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Hilltop News

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We wish you a merry Christmas...

NEW YEAR CAMPAIGN FOR RURAL TRANSPORT

Chance of bus service if people show support

A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT has been issued to the 10 parishes in the Canterbury district affected by the withdrawal of the post bus to canvass the views of residents on possible alternative bus service provision.

City councillor for Little Stour ward Brian Staley who is coordinating the survey with the City Council Rural Development office, says that if people care about having a bus service it is important to respond to the questionnaire.

There are two proposals so far:

1. Cllr Keith Ferrin for Kent County Council has offered to provide a minibus with all associated maintenance, tax and insurance costs covered, but no fuel or drivers. Parishes affected would come together as a Community Transport Trust and run a scheme on a volunteer drivers basis as a community transport scheme, where passengers pay a fare to cover fuel costs.

2. Cllr Staley has suggested to Cllr Ferrin an alternative proposal for a fully funded leased minibus with paid drivers. The bus would run on designated routes five days a week, Monday to Friday funded through KCC, Canterbury City Council and the parishes.

At a recent meeting at Littlebourne Village hall representatives of the majority of villages affected by the loss of the post bus service were overwhelmingly in favour of Cllr Staley's scheme for a minibus with a designated route subject to finance and other details being agreed.

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Make my wish come true.... Sophie Long visits Santa's Grotto at the Hilltop Pantry Fayre. More pictures, pages 4,5.

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