



# **Bus Service Consultation**

Consultation on ECC funded  
bus service 15

Colchester – Marks Tey  
operated by Hedingham  
Omnibus.

September - October 2017

## Introduction

### Background:

Following the review of local bus services carried out in 2015/16 in which the Council asked bus users for their views on what services they wanted to see, a number of services were changed in April 2016. One of these was service **15** which had operated from Straight Road via Shrub End, Prettygate shops, Scott Drive and Halstead Road Corner to Colchester Mainline Station on a broadly 15 minute frequency. This was changed to operate to Marks Tey Station to allow access from Marks Tey to a number of emerging developments in response to the results of the area review. In order to improve overall efficiency and cost effectiveness, the service was also reduced in frequency so it could be operated half hourly by one bus instead of the two it had at the time.

As passenger numbers were disappointing the service was looked at again.

### Proposal:

The Council considered reverting this bus service to its previous route, and therefore providing a broadly ½ hourly service **0525 - 0710** and **1755 - 1940**.

The consultation therefore put forward the following question: **Would you like to see the service revert to its previous route?**

This proposal was consulted on for 6 weeks between September – October 2017. This was composed of a consultation letter available on bus and an online survey.

### Current Timetable

#### **OAKLANDS AVE - SHRUB END - LEXDEN - MARKS TEY STATION 15**

##### **Monday - Friday**

Marks Tey Stn		0545	0615	0645	0715
Stanway Lakelands		0550	0620	0650	0720
Stanway, Fiveways	0523	0553	0623	0653	0723
Shrub End, Leather Bottle	0527	0557	0627	0657	0727
Prettygate Shops	0531	0601	0631	0701	0731
Burns Avenue	0533	0603	0633	0703	0733
Lexden, Halstead Rd Corner	0536	0606	0636	0706	0736
Marks Tey Stn	0543	0613	0643	0713	0743

Marks Tey Stn	1740	1810	1840	1910	1940
Lexden, Halstead Rd Corner	1747	1817	1847	1917	1947
Burns Avenue	1750	1820	1850	1920	1950
Prettygate Shops	1752	1822	1852	1922	1952

Shrub End, Leather Bottle	1756	1826	1856	1926	1956
Stanway, Fiveways	1800	1830	1900	1930	2000
Stanway Lakelands	1803	1833	1903	1933	
Marks Tey Stn	1808	1838	1908	1938	

## Proposed Timetable

### **OAKLANDS AVE - SHRUB END – PRETTYGATE - LEXDEN – NORTH STATION**

**15**

#### **Monday - Friday**

Colchester, Oaklands Avenue	0525	0600	0635	0710
Shrub End, Leather Bottle	0529	0604	0639	0714
Colchester, Prettygate Shops	0533	0608	0643	0718
Colchester, Scott Drive	0535	0610	0645	0725
Lexden, Halstead Rd Corner	0538	0613	0648	0728
Colchester, North Station	0544	0619	0654	0734

Colchester, North Station	1755	1830	1905	1940
Lexden, Halstead Rd Corner	1803	1838	1913	1948
Colchester, Scott Drive	1806	1841	1916	1951
Colchester, Prettygate Shops	1808	1843	1918	1953
Shrub End, Leather Bottle	1812	1847	1922	1957
Colchester, Oaklands Avenue	1816	1851	1926	2001

## **Key Conclusions**

<b>Route</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Frequency of responses</b>	<b>Summary of qualitative themes</b>
15 (Colchester – Marks Tey)	74% agreed with proposal 26% disagreed with proposal	38 Responses (30 comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Route is far less busy than before and less chance of being caught up in traffic.</li> <li>The change of route to Marks Tey Stn offered few train</li> </ul>

			<p>options to and from London.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the route reverts to Colchester, I will have to pay higher train fares.</li> <li>• I believe more people will use the service if the route changes.</li> <li>• More people drive to the station now</li> <li>• The original change made no sense.</li> <li>• Please retain this Marks Tey service</li> </ul>
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### Who gave views

- Age: 18-24 - 5%, 25-34 - 19% 35-44 - 19%, 45-54 - 27% , 55-64 19%, 65-74 - 11%
- 1 respondent advised visual impairment; 1 advised learning disability and 1 advised another long term condition
- 94% of respondents worked full or part time, 3% were retired & 3% preferred not to say.

### Summary

Changes were made to the service to ensure it remained viable and to do so, the new residents in Stanway were provided with a service to enable commuter access to Marks Tey station where Greater Anglia provide a direct, regular train service to both London and Ipswich. Hedingham are looking at widening the service to include areas which have not yet benefitted from a service, thus improving accessibility for a number of residents.

A review of the service will take place next year as part of the tender planning exercise. This will also take into account the numerous service changes in the wider area and ECC officers will take all comments on board as part of the decision making process.

## **Final Decision**

After due consideration, the decision was made that the service should not revert back to its original route until the full potential of the service serving Marks Tey is known.