**Wells Bus User Group (WBUG) Held Its Second Meeting on Monday 8th August.**

**Aims of the Group Agreed at the First Meeting:**

To work towards a sustainable, accessible and inclusive bus service focused on Wells

**Strategies** set at first meeting on 21 July were:

* engage with bus users and non-users and surrounding parishes
* campaign to promote bus use
* work with other partners – First Bus and Somerset Bus Partnership

**Core Group- Cllr D Denis, Cllr T Butt Philip Cllr H Siggs, J Rust and G Spinks**

 **Attendees-** 55 attended and many offered to help the Wells Bus Group achieve its Aims and Objectives by taking out petitions to save the 126 in their streets, attend a mass rally on 5th September to “Catch a Bus”, and help on the market stall on 7 September to promote National Bus Week (3-11 September).

**Actions which have been achieved over the last month:**

**Petitions**- we have notified everyone contacting us of the save the bus petitions, including the on-line LibDem petition set up by Cllr Theo Butt Philip, and the street petitions run by Jenny Williams and Colin Price (Labour Party)

WBUG have also started a petition to collect signatures to save the 126 today to save the 126, and will submit that to First Bus by the end of the week.

**Letter Writing**- we have supported letter writing by providing contact details, we have personally written ourselves, and as a Group to James Heappey, MP, and Doug Claringbold, MD of First Buses.

We have asked and supported the Mayor to write on behalf of the Council on the 173 and 126 campaign

We have written to Mendip Neighbourhood Services with suggestions on necessary improvements to the Bus Station

**Somerset Bus Partnership**

Jenny Rust has liaised with the Somerset Bus Partnership (SBP) Leadership Team- and has focussed on the current bus cuts- especially the 126

Denise Denis is Wells City Council representative on SBP and has reported to the Council on the proposed cuts and invited FirstBus and Somerset County Council to attend the last meeting. Mike Rigby attended thanks to the support of fellow Lib Dem Councillor Theo Butt Philip, to this request.

Somerset Bus Partnership- is very active, setting up other Bus User Groups, meetings with First Bus and Somerset County Council and has an active Facebook page.

SBP was interviewed twice in the last 2 weeks on Radio Somerset, on drive time programmes. Denise Denis was also included in the first interview as spokesperson of the Wells Bus User Core Group. She covered the issues in Wells and the need for a bus users group.