

18th June 2015
Our Ref: STC/PT/
Your Ref:

Dear Stakeholder

Re Service 301 – Stansted Airport to Saffron Walden

You may be aware the County Council is building a cycle path between Wendens Ambo and Saffron Walden.

As a result of the cycle path, buses that currently use Wendens Road in both directions will not be able to use it for south bound journeys. There is an alternate route via Newport Road, which takes a few minutes longer than the current route. A number of bus services will be affected but most will be able to make some adjustments to allow them to serve their current destinations.

However, service 301, a County Council contracted service that runs hourly between Saffron Walden, Newport, Bishops Stortford and Stansted Airport, will need to be changed more significantly. Due to the length of the route and the restrictions of the existing timetable (which requires it to meet trains and other bus services along the route) the service already experiences reliability issues and the additional time required to take the revised route is too great to accommodate within the current resources.

In order to facilitate the additional time required for the revised route, we are considering curtailing the route at Bishops Stortford. This would improve reliability, but this will mean that a direct journey from Stansted Airport and Takeley to the villages between Bishops Stortford and Saffron Walden is no longer available. There are alternative services from Stansted Airport and Takeley, such as service 308 (Stansted Airport to Bishops Park and Bishops Stortford) which offers a roughly half hourly service over the route and service 510 which offers a further service every 15 minutes between Bishops Stortford and Stansted (not via Takeley). The revised route will also mean that customers in Takeley will have to change buses (in Bishops Stortford or at the airport to get to Saffron Walden, but Arriva will allow ticket inter-availability between ECC's contracted 301 and their commercial 308 and 510 services, so they only have to buy one ticket.

Copies of the revised route and timetable for service 301 are attached to this letter, along with copies of the timetable for service 308 and 510.

Arriva will be carrying out on-bus consultation over June and July. Posters will be placed on buses and leaflets showing the revised route and timetable for service 301 and can be obtained from the driver.

Please forward any comments you may have to Arriva Customer Services, Freepost ANG7624, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU4 8BR or email:- cssoutheast@arriva-shires.com or by telephoning- 0344 800 4411,

Yours sincerely,

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