

Day Sixteen

Gordon Edwards

Evidence in Chief

Mr Edwards read his short summary proof. The bypass would have minimal effect on bus speeds in Westbury. An eastern bypass would not improve road access to Westbury Railway Station.

Mr Edwards read his conclusion to his section on buses, para 5.1. He said bus speeds in Westbury are already high.

Mr Edwards read his conclusion to his section on trains, para 11.1-11.2. A new link road would improve access to the very good rail services at Westbury Railway Station.

Comment on the HGV weight limit on Station Rd.

-If a 7.5 tonne weight limit on Station Rd would apply to all vehicles, then the most frequent bus service, the 264/5, would need to be re-routed. Buses would no longer pass within 400 metres of the Railway Station and would no longer serve the WWTE.

-Current proposals do not mention differential weight limit.

Aware of any consultation that has taken place?

-Not aware of any consultation with operators or users.

Kansarai Appendix F. Letter dated 22/03/2001 from SCC to Ringway Parkman.

-Referred to importance of Westbury Railway Station to East Somerset.

-Suggest logical junction would be A361.

-The following June WCC decided to adopt E route. SCC since that time have been keen to develop their own railheads due to the problem of access to Westbury Station from East Somerset.

-FGW have now introduced two trains between Frome and London Paddington per day. Disappointing that excellent services at Westbury not being used by East Somerset residents.

Cross Examination

The description of growth from activity in Somerset is growth in the context of SCC being in the favour of E bypass.

-SCC decided not to try and improve access to Westbury. Decided to focus on improving own rail services.

Appendix F third paragraph makes it clear that SCC in favour of E bypass. That support has not prevented support for other public transport measures.

-SCC have focused on improving stations within Westbury.

-Have supported different public transport measures.

Are you here as the Secretary of Travel Watch South West?

-Not speaking on their behalf.

Evidence does not address need for bypass?

-Only asked to comment on the fact that bypass will have minimal effect on bus speeds

-Evidence addresses the fact that Westbury has high bus speeds already

HGV ban. Addressed in the context of a weight limit. Is a weight limit the same as an HGV?

-Depends on what the provisions of the HGV ban are.

Would an HGV ban normally cover public transport?

-Have had incidents where wording of ban means that public transport vehicles excluded.

-Minutes of meeting between WCC and Network Rail speak of only of weight ban.

If properly worded, HGV ban would not cover public transport?

-If wording correct.

Nowhere in your evidence do you claim that access to Station an objective to scheme?

-No

Para 11.2. Refers to new road linking A36 to Station and WWTE. Aware that there is no proposal before the inquiry?

-Have been proposals in the preparatory work.

-Question of semantics.

The FW route would connect the WWTE, but not the Station

-Aware of a proposal to connect A36 with WWTE and aware of document stating that such a road would improve access to Station.

Aware of the nature of traffic conditions in Westbury?

-Have made several journeys

How many?

-More than ten in each direction.

Para 2. Bus provision in Westbury. Brief description of journeys. WCC 109 shows bus routes in Westbury.

-This document over two years old. X4/X5 Salisbury-Bath replaced by 264/265 Warminster-Bath.

Routing in diagram is correct?

-Would have to check, because contract re-let in ensuing period.

-Westbury Station does not currently have two buses an hour.

-Service 58 now has only one journey that goes from Westbury Station to Frome. Other journeys terminate at town centre. Two per day serve WWTE. Now no funding for extension of services to Station.

58A route correct?

-Map was correct in April 2006.

58A use A350?

-For a short period, between Haynes Rd-Bratton Rd roundabout and the mini roundabout to the NW of the Police Station.

58B use A350?

-Uses same stretch and very short stretch to the S of the Haynes Rd-Bratton Rd roundabout

58B use A350?

-Uses section between Haynes Rd-Bratton Rd roundabout and turning to Dilton Marsh

87 use A350?

-Uses more considerable section

264/265 use A350?

-Runs from town centre to near Station.

Diagram shows us that there is an area of Westbury where bus services are absent.

-Agreed

-Not aware of whether there is any public transport in that area.

WHA have repeatedly made the point that congestion in Westbury only occurs on A350. Majority of routes use routes other than A350.

-All buses accessing town centre use A350 at some stage.

Need to bear in mind extent to which A350 used by buses?

-Mostly used by 264/265

Proof 3.2. Refer to compliance officers monitoring punctuality. Para 3.5 company called to public inquiry following monitoring. Was that on the basis of exceeding window of tolerance?

-First Somerset and Avon have been to at least five public inquiries. Two of the last three inquiries have been about the buses failing to operate to the published timetable

That is the route that makes the most use of the A350.

-Agreed

Re-examination

First Somerset and Avon use large number of routes?

-Correct

Were they summoned to public inquiry in relation to Westbury?

-One of the sampling points used for monitoring was in Bath, on the route of the former X4/X5. Acknowledged that the timetable between Bath and Salisbury not realistic.

-GPS tracking timed every journey. New timetable did not find it necessary to add additional time for congestion within Westbury apart from for one journey.

Inspector's Questions

Where was the X4/X5 timetable unrealistic if not Westbury?

-Bath and Trowbridge needed differential running times.

-Public inquiry in 2006, timetables changed Jan 2008.

Is list in para 2.1 a complete or partial list?

-A list of registered local buses as of 11/05/2008. Checked yesterday and still correct list.

-Does not include such services as 'Dial a ride'.

Mr Edwards said he would submit his own accurate map of bus routes in Westbury