

School buses in Wimbish

Essex County Council has just changed the company that provides the main bus service for children attending Saffron Walden High school from Howlett End, Tye Green & Wimbish Green. This service (104) used to allow children above the age of 16 (and adults) to buy a daily ticket on the bus. This has now been stopped and parents of sixth-form children are now expected to buy a massively expensive annual season ticket which is not valid on any other bus service so students need to buy another ticket if they come home on the "late bus" (route 91) after a school club.

Cllr Simon Walsh has promised the annual parish meeting on May 5th to investigate and see what can be done. Meanwhile, my advice is **DO NOT BUY a season ticket.**

The school bus system for Wimbish pupils is immensely complex and unfair: here is a summary of the present situation for 16+ school pupils:

You live in Elder St/Carver Barracks and attend Saffron Walden County High

Use route 313 to/from Carver Barracks (and buy a £10 annual bus card to entitle you to half fare on this and many other routes in the area). If you come home late from school either use the late bus (route 91 16:45 from the school Tues, Weds & Thu only, full fare charged, bus card not valid)) and get off at Brooklands Garage & walk through the Barracks or walk into Saffron Walden to get a 313 from the High St at 17:40 (bus card valid)

You live in Elder St/Carver Barracks and attend Newport Free Grammar

Use service 53 to/from Carver Barracks (full fare, bus card **not** valid). For late return take a service 301 from Newport (bus cards valid) to Saffron Walden and either use the late bus (route 91 16:45 from the school Tue, Wed & Thu only, full fare charged, bus card **not** valid)) and get off at Brooklands Garage & walk through the Barracks or walk into Saffron Walden to get a 313 from the High St at 17:40 (bus card valid)

You live in Wimbish Green/Tye Green/Howlett End and attend Saffron Walden County High

Avoid service 104 which requires an annual season ticket. Walk, cycle or get a lift to Carver Barracks and then use service 313 which allows half-fare bus cards (see above) or go to Radwinter and use any bus on route 18, 118, 417, 418 & 419 (half-fare bus cards **not** valid) direct to Saffron Walden High. Late return use service 91 direct to Rowney Corner or Tye Green (no half fares)

You live in Tye Green or Howlett End & attend Newport Free Grammar

Use service 52 (half-fare cards not valid) direct to Newport via Thaxted & Debden . For late return take a service 301 from Newport (bus cards valid) to Saffron Walden and use the late bus (route 91 16:45 from the SWCH school Tues, Weds & Thu only full fare charged, bus card not valid) and get off at Rowney Corner for Howlett End or Tye Green

David Corke: Wimbish Parish Public Transport Representative May 5th 2009