

How the proposed Inner Relief Road will affect your bus journey

The proposal submitted excludes buses entirely from the town centre north bound and allow buses through the centre for one year southbound. Why? Does this make any sense? Or is it just a ploy to obtain funding? Who decides what happens after one year and using what criteria? Or has the outcome already been decided? Most councillors don't use public transport everyday. What about all the money spent on new bus shelters in the Market Place and Biggin Street?

Implication of the County's proposals:

- Your bus journey will become longer in both distance and time as they will be made to do a loop whereas currently they just follow a direct line
- Will fares increase?
- What bus priority is proposed? None. Whereas were buses to run through the centre after the Inner Relief Road (IRR) has been built they wouldn't get held up in congestion and even though they would be going much slower due to shared space with pedestrians, progress would still be much quicker.
- Worried about the potential conflict of pedestrians and buses? Experience from Derby, Oxford and the borough of Kensington demonstrates that there is no problem, despite what council officials may want you to believe.
- Are you aware that most town centre bus stops won't exist? These include the Rushes, Swan Street, Argos and Market Place. I'm sure you remember the situation with the recent gas works, **BUT** with the IRR there will be NO stops on Fennel Street, outside Beacon Bingo, or on Barrow Street, ie the IRR route. How will the elderly and disabled especially cope with the extra distances to walk? Wasn't the idea that more elderly people were to use buses now that there is the nationwide free bus pass, doesn't the IRR scheme make a mockery of this ideal? Would people be more likely to use their cars than walk the extra distances? If you come into town along Derby Road you would have to get off the bus at Regent Place or Southfields Road/Bedford Square. From the Ashby Road direction the 127's nearest stop to the town centre would be either Storer Road or Loughborough Grammar School. From the railway station, would the AL and no.4 buses still go to the High Street stop as they do at the moment then go up Baxter Gate before the no.4 would have to turn left into the Rushes to get to Ashby Road. Or is it more likely it would go straight from the station to the Rushes via Nottingham Road? It would also be simpler for the AL bus to go straight from the station to Derby Road via Regent Place.

With more buses having to use Baxter Gate there won't be space for loading and disabled parking as at present. Cars would probably have to be banned from Baxter Gate if this street is to work with the increased bus traffic. If a vehicle blocks Baxter Gate, as frequently happens now there would be complete traffic chaos.

Where would you catch a connecting bus?

To the station: The no.7 or 4 from Sainsburys/Greenclose Lane or the Swan in The Rushes and the AL bus from Regents Place.

From the hospital: The no.5 from Southfields Rd or Regents Place. The 127 from Storer Rd or the Grammar School.

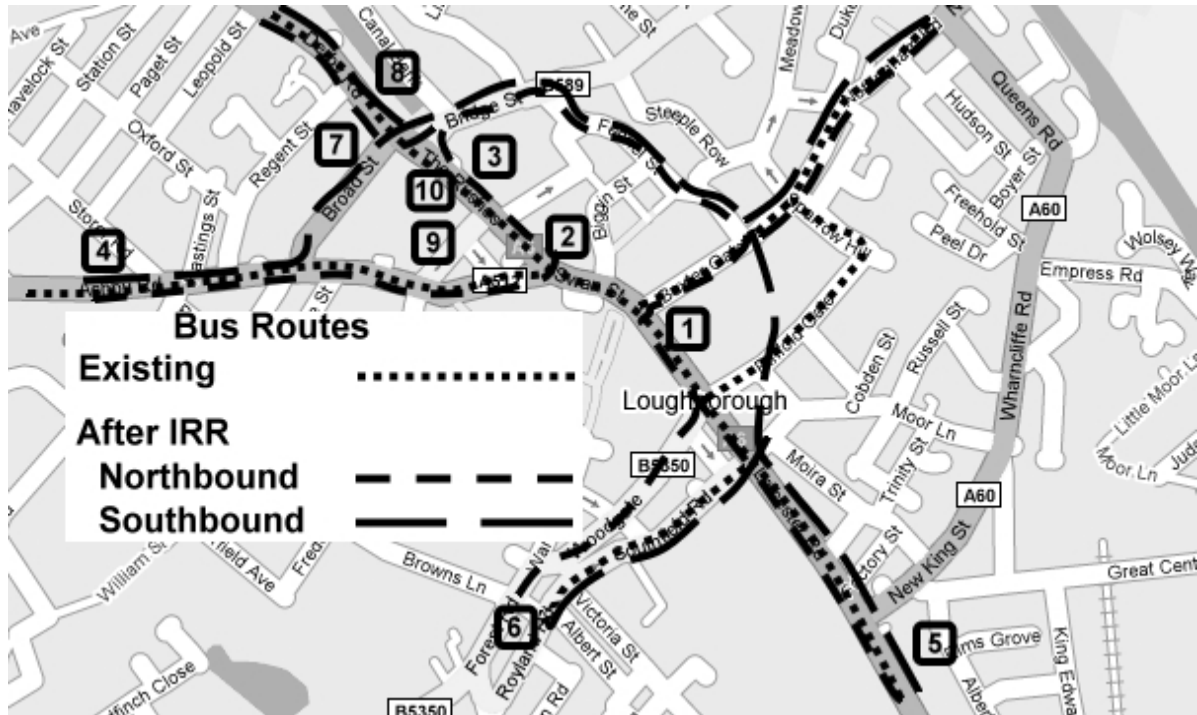
To the airport: Would the AL bus do the extra loop from the station via the High Street and Baxter Gate or would it take the more direct route from Nottingham Road to Regents Place?

To Nottingham: Would the 99 do an extra loop round High Street and Baxter Gate? The Rainbow 5 and South Notts might still use Baxter Gate.

National Express: Would it stop at Regents Place or the Grammar School?

Are these convenient for your bus?

MAP



Key

- 1 Argos
- 2 Halifax
- 3 The Rushes
- 4 Storer Rd
- 5 Grammar School
- 6 Southfields Rd/Bedford Square
- 7 Regents Place North bound
- 8 Regents Place Southbound
- 9 Sainsbury's/Greenclose Lane
- 10 Swan in The Rushes

What can you do about this?

Contact your Charnwood and Leicestershire Councillors and tell them that you want buses to go through the town centre in both directions. Don't know who your councillors are? The Service Shop at Charnwood Council can tell you.