

WEALD BUS UPDATE (10 January 2018).

Improvements to the 435 service.

From Monday 15 January 2018 all daytime buses (excluding the morning school bus to Tonbridge) will travel to and from Sevenoaks Railway Station, in addition to the existing early morning and evening buses. We hope this will provide easy access to the station for those who have appointments or wish to shop in London and elsewhere. It is also hoped we may pick up other non-village passengers travelling between the railway station and Sevenoaks, Hildenborough or Tonbridge as this will help us increase revenue.

The New 10 Trip Ticket could Save You Hundreds of Pounds!

Our new 10 Trip Ticket to Sevenoaks Railway Station will also be available from Monday 15 January. Go Coach have now officially confirmed the price will be **£12** which is great news! The original price was £31.50 so this is an amazing saving. The ticket allows 10 single trips and there is no time limit so you can, for example, travel for 3 days one week and 2 the next. Unlike parking fees or season tickets you only pay for the days you actually travel. The ticket is available to anyone travelling on the 435 from Weald to Sevenoaks Railway Station but if you normally only go as far as Sevenoaks there is nothing to stop you getting off at the bus station since this is on route. **Note:** Ensure you ask the driver for 'a 10 Trip Ticket to the railway station' and not just a 10 Trip Ticket. A normal 10 Trip Ticket can be used on any Go Coach service within the Sevenoaks Zone but at the time of writing it is priced at £34.40.

Our new ticket provides great value for money especially for commuters. If you normally drive and park at the railway station car park **you will save upwards of £600 per year if you use the bus instead.** Even if you pay for cheaper parking nearby you will still save hundreds of pounds a year so why not use the bus?

Appeal to all drivers.

I have lost count of how many times a driver has told me the bus service, or lack of it, does not effect them. This is not true especially if you are a parent or elderly. For years we have not had full access to services and employment so college students and school leavers who wished to work either had to buy their own transport or move out of the village. There is also the question of what happens when your car breaks down or you are no longer able to drive. A taxi service is nice but very expensive, especially on a regular basis.

We are not asking you to lug the weekly shop home on the bus, though in fairness many elderly people make two or three bus trips each week to do just that. However it is crucial you use the service sometimes too even if it is only for the odd trip into Sevenoaks or a day out in London. If drivers don't make a long term commitment to use the service too there may be no service available when you or your family needs it. Travelling by bus is also much better for the environment.

Bus Timetables.

A new 435 timetable with the 402 school/non-school bus included will be available from the village shop and also to download from the Weald Parish Council website. Go Coach hope their official 435 timetable will be available from the enquiry office at Sevenoaks Bus Station from Monday. However it may be a few days late as they have had problems with print quality which they are rushing to rectify. The official 435 timetable can also be downloaded from the Go Coach website or from <http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk>

And Finally.

The current 435 service, though limited in frequency, provides the best access to employment and services we have had in more than two decades. We therefore have the best chance of making it commercially viable but we can't do that without your help. **So please, whether you drive or not, use the 435 and help us secure it for the future.**

Safe and happy travelling!
Jackie Mitchell