

Changes to the 22 Bus from 19 February 2018 – Now Red 22

Treasure your 22 bus

Please help your community who rely on the bus. Don't really use the bus? Please give it a go!

- If the 22 service doesn't get more use, it may cease to exist. It is under severe threat.
- It is a vital resource for us all. If not for you or your family at the moment, what about the future? A 22-bus-less future is not a great prospect.
- Please consider taking the bus whenever you are able - to travel to work, the station or weekend leisure activities. If previously you have relied on family to drop you down to the station, paid the expensive car parking charges, or struggled to park at the RBH, please hop on the 22.
- Considerable changes are being made to the service. Most of the 22 buses will travel onwards from Reading town centre to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and then to Lower Earley (Asda), and back. Not every bus will, so please check the timetable carefully.
- If we all took to the bus, we could reduce the congestion and very high pollution levels that have recently been recorded in Caversham.

Get to know your new bus service

The new timetable is here: <http://www.reading-buses.co.uk/files/timetables/new/red%2022%20times.pdf> (on the Reading buses website, under the timetable section).

At individual bus stops the times are shown on the timetable and can easily be photographed for future reference.

Track your bus – stay in the warmth of your home or office until your bus is due

Have you ever wondered if your bus might be stuck in traffic? Or can't remember the time the next bus is due? There are three excellent, easy-to-use smartphone apps, Reading Buses, Bus Checker and MyBusReading. They tell you when the next bus is due at your chosen stop(s).

Please consider using the bus. Please help your community. Please take the bus.

Tickets - keep costs down and forget having to have the right change for the ticket

A standard ticket purchased on the bus costs £2 for an adult single ticket, day ticket £4, or unlimited evening travel from 6pm for £3. For children a boost single costs £1.50 and a day £2.50. There however are a variety of money-saving ways to purchase a discounted ticket, depending on the frequency of your travel. Reading Buses smartcards come in three different formats: **period**, **multi-trip** and **e-purse**.

Period tickets – Available in 7, 30, 90 and 365 day variants (academic year for **Boost** products for children and students up to the age of 21 with a valid ID card from their college/uni). These are valid for the number of consecutive days specified from first use on the bus.

multi-trip - Available as **easysaver** or **boostsaver** variants. Load 10 single journeys onto the card, which is discounted against the single fare on bus. Great for occasional users as there's no expiry date!

e-purse - Load cash onto the card and use it to pay the driver. No need to carry change!

If you or your family are an occasional bus traveller, you will save money by purchasing an **easysaver** card, or, for a child, **boostsaver**. This enables you to purchase 10 journeys at a discounted rate from Reading Buses on a credit card sized plastic ticket, which can be renewed online or in the bus shop in the Broad Street Mall and we highly recommend purchasing to save you looking around for the right change.

Contactless payments are also accepted on the buses. You can also purchase your ticket via the Reading Buses App.

Did you know?

Travel all day. You can travel all day on a £4 day ticket it offers unlimited journeys on all Reading buses within the *simplyReading* area on the same day, or unlimited evening travel from 6pm for £3.

Group tickets . £6 for four people on Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings and Public & School Holidays. For four people - any combination of adults and children, for travel all day in the *simplyReading* area. Buy your ticket from the driver. If you travel outside of school holidays before 6pm the cost of a group ticket for 4 people is £9

Important: Hear the Beep

Each beep registers a journey; without your ticket or bus pass being beeped, you aren't on any official records. Records of usage are vital to keep the service going. Caversham needs you to be counted.

Please do not accept being waived onto the bus without hearing the beep! If you travel using a prepaid ticket, either card or paper, and if it doesn't register, please ask the bus driver to do so manually. For *PlusBus* holders, this has to be done manually by the driver each time.

Are you employed by a company of over 20 employees in Reading?

Do you work for an employer with more than 20 employees? If so, there is a possibility of discounted fares available if employees travel to work by bus via a company scheme. Please get in touch with us, or ask your employer for more information. Email : Concernedofcaversham@gmail.com

The work so far to keep the 22 service

Reading Buses carried out a consultation in October 2017. *Concerned of Caversham* was formed at the same time, by concerned local residents, to create awareness of the proposals, and has campaigned relentlessly since then for better proposals for all residents living within the 22 route. A brief timeline:

- **October 2017** The original proposals saw half of the 22 route cut off from a bus service completely, with the other half having 20 min frequency, travelling along a very unsafe route which was previously rejected in 2011. Then, a second set of proposals were produced for an off peak 'Hoppa bus' to travel in a circular motion around Caversham along the bus stops cut off in the first proposals. No solution was provided for commuters, school children, or anyone looking to travel beyond Caversham.
- **November 2017** The consultation came to an end in November 2017 and Reading Buses then announced severe cuts to the route which hadn't featured in the consultation. A reduction was announced to the service which equated to approx. a 42% loss. This staggering cut included reducing to an off-peak hourly service, creating difficulties for all residents, especially returning school children and commuters. They also cancelled all buses on a Sunday and reduced Saturday to hourly.
- **December 2017** *Concerned of Caversham* urged Reading Buses for peak service to resume from 3:15pm to cover returning school children, and for a Sunday service to be returned.
- **January 2018** When the timetables were produced in early January, it was discovered the peak service too was going to receive a cut, when previously a promise had been made to retain a 30 minute frequency. Additionally, the first bus a concessionary bus pass holder could travel on was also delayed. After-school and Sunday service were returned to the timetable.
- **February 2018** *Concerned of Caversham* has continued to apply pressure on Reading Buses and, at the time of going to print, has secured the reinstatement of 5 further buses to the timetable, adding the 06:41 and 09:30 from St Andrews, along with the 17:30, 18:30 and 19:30 from Friar Street. The cuts now stand at 18%. *Concerned of Caversham* plans to continue to hold Reading Buses to their 30 minute peak promise. We welcome the return of the buses so far secured, and are pleased Reading Buses have listened to some of our concerns. It is with a heavy heart that we have not been able to secure a greater frequency of buses between 10am – 3pm week days, or on Saturdays when frequency will run at once an hour. We continue to seek the return of these much loved and needed buses.