

The Argument For A Hopper Bus In Overmonnow

Overmonnow is the only Ward in Monmouth that does not have it's own bus service to and from town. If you wish to take a bus into town you have to walk a third of the way up the Link Road to the bus stop opposite the junction to Carbonne Close (which involves crossing the Link Road at the daunting dropped curb (uncontrolled crossing at the bottom of the Link Road just before the junction with Wonastow Road as there is **NO** footpath the other side of the road), or alternatively, walk down Wonastow Road and catch the bus at the stop opposite the junction to Somerset Road. The latter option, means you are more than halfway into town and therefore many people would not bother to wait for a bus. The bus people would need to catch is the bus coming in from Abergavenny or the bus coming in from Newport. Both buses run aprox. Every 2 hours with about 45 minutes between buses. This simply is not good enough.

There are currently 3 (2 fit for use, the other waiting to be worked on) walking options into town. 2 options fit for use, can be argued that they are not. There is a footpath that runs from the new development at Kings Wood Gate that follows the pond and comes out on Wonastow Road opposite Tri-Wall (near Model Farm). The path then runs adjacent to Wonastow Road where there is a dropped curb (uncontrolled crossing) to cross Wonastow Road, or the industrial Estate (West) entrance to again cross Wonastow Road. The footpath on the opposite side is somewhat narrow and somewhat overgrown. Then we come to the dropped curb (uncontrolled crossing) on the Link Road. Just yards from the junction onto Wonastow Road and yards from a speed limit sign of 30MPH. It is also on a curve in the road with a tree line and verge that is somewhat overgrown. Once having crossed the Link Road, most if not all residents then choose to walk down Old Wonastow Road (Unadopted and uneven) and then they either carry on up past the Family Learning Centre (Old Infants School) through to a dropped curb (uncontrolled crossing) at Elstob Way which then leads to the round-a-bout on St. Thomas' Square. Or, some residents choose to cross at the junction into Victoria Estate/Old Wonastow Road/Lockwood Row (by the pinch point) and cross into Kings Fee at the entrance to Wonastow Road Industrial Estate (East). Mandarin Stone in particular have many deliveries a day, and whilst many of the heavy goods vehicles that deliver to The Industrial Estate (East) do come from the Link Road, some do enter from Drybridge Street direction. This is a busy road with speed bumps. But once past the pinch point, the speed management stops. I believe that the road from the new development down to the pinch point should be treated as a residential road (despite it feeding Tri-Wall and the Industrial Estate (West)) and some sort of speed management should be implemented. There is a safe route into town once across the Link Road. But it needs to be signposted so that people know it's there. Even residents from Carbonne Close etc choose not to use this footpath which runs the length of the Link Road behind Wonastow Road. It does lead to town with exists along the way to get to Kings Fee and Overmonnow Primary School. But it has been said that people won't use this footpath as it adds time to the journey and isn't direct enough.

The third option, Route M8 in the 'Integrated Network Maps' is a footpath that runs through Williamsfield Lane. It starts by the Zebra crossing on Wonastow Road and continues past Drybridge Vets then the entrance to Overmonnow Primary School and leads to Ash Lane in the Drybridge Ward. Just before the entrance to Ash Lane there is a footpath on the left that runs between Kings Fee and Ash Lane all the way to the Industrial Estate (West). Again, people have suggested that they won't use this route even after it has been upgraded to a designated footpath/cycleway for safety reasons. This footpath will connect with a footpath into the new development. However, you will have to cross the road near Natural Animal Feeds (at the top end of the estate) to get to the footpath. With lorries parking overnight on the Industrial Estate (West) some people feel unsafe walking the Industrial Estate at night.

This only increases the need for a shuttle bus service in Overmonnow. There are due to be more properties built around that area. We are meant to be encouraging active travel and less cars on the road. There needs to be a bus that runs every half hour around the Overmonnow Ward.

Routes. Over the new Bridge and into Goldwire Lane through Clawdd Du then Somerset Road. Onto Wonastow Road (Kings Fee) down to the new development and then up the link Road then into town.