

**Baugh, Ben**

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 10 January 2014 09:51  
**To:** Baugh, Ben  
**Subject:** School Transport Changes

Mr Baugh,

Your details have been passed on from several different sources as the point of contact for me to feedback to the scrutiny meeting being held in respect to the School Transport changes recently passed by Herefordshire Council. From the documents I have seen to date it appears that this change is not only designed to save money but bring in revenue.

As a council tax payer living in Cradley we seldom get to see any direct benefit of our contributions to the running of the county, albeit refuse collection and the odd burst of pot hole repairs on the Bosbury road. Our decision to move to the county and specifically Cradley was based on the excellent Primary school and its association with John Masefield High School. Indeed we have two children at JMHS already and plans for the other two to join them in a couple of years. We understand the need to save money and that parents funding transport on behalf of the county seems a good way to go. Personally at £720 per child per year this seems excessive and as for at least half of the week this would be a one-way trip, due to after school activity! The alternative 417 bus route seems to be the target of another cost saving from other council committees so we'll see even less for our contribution into the county bank account.

Please pass on to those concerned that Herefordshire council will not be getting any money from my pocket. We will instead drive in and out, no doubt increasing the traffic congestion in the heart of Ledbury during the week.

My questions for the committee are have the council considered

- The number of parents in impacted areas that will not pay for the transport and therefore not provide the expected revenue?
- The traffic and pollution increase over the early morning and extended afternoon period in Ledbury
- An increase in possible claims from drivers due to pothole damage as less money is spent on road maintenance

I very sincerely hope that the huge weight of emails hitting your inbox and the many arguments provided within them, especially those submitted by the schools are more than enough to provide the committee grounds to overturn this before September.

Regards,

[REDACTED]