

# southerntransit

ITEM 171

Dear Clerk of the Parish Council

31 December 2017

I would like to address your Council members with regard to Southern Transit's Bus Route 3 'Adur Valley Line' which passes through your parish on a Thursday and Saturday.

To date, route 3 has been operating during summer breaks since 2014, initially intended as a trial by Southern Transit, to demonstrate the linking of local villages and creating better interchange between other transport routes, (e.g with Brighton & Hove Buses - Shoreham area, Stagecoach in Henfield/Partridge Green and Metrobus in Southwater and Horsham, together with railway connections at Shoreham and Horsham Stations). and create a new north-south geographical bus link available to residents and visitors to use along the line of the former Shoreham to Horsham Railway.

The first three years had generated good usage and was always a welcome return to our regular passengers with frustration that the route came to a natural end in September. So in 2016 we began all year operation every Thursday. The service provided four off-peak journeys each way, and is provided commercially, without subsidy. This has proved very popular and has led to our summer 2017 operating season to expand the service to operate every Thursday and Saturday. The vision behind Thursday and Saturday on a daytime timetable is to enable tourism, shopping and leisure travel opportunities and promote modal shift from cars onto more sustainable transport modes. Our passenger numbers are growing, and our regular drivers are seeing a constant stream of new faces along with regulars, which for a new bus route concept is very encouraging.

The Adur Valley is possibly one of the most understated areas in Sussex with very few marketing streams and lack of approach of inter-working of communities to promote visitors to the 'Valley' as opposed to singling out independent villages.

We are not here to try and re-map the way that your councils work with each other nor expect a revolution, however, South Downs National Park Authority are always promoting the east-west links, and the Downlink footpath on the North South, we believe that there should be a generic 'Adur Valley' leaflet to encourage more visitors to the area and give your local high streets and businesses and attractions a greater share of audience.

This year, Southern Transit is going to develop its own Adur Valley Travel leaflet, which will broaden the horizons to local and visiting passengers into what the area has to offer. At this point, the main disadvantage to ourselves is we that receive no external funding to the operations of the route, the service being provided by us on a wholly commercial basis.

To give further insight to Southern Transit's commitment and predicament, our operating costs have recently increased with very short notice in certain cases and so we have to re-engineer how we do things. I hope that you can see from our operating commitments, that we are not about to throw in all our hard work and go with the popular "cut-back" philosophy.

This is an opportunity for your council to consider how it may like to assist us, we would like to receive feedback on how you perceive the route 3 service and its future. To give further insight, at our own expense, we have branded every bus stop along the route and these will require further updating and more timetable frames which unfortunately come at a cost. An example of the neglect of bus stops – many of these in rural locations that we have inherited, is the stop on the A2037 at Woods Mill. The road has a bend, and a junction into Horn Lane. With the speed and density of traffic today, I would suggest that the bus stop infrastructure is totally inadequate and completely unsatisfactory for safe public usage at this location. Attempting to make a regular commercial viability for families etc to consider using public transport to get to and from this venue, should command better all-weather refuge at the stop and clearer visibility with cut back vegetation etc.

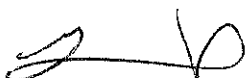
Southern Transit is also embarking this year on the purchase of two brand new Alexander Dennis Enviro400 City double deck buses, although these vehicles are inherently for our private hire department, with their dual purpose design and high specification interior, we will obviously want to encourage further route patronage by bringing these popular vehicles on to various operating days as and when they are available.

In 2018, we are planning for our popular Routemaster buses will be operating three Bank Holiday dates, with an increased number of vehicles in service, bringing a much more intense timetable to attract greater usage and encourage more stops for pubs, shops and exploring.

In this new and exciting year, bringing many new challenges and opportunities, it is our intention to advertise this route with our neighbours and potential visitors, to really try to push a further growth and regular patronage, as we believe that it should become a permanent and more regular transport link, with commercial viability as it set out to achieve. The long term aim of course would be weekday operations for the benefit of commuter and schools links – this would of course be a monumental cost – but not out of the realms of possibility. This route, a greener and more effective asset to its audience that are the Adur Valley communities deserves and should be proud of having been part of its development and success.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

