

Technical Note

Job Title	A2Dominion NW Bicester Exemplar Site		
Job Number	J322413	Date	29/10/2015
Copy	Final	File reference	151029/MD
Prepared by	Michael Deadman		
Subject	NW Bicester (Exemplar) Bus Service – Site Meeting for Bus Route & Town Centre Stops		

1 Introduction

- 1.1 On the 27th October 2015 a site meeting between Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) officers (David Taylor, Anthony Kirkwood and Will Pedley), Paul Gray from Grayline, Chris Johnson (Bicester Town Council) and mode transport planning was undertaken to discuss and agree the location of the bus stop(s) to serve the new Exemplar Bus Service within the town centre and the Bicester Village Railway Station.
- 1.2 The site meeting was arranged to specifically discuss and agree the following:
- Bus stop(s) location within the Bicester town centre;
 - Bus stop(s) location to serve Bicester Village Railway Station;
 - The bus service timetable for AM and PM pick up / drop off at the Bicester Village Railway Station.

2 Bus Stop(s) location within the Bicester town centre

- 2.1 A walk and talk audit was undertaken to reconfirm the existing No 6 bus stop along Manorsfield Road is considered suitable to serve the new bus service or the Exemplar Site.
- 2.2 As previously identified in Technical Note 151014 some minor work is required to add the future service number of the Exemplar Bus Service to the existing flag display once it has been decided and the bus service / route has been registered with the Traffic Commissioner. This work will be undertaken by OCC at the appropriate time.
- 2.3 The previously identified location of a new bus stop on the opposite side of Manorsfield Road from the No 6 bus stop was assessed.

Figure 2.1 - Approximate location of second bus stop along Manorsfield Road



- 2.4 Concern was raised on site with the potential impact a waiting bus would have on the traffic movements along Manorsfield Road and the dangers of pedestrians crossing at various points along the road without utilising the existing crossing infrastructure already in place. A further concern was raised that other bus operators may also wish to establish new stops along this side of Manorsfield Road. All points raised were acknowledged and it was agreed that the new stop could be placed, but would be reviewed as part of the overall bus service review outlined in the s106 Agreement and through general observations / periodic checks.
- 2.5 The new bus stop would be in the form of a flag, pole and timetable case and would be erected at the back edge of the footway. It was recommended that if this stop was to become permanent it would be advisable to paint give way markings to ensure cyclists and pedestrians were aware of this shared footway / cycleway route. It was suggested that the residents of Hanover Gardens should be notified about the new stop. OCC agreed to do this at the appropriate time.

3 Bus Stop(s) location in Bicester Village Railway Station

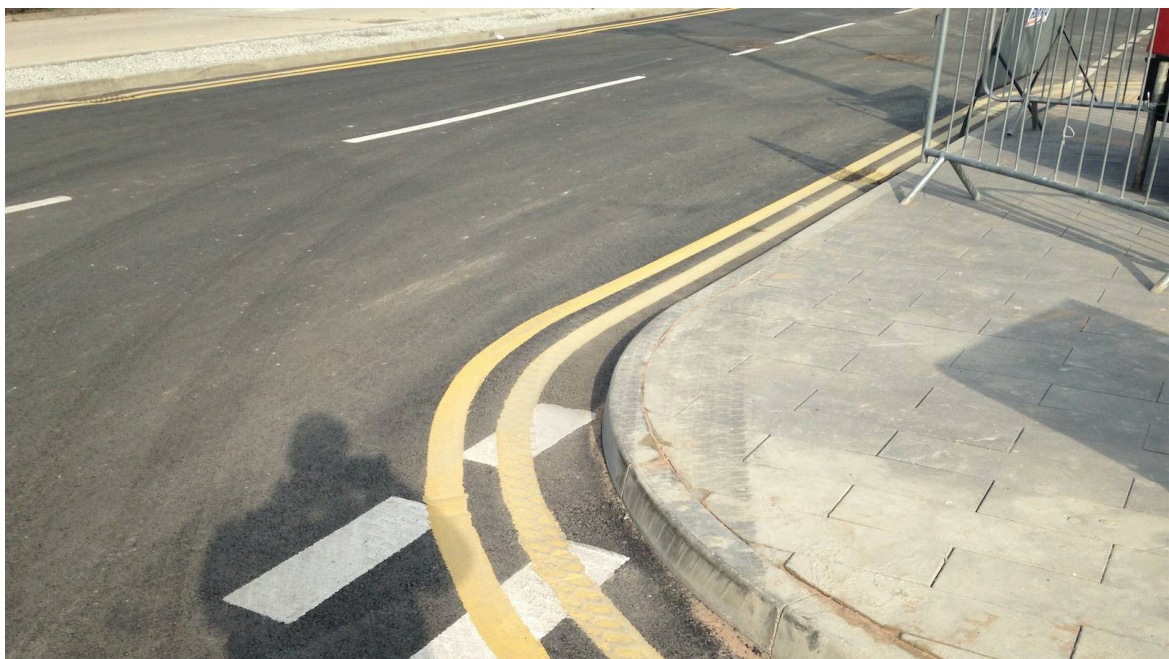
- 3.1 The Bicester Village Railway Station, formerly known as Bicester Town Railway Station, reopened on the 25th October 2015 with trains initially running between Oxford Parkway and London Marylebone. As part of the new station layout (indicative site layout plan shown in **Appendix A**) a bus pick up / drop off area has been provided.

