

# Local Bus Service 97



The 97 Bus has been a great success, having run for the last 6 years, being supported by Alderholt Parish Council in conjunction with Cranborne PC and Knowlton PC.

However, things have changed since January 2018 with passenger trips now barely half those of pre-COVID and operational costs forever increasing. Thus, the continuance of the 97 Bus is unfortunately unsustainable.

So, the 97 Bus will have it's last run on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023, BUT this isn't the end of public transport for Alderholt residents.

During 2023 Dorset Community Transport (DCT) has been promoting it's Community Transport PlusBus services – with the new Wednesday service to Ringwood via Verwood showing month on month increased usage.

This service along with 3 other PlusBus services from our area going to Salisbury (Tuesdays), Blandford (Thursdays) and Wimborne (Fridays) offer Alderholt residents a greater variety of destinations, thereby widening horizons for the users.

Alderholt Parish Council is committed to supporting the Community Transport PlusBus Services.

***This is a positive transition from one regulated service to a range of PlusBus services.***



## What is *PlusBus* and can I use it?

Our *PlusBus* service provides transport for people who are unable to easily access public transport: young or old and including those with mobility difficulties. To use *PlusBus*, simply register your details with us initially and then pre-book your seat whenever you wish to join the bus. Where possible, we can offer a “door-to-door” service and may also be able to accommodate passengers travelling in wheelchairs.

## How do I book?

Call us on **01258 287 987** (between 9.30am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays) or email us at [dorset@ectcharity.co.uk](mailto:dorset@ectcharity.co.uk). Once registered, trips can be booked up to one month in advance but no later than 2.30pm the previous working day.

## How much does it cost?

For most *PlusBus* services, we currently offer a fixed return fare of £7, and we do accept the National Bus Pass. Simply present your valid bus pass to the driver each time you travel! Please note that pass holders will still need to register with us (for free) and pre-book each journey in the usual way.

## How is *PlusBus* funded?

We do not receive any direct subsidy for our *PlusBus* service – we provide it as part of our charitable objectives for public benefit to help improve transport opportunities to individuals within the community.



## PlusBus Services in our Local Area

### *PlusBus* services to and from Salisbury

#### “Salisbury A” Service

- This service runs to and from Salisbury **every Tuesday**.
- Starting from Edmondsham area **approx. 9.30am** via villages including Cranborne, Alderholt, Damerham and Martin.
- Serving Salisbury city centre and Bourne Retail Park on Southampton Road.
- **Return journey departs 1.00pm**

### *PlusBus* services to and from Blandford

#### “Blandford A” Service

- This service runs to and from Blandford **every Thursday**.
- Starting from Alderholt area **approx. 9.30am** via villages including Cranborne, Wimborne St Giles, Gussage All Saints, Gussage St Michael, Long Crichel, Moor Crichel, Manswood, Witchampton, the Tarrants, and Ashley Wood.
- Serving the town centre and Tesco (and M&S on request).
- **Return journey departs 12.50pm**

### *PlusBus* services to and from Wimborne

#### “Wimborne A” Service

- This service runs to and from Wimborne **every Friday**.
- Starting from Alderholt area **approx. 9.30am** via villages including Cranborne, Wimborne St Giles, Witchampton, Hinton Martell, Gaunts Common, Holt and Furzehill.
- Serving town centre.
- **Return journey departs 1.15pm**

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Full details of all our Community Transport Services can be found at  
[www.ectcharity.co.uk](http://www.ectcharity.co.uk) Click on the Dorset link.

 **General Enquiries: 01258 287 980**

 or email [dorset@ectcharity.co.uk](mailto:dorset@ectcharity.co.uk)

**PlusBus Bookings: 01258 287 987** (9.30am to 2.30pm weekdays)