

Friends of the 106 Bus

Newsletter, Spring 2018

Since our last newsletter much has happened, most for the better. First, *The 106 Partnership* has achieved Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status; this means that the partnership is a legal entity which can act in a way similar to a company or an individual. Achieving the status has involved a great deal of work, almost all by Libby Bateman to whom we extend our thanks.

Secondly our thanks to Shirly Sylvester for all her work promoting the service, co-ordinating the user survey, organising the coffee morning, at which £965 was raised, and manning the table at the Shap Christmas Fair, when £190 was raised.

We must also thank all of you for your support by becoming *Friends of the 106 Bus*, making donations over the annual membership fee but mostly for using the service. Usage has grown steadily in 2017/18 from 6135 in 2016/17 to 7021; however, we still need more passengers, please encourage your friends to hop on the bus and leave the car at home occasionally.

You will also be able to ensure the future of the service by re-joining the *Friends of the 106 Bus* and encouraging others to join; please use the form on the other side to do so. You may also be able to help by organising or helping with fund raising events and maybe suggesting ways of encouraging people to use the bus. Perhaps you could lead a walk around some place of interest timed to coincide with the bus, there must be many more ideas about how to encourage use of the bus. If you have any ideas please contact us or come along to our next public meeting.

The next public meeting of the *Friends of the 106 Bus* will be held on **Wednesday, 16 May 2018** at **Tebay Club** starting at **7.30pm**, please do your best to attend to give us your feedback on the service and your views and ideas for the future. If you would like to attend but need help with transport we may be able to help, let us know and we'll do our best to arrange a lift.

Moving on we have now entered into a new contract with Stagecoach to operate the service for two years from Tuesday, 12 June 2018. From that date the bus will run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays with the run back from Kendal on the same days during the college holidays from Easter to the start of the autumn term. There will be a few small changes to the timetable, details of which will be available in the next few weeks. For details see our website or the county council website which also gives details of other services on the route. On a less upbeat note we will be forced to increase the fares from the same date, the increase will be kept to a minimum but after two years inflation has caught up with us.

Finally from November we will be looking for a new secretary. Libby Bateman, who has undertaken the role since *The 106 Partnership* was founded, during that time she has worked hard, perhaps harder than anyone, to achieve the success of the service and we extend our thanks to her for her efforts. Anyone taking on the role would need to have use email and a PC, be able to attend meetings of the *The 106 Partnership*, held in Shap four times a year, and meetings of the *Friends of the 106 Bus* held at various venues along the route twice a year. It is possible however that the work could be divided between two people

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