

## Bus Report from Councillor Bean

We may not have a great bus service but at least we have a regular service (three into Bedford and six return, six days a week). There have been no changes to the timings of this service over the last year but there has been a change in policy which affects the service. Because the bus leaves Bletsoe at 9.26 am, those people holding a bus pass have to pay £1 because they board the bus before 9.30! Those boarding at Thurleigh don't have to pay, even though everyone arrives in Bedford at the same time! Not a big deal, but we will be pursuing the anomaly with the council.

The other bus service serving Bletsoe - The Villager - has however seen a reduction in the number of routes - it no longer goes to either Cambridge or Northampton due to lack of use. It now only runs to Sainsburys, Milton Keynes and St Ives (via Huntingdon). A clear case of 'use it or lose it', and we have now lost some of the routes.

I would encourage as many people as possible to try to use the bus service if they can. If you are over 60, make sure you get your bus pass before they decide to stop issuing them, and then use it to avoid parking charges in Bedford.