

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF KNOWSTONE 28TH MAY 2019

COMMUNITY BUS REPORT

Some years ago the then chairman of Knowstone Parish Council, John Smith, approached the management committee of the Exe Valley Market Bus to see if they would allow Knowstone to use their bus once a week. They agreed so John put his idea to the Parish Council and it was adopted.

The result was a weekly service from Oakford via Roachill, East Knowstone and Knowstone to South Molton and Barnstaple on alternate Thursday mornings.

Sadly passenger numbers have declined over the years and Knowstone Parish Council have had to make up the deficit in fares versus running costs. To ease financial strains further the Barnstaple run is now on the first Thursday of each month only with the remaining Thursdays servicing South Molton.

Understandably, the Oakford bus committee are as keen to keep the Knowstone journeys running as we are but we cannot continue to run at a loss.

It's a superb service (and free to Devon bus pass holders) with a team of experienced and qualified volunteer drivers. What's missing? Passengers!

If you haven't used the our bus I think you'll be pleasantly surprised - early morning pickups (between 9am and 10am) plenty of time to shop or browse and returning around lunchtime so try it.

Remember, it's a service that was introduced by your Parish Council to allay concerns over the lack of a local bus serving this area.

So it's a case of **USE IT OR LOSE IT** – over to you.

Also, volunteer drivers are welcome

R. G. Howe

Community Bus contact – 01398.341508