



Hailsham

TOWN COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Year's Day Bus Service Well Used by Hailsham Residents

2 January 2019

A special New Year's Day bus service for Hailsham residents was well-received and used by passengers, demonstrating the effectiveness of the Town Council working in partnership with local bus companies.

Bus operator Cuckmere Buses (formerly Cuckmere Community Bus) stepped in to fill a big gap in the seasonal timetables over the festive break by operating a special bus service from Hailsham to Polegate and Eastbourne on New Year's Day.

Cuckmere Buses, which is run entirely by volunteers was concerned that Hailsham would be left without any public transport on 1st January, as the commercial bus companies normally serving the town do not operate on this day, leaving Hailsham residents without a transport link to Polegate train station or Eastbourne town centre.

This is the eighth consecutive year that Cuckmere Buses has run this special bus service part-underwritten by Hailsham Town Council.

Barry Marlowe, who is lead member of Wealden Bus Alliance, was delighted to hear about the positive feedback received from passengers who used the service last year, expressing their delight and thanks to the volunteer drivers.

He said: "Christmas and New Year can be a very busy and expensive time of year for many people. Cuckmere Buses is pleased to be playing its part by offering great value travel on New Year's Day, making it easier for people to visit family and friends."

"I'm pleased that Hailsham Town Council has supported Cuckmere Buses once again in enabling this vital service, and they will continue to support them and other local bus operators to make service improvements in the future, specifically for those who cannot access the conventional public transport network."

Full details of the Cuckmere Buses service are available at www.cuckmerebuses.org.uk and via the Wealden Bus Alliance's website: www.wealdenbus.org.uk.

Demand for the Cuckmere Buses service means that additional volunteer drivers are needed. If you are over 25 years of age, able to offer your services and would like more information on volunteer training opportunities, contact Philip Ayers on 01323 870920 or John on 07802 305155.

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Notes to Editors:

- Cuckmere Buses, formerly Cuckmere Community Bus (CCB), is an independent charity run entirely by volunteers. It was launched in 1976 to supplement existing bus services and provide bus links from village residents to their nearest towns throughout the Cuckmere Valley area.

- Based in Berwick, Cuckmere Buses currently has around 50 volunteer drivers and 10 additional volunteers who run its fleet of eight low-floor minibuses, providing an important link with shops, doctors' surgeries and social facilities for those who do not live on a main bus route.
- Cuckmere Buses was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK for outstanding work undertaken in their local communities.
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