

The 55 Bus – A New Era.

Community Transport – it's not about buses, it's about people!



On 1st April 2023 a new era in public transport for Glenfarg begins. With the retiral of the Rutherfords, and the last Earnside Coaches 55 running on Friday 31st March, the baton is being passed to Glenfarg Community Transport Group (GCTG) – a Scottish Charity set up by the Glenfarg Community to safeguard public transport in and around the village.

GCTG has entered into a partnership with Perth and Kinross Council, forming a Public Social Partnership (PSP) and taking on the contract for The 55 Bus service and the Arngask Primary School run. The first three months (April, May and June) will be run as a pilot, allowing GCTG to introduce and develop the service. (This is in addition to the work we are doing with the Community Bus, offering social and cultural trips, which we hope to grow further).

The plan is to develop an hourly service throughout the day, augmented by the Stagecoach X56 morning and 56 evening services. The 55 Bus will develop into a fully flexible responsive service rather than the fixed route traditional service that we are familiar with. We will have the ability to service a wider area with a range of bookable stops - Duncriche, Drunzie, Calder's Garden Centre initially, expanding to Loch Leven's Larder, Balgeddie Toll Tavern and Bein Inn after a few weeks. The village will now have 14-15 services per day.

By the end of the three month pilot, we hope to be able to introduce a fully bookable Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) system backed by software, an App and dedicated call centre, so that we can further expand the service. You will be able to track the bus and be given an exact time for pick up – similar to the Ember system which has become tried and tested. In other parts of the country, where this has worked for many years, the system is often affectionately known as "The Wiggly Bus" or "Flexibus".

We are being supported by our friends at Community Transport Glasgow (CTG) who will be arranging these bookable journeys for us. They have years of experience booking their own services in this way and also operate a service for NHS Lanarkshire and a similar bus service in Dumfries and Galloway.

Running times for The 55 Bus are on the Timetables Page. We will be running an hourly service throughout the day. However, and initially from 17th April, the first "morning bus", and one afternoon service will be dedicated to Arngask Primary School. The bus will leave Glenfarg at 10 past the hour and return from the Kinross Park and Ride at quarter to the hour. The running times are geared to allow connection with the incoming and outgoing M92 services to and from Edinburgh but at the moment this is being piloted and depends on Citylink punctuality – so at the moment this feature is "aspirational". You will see a few destinations have a "B" rather than a time. These are our "bookable" destinations which will grow in number as we progress. Please allow two hours prior to travel when calling to book, and the day before for Saturday and early morning travel. If urgent, the team will try to accommodate requests up to an hour in advance. If you travel regularly, you can block book, but PLEASE let us know if you need to cancel a booked journey.

You can book the bookable journeys by calling 0845 605 5955

GCTG need you to use the bus - please let us know how you get on with the process! Sign up for our Facebook page, email us at transport@glenfarg.org or stop us in the street or in the Coffee Lounge. We need feedback to develop a service that is fit to serve the people of Glenfarg.

And now the best bit!

!!FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS WE WILL BE RUNNING A FREE SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!!

Please USE The 55 Bus. It now belongs to you.

