

Taunton Local Community Network

Public Transport Working Group

Recommendations to the Taunton LCN Meeting 18 May 2026

The Taunton Local Community Network (LCN) Public Transport Working Group (PT WG) has begun work to improve local public transport, following feedback from residents, community groups, bus users, and transport partners. Here's a simple overview of what we're focusing on.

1. Adopt the PT WG Terms of Reference

See attached Terms of Reference document

2. A Quick, Visible Improvement in the Next 3 Months

To show early progress, the PT WG will choose one local bus shelter for a full tidy-up—cleaning, repainting, or replacing panels.

This will:

- Improve safety and appearance
- Demonstrate that small changes can make a big difference
- Encourage wider community involvement

Local councillors may also be able to help fund minor improvements.

3. Better Information for Bus Users at Taunton Railway Station

Many people arriving by train struggle to find the right bus stop. The PT WG will look to source / provide:

- A simple “where to catch your bus” guide for staff and visitors
- Clear, easy-to-read information at the station
- A potential pop-up map funded through the GWR Community Fund

4. Better Coordination Between Buses and Trains

Journey planning should be simple.

We will advocate for:

- Better alignment of bus and train times
- Clearer signage linking the station to nearby bus stops
- Improved passenger information as part of the new Transport Hub

5. Focus on Improving the Park & Ride

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The Park & Ride already carries many people, but awareness and signage are inconsistent.

We will:

- Review the current user experience
- Provide feedback and comments to improve signs and digital messages encouraging drivers to “park once—ride in”
- Work with Somerset Council to make the service easier to use

6. Stronger Links With Somerset Council’s Transport Planning

A long-term transport plan for the county is due next year.

The PT WG will:

- Make sure local priorities are fed into the plan
- Highlight gaps in bus routes, housing growth, and student access
- Ask for clarity on how developer (Section 106) funding supports buses and bus stops

7. Supporting Students Who Rely on Buses

Students regularly feedback that buses don’t always align with college times or are difficult to access.

The PT WG will:

- Gather real experiences from students and parents
- Share this evidence with Somerset Council and bus operators
- Push for better timetabling and safer routes

8. Cleaner, Safer, More Reliable Bus Stops

Many shelters are unclean or damaged.

We aim to:

- Work with parishes and the Town Council to take ownership of local shelters
- Make use of available government bus improvement funding
- Support volunteer-led maintenance where appropriate
 - Specific bus stops:
 - Staplegrove – near to the Post Office
 - Wellington Road - near to Taunton College

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- Priorswood – near to the Community Centre

9. Support Development of the New Transport Hub

The future Transport Hub in Taunton is a major opportunity. The PT WG supports plans that include:

- A reopened waiting area
- Better facilities for passengers
- Clear wayfinding for visitors

10. Setting Clear Priorities for the First Year

To stay focused, the PT WG will prioritise:

- Park & Ride improvements
- Bus stop and shelter upgrades
- Evidence gathering for student transport
- Rail–bus connections

11. Working Closely with Councillors and Community Groups

To secure funding and support, the LCN will regularly update local councillors and MPs and invite them to key discussions once early progress is demonstrated.

- Invite the Lead Member for Transport to key meetings once demonstrable progress is shown.
- Use LCN meetings to gather feedback on parish-level priorities.