



CHRIS LODER MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WEST DORSET

Ms Sandra Ward
Chairman - Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride (AVWDRR)
c/o 17-18 Leach Road, Chard Business Park
CHARD
Somerset
TA20 1FA

27th November 2023

Dear Sandra

OPEN LETTER: RING & RIDE SERVICE FROM WEST DORSET

I am writing to update you on the work I have been doing to ensure that no customer in West Dorset of the Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride (AVWDRR) service is disproportionately impacted by your decision to withdraw your service.

To date, I have attempted to contact you on five occasions. I have still not received any response, nor correspondence from you or anyone else from AVWDRR to inform me of your intention to withdraw the service either.

Following recent dialogue between Dorset Community Transport (DCT) and I, DCT has kindly offered to provide dial-a-ride services to existing customers of your Ring & Ride Service. DCT is confident that it can adapt its existing services in the West Dorset area to incorporate those communities affected by your decision, but despite requests to convey this option to the local residents, you are not doing so.

I first reached out AVWRR on 28th September 2023 to discuss help and solutions. It is regrettable and disingenuous that you gave a press interview to BBC Spotlight on Wednesday 11th October 2023 without giving the full perspective – in that you chose to ignore that other solutions were possible – especially given you had ignored my requests to speak.

Would you please enter discussions with Dorset Community Transport to discuss the options available for the local people who you will cease to support shortly, which can be contacted on 01258 287 987 and would you reply and confirm.

Yours sincerely

Chris Loder MP
Member of Parliament for West Dorset

cc: Cllr Andrea Davies, Devon County Council