

Briefing Note: Route 92 – Latest Developments and Parish Council Liaison

Agenda Item: To **RECEIVE** a report and **REVIEW** the latest developments in the bus services and to **RESOLVE** to liaise with other parish councils affected.

Summary

The Clerk has summarised the latest information available, including recent press coverage, correspondence from Dover District Council (DDC), and communications from neighbouring parish councils.

Background

Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council and Eythorne Parish Council met earlier in the summer to discuss the withdrawal of the Route 92 service and jointly wrote to Dover District Council requesting clarification, engagement, and consideration of reinstating a viable rural bus link. No response has yet been received to that joint letter.

The loss of the Stagecoach Connect service has left Shepherdswell and Coldred with no bus provision, significantly affecting residents' ability to access education, employment, medical appointments and essential services.

Recent Press Coverage

Cllr Bulaitis arranged for a reporter from Kent Messenger to publish an article highlighting the impact of the loss of bus services on rural communities, including Shepherdswell and Coldred. The article reported residents' concerns about isolation, lack of access to essential services, and the absence of any replacement provision.

This coverage has increased public awareness and reinforces the need for coordinated parish-level engagement with DDC, KCC and Stagecoach.

Latest Correspondence Received

Recent correspondence has been received from Dover District Council (DDC), District Cllr Shehrazade Maria Mamjan, and Aylesham Parish Council (APC).

DDC's Planning Policy Manager, Ashley Taylor, confirmed that Route 92 was funded through Section 106 contributions from the Aylesham housing development and that Cabinet approved a change in October 2025 from a demand-responsive service to a regular timetable in an effort to extend viability. Despite this, passenger numbers remained significantly below the level required, no alternative subsidy is available from KCC or DDC, and the service will therefore cease on Saturday 10 October 2026. DDC acknowledges the impact on residents and continues to raise rural bus issues with KCC.

Cllr Mamjan has circulated a community survey (printable and online) to gather evidence of usage and impact, asked all affected parish councils to distribute it, suggested a joint meeting of parish councils to coordinate a response, recommended inviting all three district councillors for the ward, and raised concerns about school transport.

Aylesham Parish Council has resolved to host a joint meeting via Microsoft Teams, inviting two representatives from each affected parish council together with DDC councillors Mamjan, Woodgate and Pout, and will circulate proposed dates once availability is confirmed.

Current Position

- Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council is progressing its independent work on this issue while also participating in wider cross-parish discussions to support a unified approach to securing reinstatement of a bus service.
- The Parish Council has not yet received a response to the joint letter sent to DDC.
- DDC has confirmed the formal cessation date for Route 92.
- A community survey is available and has been shared with residents.
- A joint parish council meeting is being arranged by Aylesham Parish Council.
- Evidence gathering will be important for future discussions with Stagecoach, KCC and DDC.

Decisions needed from Councillors

- To nominate two representatives to attend the joint meeting hosted by Aylesham Parish Council.
- To **RESOLVE** that the Parish Council remains committed to securing improved public transport for residents and will continue to liaise with neighbouring parish councils and statutory bodies to pursue reinstatement of a bus service for Shepherdswell and Coldred