

Explanatory Briefing to Accompany the Transport Survey for the Parish of Brandeston

Background to the Survey

The survey is part of the research we are doing to review of all passenger transport services in rural areas of Suffolk. We need to find out the extent to which current services meet local needs in these rural areas, where we should leave existing public and passenger transport services as they are, where we should make changes to existing services, and where we should investigate the possibility of introducing completely new types of passenger transport services that might not run to a fixed timetable and might be more flexible about the times of day in which they operate and where they travel.

Why are we reviewing passenger transport services in rural areas of Suffolk?

A recent report on Suffolk County Council's performance in 2009-2010 by the Audit Commission highlighted the need to improve access to public services for people living in rural areas. Improving passenger transport and aligning it more closely to local need is essential to this. A report by Suffolk ACRE in 2008 highlighted lack of transport as a key reason why a significant minority in rural areas suffered from economic deprivation and social isolation.

How are we going to get the evidence we need to make the change or maintenance of passenger transport services as they are now?

We need to get firm evidence of where people who live in the Brandeston parish travel now, by what method they travel, when they travel and why. We will do this by surveying individual households within the Brandeston Parish.

One of the reasons why we are reviewing our passenger transport services in rural areas is to find out what we can do to help people who currently rely on the use of a second car or lifts from friends or relatives but would like to use passenger transport if an appropriate service was provided. We therefore need people who use cars to complete this survey as well as those who currently use passenger transport.