

## Bus Surgery day in Uckfield

On a brilliantly sunny and warm day at Uckfield Railway Station, last Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September, Wealden Bus Alliance hosted a bus surgery, with the title “Your Bus Matters” which was open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm and attracted more than 100 visitors.

Brighton & Hove Buses and Sussex Bus Co both provided double deck buses which were parked in the station forecourt. On hand to receive comments from passengers were representatives from bus operators, Sussex Community Rail Partnership, District and County Councils, Uckfield Town council and Wealden passenger user group.



Pictured from the left, Richard Tandy of Stagecoach; Patrick Warner of Brighton & Hove Buses; Barry Marlowe, Wealden Bus Alliance; Sharon Gray, Sussex Community Rail Partnership and Richard Ahl of Sussex Bus Company. – Picture courtesy of Uckfield News.com

By far the majority of concerns from passengers were about Stagecoach route 54 to Eastbourne. Comments raised included demands for better punctuality, a more frequent service, and operation to include Sundays. There was also confusion regarding which journeys did or did not serve Uckfield bus station.

Several complaints concerned the increasing numbers of private cars entering the Uckfield Bus Station which is clearly signed “No Entry- Buses Only” East Sussex County Council, representative said they will look into strengthening enforcement to ensure it remained a safe area for all bus passengers. The Bus Alliance advises that car owners should be aware when driving into the bus station, past the “No Entry” sign they will find their motor insurance lapsed and may also face penalty points on their licence.

Brighton & Hove route 29 Tunbridge Wells/ Brighton generally received good feedback, most passengers stating they were happy with the service.

Sussex Bus Co. Route 31, Heathfield/Haywards Heath was also well regarded by passengers, but there were several demands for services to be continued later each day. The Company said they would give early consideration to this.

All comments and feedback will be analysed by Bus Users UK., then published on their website, and Wealden Bus Alliance’s website at [www.wealdenbus.org.uk](http://www.wealdenbus.org.uk)

Wealden Bus Alliance