

## Record of Meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2016 regarding the cancellation of the Number 64 Bus to Swindon

Oxfordshire County Council withdrew all funding for the 64 bus service from Carterton to Swindon (via Filkins, Kencot, Langford and Lechlade). This has had a devastating effect on the many users of this route. Some have lost their jobs and others their only means of transport to visit family and friends. The meeting was held to try to find a solution for all our residents (and those of surrounding villages) who had been severely affected by this decision.

Robert Savage, Fleet Operations manager at OCC attended to present a possible solution. They run the Oxfordshire Comet, which is a bookable transport service providing 16-seater vehicles, which are fully wheelchair and pushchair accessible. However, the only time-slot available for this route would be to leave Carterton at 10.30am then return from Swindon at 2pm. This would cost £20 per hour plus £10 per hour waiting time. It was felt this was not viable in either finance or allotted time.

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs Lynn Little) suggested an alternative arrangement would be to find a company to provide a link from Carterton to either Lechlade or Faringdon where residents could then link up with an existing Swindon service (and use bus passes where applicable).

She made contact with Swanbrook Coaches (Cheltenham based) but they had to decline as it was not cost effective for them to travel this distance. She also contacted Pulham's Coaches which provided more success as the Managing Director was willing to attend the next meeting to talk through possible solutions.

Funding will always be the main issue in finding a solution, but the Mayor is consulting with the Town Clerk on possible sources.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 31st October at 2.30pm in the Town Hall.