

E-mail received on 28/06/2018.

Councillor Andrew Wood
Chair, South West of Scotland Transport Partnership

Dear Councillor Wood

At a well-attended meeting this evening - which included representatives from Closeburn and Carronbridge community councils as well as a number of Thornhill residents - the concerns about the cuts to this service were reiterated.

The considerable disquiet amongst residents across Upper- and Mid-Nithsdale centres on:

- impact on rural life especially for those without cars and geographically isolated
- impact on businesses both in Dumfries and Thornhill from the curbing of travel to evening activities e.g pubs, restaurants
- impact on integrated transport if no bus link from trains to Dumfries for Sanquhar
- counter to Scottish Government policy to promote use of public transport and discourage drinking and driving
- added to previous reductions in services and fear that a precursor to more substantial cuts

We are appalled by

- the lack of public consultation prior to these cuts being implemented
- the apparent absence of public information on these service changes e.g notices on buses or in the local press

We intend to pursue a vigorous campaign to have the service reviewed so that it serves the needs of customers rather than private companies.

In the interim we are formally demanding that the new timetable be suspended pending a proper public engagement - in other words that the current timetable continues beyond 8th July pending a fully participatory review.

We request that this is put to the SWestTrans board at its meeting tomorrow and that the outcome - with clear reasons for the decision - is fed back to us.

We further ask that you consider your role as our local councillor in supporting our communities as well as your position as chair of the board.

Yours sincerely

David Formstone
on behalf of the A76 Action Group