go to school in Casterton, most of my friends live in Stamford and as both of my parents work, it can be hard for me to spend time with them outside of school. Also, my school bus is regularly not working and I am unable to get home, without one of my parents leaving work. If there was a bus service I would be able to walk into town and then get a bus home, as I am almost 15."
88. "Working in Stamford, I have very little options for getting to Stamford. I either have to walk along the A1 or get a taxi, which eats into my wages. A bus service would be efficient and help me get around better for work and for pleasure."
89. "I would need it to get to work."
90. "As the alternative bus service we have at the moment isn't reliable and run late."
91. "We need one, particularly with the influx of residents due to the new estate."
92. "Would allow access into town. Allow access to more jobs. Would be able to play new mini golf. Would be able to see friends and family easier, instead of getting an expensive taxi."
93. "We need one."
94. "Please bring bus back."

The following text comments were left by respondents

95. "I've lost work due to no bus service, meaning I've not been able to pay bills or buy food."
96. "I'm registered physically disabled and often rely on friends and family to drive me to above things. Would feel less of isolated and more independent with regular bus service. in week and weekends until late. Evening to be able to do all above things."
97. "I don't drive so struggle to take the children out for ballet on Fridays and Saturdays. The call connect bus isn't always available. I also struggle to get to doctors/dentists appointments."
98. "With the houses being built nearby it would be helpful for members of the community to be able to travel. Particularly with the prices of fuel going up as well."
99. "I do miss the bus it was a good service."
100. "It would be nice to have a bus so I could go out with my friends and go to the supermarket."
101. "Struggle to get job due to lack of a service. Struggle to keep contact with friends."
102. "PLEASE!! I NEED A BUS!!"
103. "Please I need a bus."

The following text comments were left by respondents

104. "My husband and I can only afford one vehicle and the lack of bus service has made my work and my husband's work disrupted. When I need to go to Stamford for work and vets."

105. "ANYONE WITHOUT A CAR IS ISOLATED IN WITTERING WITH NO BUS"

106. "Desperately needed for younger and older generations and people with restricted travel means."

107. "I have 2 daughters reliant on being driven. If they want to venture out of Wittering which is not good for family working life"

108. "It is urgent to have a bus service. People who work in Peterborough and Stamford who have no car need this service for work. Low income groups and pensioners need the service for essential shopping and medical appointments. They are all having to pay £20 for this trip and £20 return trips on taxis."

109. "It is urgent to have a bus service, as this would provide pensioners and low income groups, who need to carry out essential shopping and medical appointments. Many of these groups have no private cars and therefore have to use taxis at a minimum of £20 return each time. The Friday market at Stamford was also very popular always full of people who working in Peterborough have used the bus service for working on this route."

The following text comments were left by respondents

110. "For older people who do not drive and the older person the more need for buses."

111. "My son starts college Sept and will need flexible transport to get there and to work"

112. "Needing one to get Stamford for many reason."

113. "If people can not get anywhere then they can use bus"

114. "It would be good to Peterborough and meet my friends."

115. "People will not come to live in a village without a transport link with the local towns and hospitals and doctors"

116. "The current call connect are rubbish and change times to suit themselves."

117. "My children and myself would use this service on a regular basis."

118. "Would allow for me to travel to see friends. Easier to travel back and forth for university."

119. "I'd need a bus to get to Peterborough and Stamford."

120. "Bus to and from Wittering would be good as it allows people to get from place to place."

The following text comments were left by respondents

121. "Kids would love to be able to go to town and the call connect bus is too small."

122. "It is essential for the village as a community to have a regular bus service for all ages and for multiple reasons. As a village with no doctor or pharmacy, and as a tax payer it is a minimum requirement to have a bus service."

123. "I am disabled and have multiple regular medical appointments some not lasting too long so it is very expensive getting return taxis and call connect can't guarantee you will arrive on time. If the appointment is over quickly there can be very long delays waiting for returns. They have also been driving past people that are booked on, so you then have the additional stress of trying to get home after they ignore you."

124. "I don't drive and would use service to visit daughter, also to go with daughter to Peterborough."

125. "To visit daughter and hospital visits."

126. "To accommodate the growing village and support those within the community who don't drive."

127. "Disabled and moved into Wittering. Taxis too expensive. Not everyone has access to a car"

128. "We love buses!"

The following text comments were left by respondents

129. "Would prefer to use bus service rather than using cars and taxis."

130. "A bus service would be more environmentally friendly and would give the elderly and non-drivers access to other towns."

131. "Thorpe Wood would also be a beneficial stop on the route for its work places activities and pub restaurants."

132. "Villagers need access to local resources without the need to drive."

133. "Also have children and step children starting secondary school in Peterborough. No busses means having to drive him every day. He will need to come straight home with me from school"

134. "It would be a valuable link again for the elderly of Wittering for shopping, doctors and hopefully Peterborough Hospital. Its also a means of keeping keeping contact with people and keeps us more mobile. A psychological benefit in more ways than one. If the bus is reinstated is there any chance the parish council could get the road resurfaced between Church Road and Boxer Road as they seemed to run out of tarmac for that last 100 yards and stopped at Church Road???!!!!"

The following text comments were left by respondents

135. "My children live in Stamford and would be able to visit me. Additionally I could visit Stamford to do weekly shopping via bus, which would reduce the cost of using my private vehicle."

136. "Having the village cut off following the cessation of the bus service has had a huge impact on the community given that wittering is 'sandwiched' between 2 busy roads making walking and cycling hazardous."

137. "The route encompassing Peterborough hospital would be of benefit but not essential. The option to return a regular bus service to and from the village is invaluable especially as the village is not safely accessible by walking or cycling due to its location alongside the A1."

138. "Having the village cut off following the cessation of the bus service has had a huge impact on the community given that wittering is 'sandwiched' between 2 busy roads making walking and cycling hazardous."


139. "I would be truly benefited by a bus service, as many of my friends do not live in my area meaning I often miss out on social activities. I cannot leave the village independently as this would result in walking along the A1 which limits opportunities and activities I am able to do. It would also benefit the environment as it would mean less trips back and forth to destinations in the car when I am dropped off."



Prepared in collaboration with Wittering Parish Council.

Project Lead: Cllr Julia Cunnington (Wittering)
Data Collection & Processing: Jay Allsopp, Send.Blue Limited

Raw data is available on request.



The preparation of this summary and all digital work in connection with the bus survey have been provided without charge to the Parish Council.

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