

## **Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 – Panel Hearings**

### **Devon Youth Parliament – Lydia Cawsey**

#### **Concerns / Issues**

**The concerns & results came from a workshop carried out by the Youth Parliament at the County Hall Devon Big Voice Reloaded event. They are the verbatim responses;**

- Big buses in urban areas, less polluting if in smaller areas.
- Trains quicker than public transport.
- Always repair work going on the train line.
- Taxis are a lot more expensive in the urban areas.
- In rural areas buses are nearly always on time.
- Comments about the trains were generally good.
- Cycling was seen as safe on rural roads.
- Trains and buses are infrequent.
- Speeding is a problem on rural roads.
- Not enough disabled access in rural areas.
- If costs of Public transport were cheaper then people wouldn't use their cars so much.
- "If you drive, you get independence!"
- Pollution – there is an overall lack of awareness.

#### **Recommendations**

- Introduce & push; Congestion charges, car sharing, more regular comfortable PUBLIC TRANSPORT, more off road cycle lanes, disabled access to buses, bike holders on buses, space for surfboards, bags, luggage, have bendy buses like in London.
- There is a big price jump between adult and child fares. This occurs at an age when people are considering learning to drive so people are more likely to stop using it.
- Different operators have different fare structures across the county with regard to when people are children & when they are adults. Passengers would benefit from & appreciate some consistency.
- Encourage UK collaboration between bus operators.
- Disabled user groups – We should promote easier access for all bus and rail stations.
- Disabled user groups - All staff should be fully trained to help with disabled access.
- When trains are delayed information should be given to users more quickly.

- Morning peak overcrowding on public transport.
- Evening and weekend services need improvement on public transport.
- Bus drivers don't have the information about passes and tickets – It's hard to get hold of the information you need. Everything is very complicated regarding tickets.
- Price is the principle barrier to young people.
- Buses aren't perceived as being safe at night.
- Street lights should be along the whole pedestrian routes not just at the bus stop. Families have concerns for young people's safety.
- Bus rail ticketing, through ticketing – can be difficult.
- All road / rail works should take place outside of peak times.
- No.1 Priority – Reduce cost and improve reliability.

#### **Recommendations from Youth Parliament Charter;**

- The United Kingdom Youth Parliament would encourage transport companies to collaborate nationally and regionally to develop / improve travel routes and journeys.
- The UKYP believes that all bus and train stations should have available access, which is easily used and is properly manned . Also all train station and depot workers should be fully trained to assist those disabled routes. Finally UKYP believes that all buses and trains should have appropriate wheelchair space that is not separated from the other commuters.
- The UKYP believes that many improvements have been made at a local and regional level with regard to concessions being provided for young people on public transport. However, the UKYP believes that it would be a much more viable system to have a single travel pass for all young people who are 18 or under. This should be one affordable pass that would allow all young people to pay child fares. This would allow affordable public transport for Young people which would benefit both the young people and the environment.
- The majority of young people believe that public transport is unsafe. The UKYP believes that all forms of public transport should be safe for all to use.
- The UKYP believes that trains should be on time and failing that, the communication of delays should be improved, further to that, we believe that all road / rail works should take place outside peak times.
- Increased numbers of public transport services are required, especially those operating late at night, even if only at weekends, so as to provide young people a means of travelling to areas of leisure / recreational activities and also enabling them to return. This is particularly relevant in rural areas where it is necessary for young people to travel from their local areas to reach desired areas of interest. The UKYP believes that an assessment is required to discover the times at which public transport is subject to its greatest demands for young people in the evenings. The diversity of routes available, particularly in rural areas connecting them to large towns and cities, must be significantly increased.