



Transport Newsletter

Issue 2

Welcome

J9 Newsletter

Welcome to this Summer edition of the J9 travel newsletter . It brings you up to date information of travel options into the J9 helping to save time, money and improve your health. Congestion is a major problem with the J9 area generating nearly 3000 peak period trips. Even a 10% reduction would considerable ease traffic flows.

Bus travel incentives during August

Stagecoach are offering Special discounts until 30 August:

- West Megarider Gold tickets for 7 days travel are reduced from £19 to £10. Buy from the driver. It covers a wide network stretching from Monmouth to Andover, including services from Gloucester, Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve.
- Family/group Explorer day tickets are reduced from £12 to £8 on the same network.

For full information visit: www.stagecoachbus.com/west



How do we travel to J9 now?

Nearly 300 people across employers in J9 completed travel surveys in April. This has given us an invaluable picture of how people are travelling into the area. Top findings are:

- 89% travel in by car (including car sharer) .The next most popular method was cycling at 5%
- 27% of journeys are under 3 miles in length. Perhaps some of these could be travelled by bus, bike or on foot
- 66% of trips are over 7 miles. It is possible that some of these could be shared or travelled by train
- There was considerable interest in car sharing and cycling. Someone who car shares could save £500-1000 a year-equivalent to a pay rise of 5-10%-untaxed!
- Key issues were car sharing information; alignment of working hours and guaranteed lift home in the event of the share falling through on a particular day. Most people thought they didn't live close enough to others coming to J9 to be able to car share. But the plot below suggests there could be scope for people to travel together
- We also receive many written comments. There is a particular interest in improving conditions for cyclists e.g. better crossings and paths.

Join our Group!

Helped by Gloucestershire County Council and the Highways Agency, a group of local businesses and transport providers have adopted a joint travel plan and formed a steering group to monitor its progress. To join the group please contact Sarah Avery at Gloucestershire CC at:

sarah.avery@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Foreword by Bruce Keen,

Bruce Keen Managing Director of Tewkesbury saw co Ltd, says why he has got involved with J9BG:

The J9BG has been created to get the local business community to work together on issues that affect us all. Being based in a corner of the industrial estate & having customers say that they can not find us motivates me to get my company better known on the estate, and to get the signage right & the road surfaces safe to use, also to get my neighbours to buy their machines & power tools from me rather than from other a company based far away.

I also want to know who are my neighbours are as they might be offer services that I can use. But the real power of the group is when we have a problem. A single voice talking to a County Council or Highway Authority is just a whisper but a group saying the same thing is a shout, so much harder to ignore or fob off. It also enables the same authorities to feed back down issues that effect their own customers & clients and enter into positive discussions before decisions are made.

J9BG is in one County Council area & on the border of a second, it has roads through it that are under the control of 3 Highway Authorities just as to name 2 when the you add in the Police, Fire, Hospital the list just grows.

We are not looking for control but to offer help in guiding the decisions that have to be made & oiling the gears of change.

On going projects include getting better bus services on to the estates, to also encourage the alternative methods of travelling Car Sharing, cycle routes, train use and the involvement of other companies in the area.

Businesses and Highways Authorities come together to discuss congestion issues

Businesses from across the J9 area recently came together to discuss congestion stemming partly from the temporary closure of Northway Lane bridge.

A number of workable solutions will be taken forward to combat the traffic issue with a number of solutions being looked into. Actions going forward-

- ✓ Highways will try to put up matrix signs to provide more information starting with A38 near Gloucester
- ✓ AMEY will amend traffic lights as a trial to ease flow to give more 'green time'
- ✓ Glos Highways to look into issues of access along Northway Lane
- ✓ J9 BG will speak to school to see if any parking can be made available
- ✓ Businesses will continue to stagger working times to ease congestion
- ✓ Companies are urged to support the travel plan for the area by promoting car sharing, and bus use to their staff.

Cycling gains popularity in Tewkesbury

As an alternative to the car for short journeys, the bike is pretty much unbeatable and the town is seeing improvements to its cycling infrastructure.

