

Press Release - Night Bus Group

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Operators First Bus have decided to stop running the weekend 47A Night Bus service from Bristol through Downend, Frampton Cotterell, Coalpit Heath, Yate and Chipping Sodbury after the end of April. This means that the services at 1.31 am and 3.31 am Saturday and Sunday will stop, and the last bus will be 11.35 pm from Bristol Bus Station.

"These late night buses have in the past been supported by town and parish councils along the route, but now First have have doubled the amount of money they want as a council subsidy, and the passenger numbers have fallen - on average only 13 passengers are using each bus" said Cllr Paul Hulbert, chairman of the Parish and Town Councils Night Bus Group.

"We've contacted other bus companies, but they wanted even more money to run the service. It's just not economic any more - councils would have been paying First a subsidy of £6 for every passenger journey. Many young people now use the internet to arrange their own lift-sharing and prefer that to the bus"

"This service has been running for more than ten years. We're sorry to see the end of it, but if you add up the subsidy and the bus fares for 4 people, it comes to more than the cost of a taxi. At £6 subsidy per person First have simply priced the bus off the road"

"I would like to thank the local councils who have supported the service for so many years, and South Glos Council for handling all the contract negotiations for us"

Additional information

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In recent years this service has been supported by Yate Town Council, Dodington Parish Council, Downend and Bromley Heath Parish Council, Frampton Cotterell Parish Council, Mangotsfield Parish Council, Sodbury Town Council and Westerleigh Parish Council, who have worked together as the Night Bus Group.

For further details please contact Cllr Paul Hulbert,

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