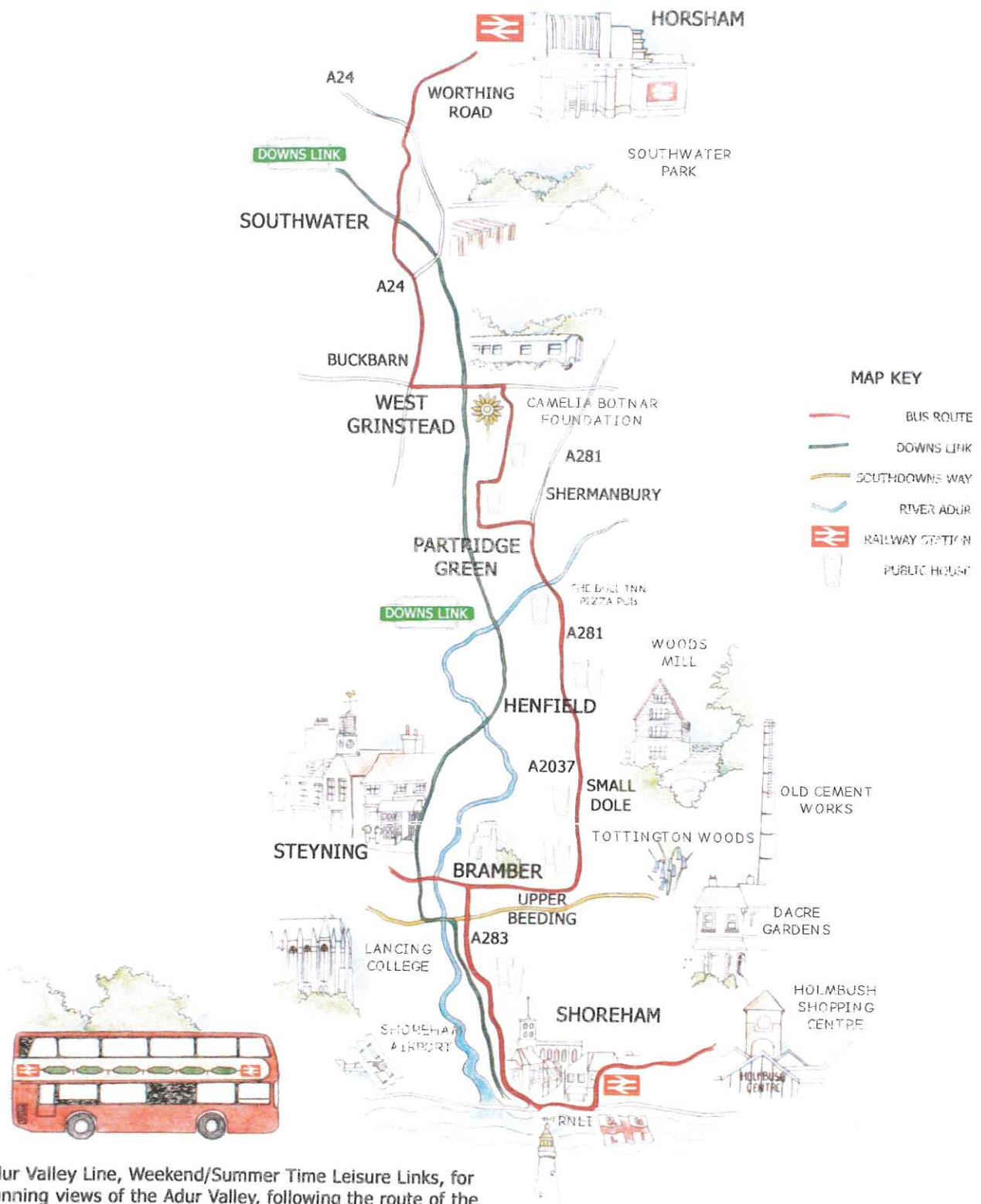
Yours sincerely



Neil Bird

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## adur valley line route3



Adur Valley Line, Weekend/Summer Time Leisure Links, for stunning views of the Adur Valley, following the route of the Downslink footpath and former Shoreham/Horsham railway.

**From:**  
**Sent:** 29 December 2017 13:10  
**To:** Hazel Roxby  
**Subject:** Re: Hall Availability Enquiry

Hi Hazel,

Many thanks for your kind response.

My sincere apologies for not replying sooner, it's been a very busy period.

Great News!!

Can you please pencil in the Saxon Room from 17:00 - 19:30 and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Numbers - Not sure at present but it will not be more than 75 people.

As we are funded by donations from parents and people generously giving up their time for free to inspire the brownies, would you consider please letting us use the Saxon room for £15.00 per hour (2.5 Hours required)?.

This is a really important event for the Brownies. Your kindness and help would mean a lot in creating this really special evening in our 2018 Brownie calendar.

Kind regards  
Annie

Hi Annie

Thank you for your enquiry

Yes we do have availability on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> February. How many people do you think there will be. Coombe court holds up to 200 people seated and Saxon room holds up to 75 people seated.

The cost of coombe court is £23.20 per hour and Saxon room is £18.80 per hour. If you require the kitchen they are £6.00 per hour for coombe and £4.00 for Saxon.

I am afraid there are no discounts.

If you would like to book or need further information please call 01903 812042.

Regards

Hazel