

Dear Clerk,

We are writing to seek your council's views on potential improvements to weekend services. Kedington Parish Council has been asked by a parishioner to consider reviewing transport provision along the Haverhill–Bury St Edmunds corridor, particularly the services operated by Stephenson's (routes 14, 14A, 14B, 15, 15A and 15X). These routes provide essential connectivity for several rural parishes including your own, linking residents to employment, education, healthcare, shopping and leisure opportunities. As part of this review, we are seeking to understand how well the current timetable meets local needs, whether there are gaps in provision, especially at weekends, and whether neighbouring parishes have received similar feedback from their communities.

It has been suggested the possibility of one additional bus service on Saturday evenings, which, based on the current two-hour timetable, would result in the last bus leaving Bury St Edmunds at 19:15. While this would be welcome, residents have highlighted that such an early final service does not fully address the gap in provision for those returning from hospitality, cinema, leisure activities, or shift work. Many have expressed interest in a later service within the **21:00–23:00** window, which could significantly improve social, medical and economic wellbeing and support the night-time economy in Bury.

In addition, discussions have considered the potential introduction of a limited Sunday service, for example between **10:00 and 16:00**, would be beneficial for accessing retail, healthcare, and social activities.

Before approaching the operator and Suffolk County Council, we are gathering evidence from neighbouring parishes to understand whether there is wider demand for:

- A later Saturday evening service, potentially between 21:00 and 23:00
- A limited Sunday daytime service (e.g., 10:00–16:00)

We would be grateful if you could share:

- Any resident feedback your council has received on weekend bus provision
- Whether your parish would support exploring later Saturday services, a limited Sunday service, or both
- Any evidence of unmet need (e.g., young people, shift workers, those without access to a car)
- Whether you would be willing to join a joint-parish approach to Stephenson's and Suffolk County Council to explore feasibility or a trial period

If helpful, we would be pleased to coordinate a short meeting between interested councils.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to hearing your views.

Kind regards

Ann Naylor

Chair of Kedington Parish Council