Figure 3.1 – Bus pick / drop off area within Bicester Village Railway Station



- 3.2 Grayline raised concerns about the likely traffic congestion to be generated by vehicles entering and leaving the station via Station Approach, especially at the peak commuter times as this will impact on the reliability and frequency of the new bus service. Grayline also raised concerns over the junction radii for buses leaving the bus pick up / drop off area within the station due to its tightness and visible overriding damage. Such a geometry layout and high kerbing in the area may damage a low level bus. OCC acknowledged these concerns.

Figure 3.2 – Example of overriding damage and geometry concern



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3.3 As an alternative the London Road bus stops were assessed. The existing stop locations were not considered as they are to be relocated as part of the Bicester Village Railway Station works. The new stop locations will be adjacent to the new direct pedestrian route from London Road to the station. The location of this stop was favoured by Grayline as it would remove the likely traffic congestion problems at commuter peak times on the new bus service and ensure the 30-minute frequency of the service would not be impacted upon.

Figure 3.3 – Approximate location of relocated London Road bus stop



Figure 3.4 – New pedestrian route into Bicester Village Railway Station via London Road



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- 3.4 It was agreed the new service route could utilise both stops if required with the bus traveling down the London Road, turning around at the nearby Mallards Way roundabout to begin its return journey to the town centre and the NW Bicester site. OCC agreed to the use of these bus stops as the new bus services begins. This arrangement will be reviewed during the same time period as the new stop on Manorsfield Road. This is considered acceptable due the pending and forthcoming development and new transport infrastructure proposed in Bicester.
- 3.5 It was agreed OCC would circulate the meeting notes as soon as possible due to the need to register the bus route by the end of October 2015.

4 Other items

- 4.1 As mentioned in the previous Technical Note 151014, the number for the bus service is now required, currently Grayline have drafted up a timetable showing “EC1” as the dedicated service number. This number needs to be confirmed with Grayline to assist in the completion of the timetable and the registration of the service. “EC1” appears acceptable, “E1” for “Elmsbrook” maybe more be appropriate to advertise the service and the development site around Bicester.
- 4.2 OCC has confirmed that the Exemplar bus service only has to serve the Bicester Village Railway Station at peak AM and PM commuter times (**Appendix B**). This peak time element of the bus service will be reviewed as part of the overall bus package in line with the s106 agreement review period.
- 4.3 It is recommended OCC is approach to begin the Unilateral Undertaking process for the new bus stop to be provided with a pole, flag and display as soon as possible to ensure the order for these works can be placed by OCC in time for the launch of the bus service.
- 4.4 An updated Bus Route to incorporate the latest changes is currently being drawn up so it can be included within the bus service s106 package to be submitted to OCC.
- 4.5 OCC remain keen to discuss the long-term strategy and objectives of the bus service for the whole of the NW Bicester development site and the routes for the overall site. It has been recommended again OCC take this issue up with A2 Dominion.

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Appendix A - indicative site layout plan of Bicester Village Railway Station





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Appendix B – OCC confirmation of AM and PM service to Bicester Village Railway Station

From: "Pedley, Will - E&E" <Will.Pedley@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Date: Monday, 26 October 2015 17:08
To: Michael Deadman <michaeldeadman@modetransport.co.uk>, "Taylor, David - E&E" <David.Taylor@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>, "Cox, Howard - E&E" <Howard.Cox@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Cc: "Cox, Jacqui - E&E" <Jacqui.Cox@Oxfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Exemplar Bus Service Timetable

Hi Michael,

Yes, this is acceptable, thank you.

Just to recap, according to the agreement the first review should be within one month following the first occupation of the 50th dwelling or six months from the start of the service as per paragraph 3.1, so this will provide us with a good opportunity to assess how the service is working and what amendments/adjustments might be necessary.

See you tomorrow.

Kind regards,

Will

From: Michael Deadman [<mailto:michaeldeadman@modetransport.co.uk>] **Sent:** 23 October 2015 13:46 **To:** Taylor, David - E&E; Pedley, Will - E&E; Cox, Howard - E&E **Cc:** Cox, Jacqui - E&E **Subject:** Exemplar Bus Service Timetable **Importance:** High

Hi Howard, David & Will

Further to our recent discussions please can you confirm that you will accept the new bus service only serving the Bicester Village Station in the the early morning and evening peak. Once this new service has settled down this frequency will then be reviewed in accordance with the agreed s106 requirements when the site has built out a little more.

Paul at Grayline is keen to finalise the new bus service timetable ready for next Tuesdays meeting and its registration and would like to include the Bicester Village Station. A quick response would be appreciated due to next weeks registration deadline.

Thanks again for your help on this.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Kind regards,

Michael

Michael Deadman MCIHT

Associate

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