



HOUSE OF COMMONS

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Dear Resident,

I am writing to update you on the actions that I, along with local councillors, Sileby Parish Council and others, have taken to try to reinstate the No. 2 bus service.

Financial Support

I have been in discussion with Trent Barton, who are the parent company of Kinch, to establish how much money is needed to restore the No.2 to its previous route, or, at the very least, ensure a route through to Leicester.

Trent Barton have informed me that, even to run the service as far as the Birstall Park & Ride where passengers could change for the service into Leicester would cost in the region of £180,000 - £200,000 per year (as it would require a second bus on the route), which is not economically viable for them. They have also informed me that running the single bus currently operating on the route from Loughborough to Birstall Park & Ride would result in bus times of one bus every 1 hour and 45 minutes (which they have said would deliver a lesser service than is currently offered with, they estimate, a further drop in passenger usage as a result).

Alongside this, I have been in discussion with Leicestershire County Council to see whether they are able to use the £1.34m un-ringfenced money they receive from the Government for concessionary bus passes to subsidise this service. They have, however, said that this has been allocated elsewhere and so they are unable to fund this route.

I have, therefore, entered into outline discussions with a number of businesses locally to see if they will contribute to the continuation of the service. Whilst some of these discussions have been fruitful, unfortunately, there is still a significant gap between the amount we can raise and the amount required. I will, however, keep pursuing this avenue and so, if you know of any businesses which may want to contribute, please do let me know.

In addition, I have contacted Charnwood Borough Council to request that future Section 106 monies – which are financial contributions provided by developers to mitigate the increases in local populations due to their house building activity - are used to fund the service.