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3rd MARCH 2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – MEETING WITH GENERAL MANAGER SOUTHERN VECTIS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A BUS SERVICE FOR HAVENSTREET VILLAGE

Executive Summary

Following progress with meeting the main objectives of the Isle of Wight Council Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), Southern Vectis are now in a position to consider the possibility of providing a bus service for Havenstreet village. A proposal for a limited trial service will be developed with implementation during 2026 a possibility.

Meeting Summary

On 3rd March 2026 I met with Mr Richard Tyldsley, General Manager, Southern Vectis. During a very positive meeting the following matters were discussed:

- The background to and results of the 2025 Havenstreet Bus Survey.
- If a peak hours/regular interval service were to be provided, at least one additional bus would have to be added to the existing fleet at a cost in the region of £250k. Ongoing staff cost for a full service would be significant. Commercial viability of any service is an issue.
- Positive progress in delivering BSIP objectives, such as the on time and on budget introduction of the electric bus fleet, may release some funding to support a trial bus service for Havenstreet village.
- It is recognised that the ability of Havenstreet & Ashey Parish Council to offer meaningful financial support for a bus service is limited.
- Other constraints affecting any proposed bus service are the low railway bridge (single deck buses only) and the need to identify a turning point, should one be necessary.
- Southern Vectis will be working up a proposal for a trial service and may be able to offer something during 2026. A trial service is likely to be limited in scope and, as it will be utilising existing resources, is unlikely to cover peak periods. The evidence gathered during the trial period will inform future bus service provision.

- The proposal will be forwarded to Havenstreet and Ashey Parish Council (and other stakeholders) for comment. Commencement of a trial service is a possibility for either the May or September 2026 timetable changes, depending on progress made.

A J Barry

Chairman

Havenstreet & Ashey Parish Council