[Cycle Link from Tewkesbury to J9 is now up and running](#)

Two sections of the route were completed in the summer providing a continuous green link between the centre of Tewkesbury and employment areas at J9. The path can be accessed (running west to east) at:

- Eastern end of Station Road in Tewkesbury
- Gannaway Lane

- Green Lane
- Shannon Way

27% of car journeys are 3miles or less. So switching to bike and walking could significantly help with reducing traffic congestion in the J9 area. See the cycle parking article to see how employers can help.

[Cycle parking expands at J9-grants still available](#)

Cycle parking schemes have recently been completed at:

- **Ashchurch station**, where a new modern shelter and stands have been provided
- **Trackwise**, where shower and changing facilities have been installed.

Other businesses looking at the grant scheme include Charton Networks; Cable Intelligence and Phoenix Bearings.

Following completion of the cycle route into the centre of Tewkesbury, employers can help by providing good cycle facilities on their sites. Cycling is a great health boosting option and a great travel alternative for people living locally and working at the J9 business park.

For advice and information on how to get grant support contact Peter Andrews

www.ParkThatBike.com Tel: **01594 564344** or **07872 579549**



Tewkesbury School is leading the cycling trend and Steve Brimfield of the School says

"Tewkesbury School Governors are delighted that over 400 of the 1700 students together with a number of staff regularly cycle to school helping to reduce traffic congestion and contribute to a healthy lifestyles. There is no doubt that these high numbers of students choosing this option are assisted by the tremendous safe cycle routes and paths that exist in and around Tewkesbury.

The school is in the process of updating it's travel plan with the objective of reducing unnecessary car use and to increase the number of students and staff walking, cycling and using public transport on the journey to school. The school has recently submitted a bid to increase its number of cycle racks to accommodate a further 100 cycles."

Save Cash and car share: The first ever liftshare Week takes place from 4 - 8 October 2010

- Car-sharing **can save members** hundreds (even thousands!) of pounds a year
- It can be used for any type of journey at any time
- About 80% of members report that one of the reasons they share is to do their bit for the environment
- It increases employment opportunities
- It makes tedious commutes and business journeys more sociable
- It reduces stress and increases safety
- You don't need a car to join! Many members are willing to do the driving in return for a contribution to their fuel costs and some friendly company.



Register for free at www.carsharegloucestershire.com to find your perfect match

Check before you get jammed

If you are planning a trip on the motorway is always best to check that they has been not major incident or hold up. The two ways to do this are:

- www.highways.gov.uk/traffic
- Ring 08700 660 115

Both provide real time updates.

Use your local rail station

There are a surprising number of journeys from Ashchurch for Tewkesbury Station. See the summary below of existing Monday to Friday services:



Time	Destination	Platform
06.20	Worcester Shrub Hill	1
06.34	Cardiff Central	2
07.03	Weymouth	2
07.29	Stansted Airport	1
07.34	Great Malvern	1
08.04	Nottingham	1
09.21	Westbury (Wilts)	2
09.56	Great Malvern	1
11.21	Brighton	2
11.56	Great Malvern	1
13.05	Nottingham	1
13.21	Weymouth	2
13.56	Great Malvern	1
15.21	Weymouth	2
15.56	Worcester Foregate Street	1
17.05	Cardiff Central	2
17.21	Southampton Central	2
17.56	Great Malvern	1

18.09	Cardiff Central	2
19.21	Weymouth	2
19.56	Great Malvern	1
20.05	Nottingham	1
21.52	Gloucester	2
21.54	Worcester Shrub Hill	1
22.24	Birmingham New Street	1
22.51	Gloucester	2
00.01	Gloucester	2

The recently formed Ashchurch, Tewkesbury and District Rail Promotion Group is working to improve services and to get real time information installed.

For service details and fares go to <http://ojp.nationalrail.co.uk/en/s/planjourney/query>



Ashchurch, Tewkesbury & District Rail Promotion Group

is a voluntary organisation which supports and promotes Ashchurch for Tewkesbury station and community involvement with it. It welcomes all who are keen to see the station progress and prosper and especially those who are willing to become active volunteers.

We welcome new members and encourage everyone to be involved in some way. Personal membership costs £5 per person, to go towards the running costs of the group, due 1 June annually. Corporate membership is £25.

Ashchurch, Tewkesbury & District Rail Promotion Group

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This newsletter was prepared by the J9 Travel Plan Steering Group