

# UNWANTED NUMBER "TWO" BUS

Church Street Congestion  
Town Planning to Deal with Unsightly Hoardings  
Mudford Extended Bus Service

C.T. April 18, 1936

**Christchurch Town Council on Thursday last at its monthly meeting, censured the Bournemouth Transport Committee for its failure to keep its promises and obligations in respect of the "Number Two" bus. This was to be removed from our streets directly the Trolleys operated. Additionally the "makeshift" turntable is responsible, it was alleged for considerable congestion, and two of the monster trolleys "blockading." Church Street at the same time was mentioned.**

## IN MEMORY OF COUNCILLOR WRIGLEY.

At the outset of the proceedings, the Mayor addressed the assembly with deep sincerity as a tribute to the memory of Councillor Ellis Wrigley.

"I must refer to the very great loss " he said, to which we as a Council and the Borough as a community sustains in the death of Councillor Ellis Wrigley (*text missing*) for his early recovery, and to see him here again. As a member of the Council he was always to the fore in advocating anything he felt would be to the benefit of the ward he represented and to the whole borough.

"It is a great sorrow that the late Councillor Wrigley will not be able to see the commencement of the Highcliffe Drainage Scheme, which he so steadfastly advocated. "We shall all miss his genial presence in this Council, as by his breezy manner here, we learnt to respect him as a friend and a colleague."

The Council stood in the silence of memory as a last tribute.

## OMNIBUS AND TROLLEY MAKE CONGESTION.

Some amount of discussion centred around the promise of the Bournemouth Transport Department to remove bus No. 2 when once the trolley bus system began. The fact that this has not been done, and that additionally trolley buses overlap in their running to the extent that two have been practically in Church Street at the one time, was responsible for some sharp comment from the Councillors.

Councillor Markham introduced the matter saying that the Bournemouth Transport Committee knew to the hour and minute when the trolley system would commence, why then had they not made the necessary application to the Traffic Commissioners for the removal of the No. 2 bus as promised.

Councillor Laphorne, who also criticised the terms of the bargain made, said that emphatically that Bournemouth should be told that No. 2 bus should stop until the turntable arrangements were completed. The makeshift system of turning the buses in the narrow space at their disposal was typified as a bodgy means for a public service to adopt, creating congestion by its crude unwieldiness.

Alderman Barnes: They distinctly said that at no time would there be two buses between the Town Hall and Church Street, whereas I myself have seen a trolley bus outside Lane's stores, whilst another was on the "Turntable" -or the arrangement provided for one.

Alderman Tucker added that the resultant confusion of traffic was more than ever in consequence.

Councillor F. D. Lane said that in his opinion it was distinctly a matter for compensation. It was a definite breach in the conditions arranged and should be assessed at "so much per day."

"We didn't want the trolley buses," he continued, although we were glad to get rid of the trams, but an Act of Parliament was hung over our heads and we had no choice.

"Bournemouth has definitely blundered and we ought to be compensated. We have had to put up with all this confusion. Actually their position is now illegal, and I say we ought to be compensated."

Councillor Prichard spoke of the many complaints of wireless users on the trolley bus routes and suggested that such complaints should be given attention.

Councillor Shave added that there could be no argument against the fact that in this matter Bournemouth had most definitely let us down. "It will be about six weeks before this turntable can be made to operate. Is it possible that Church Street is to be blockaded for six weeks?"

"Bournemouth should be held to the absolute point of their promise," he asserted. "At the congestion that has followed the breaking of their agreement I am absolutely 'taken aback.'"

"We don't want to quarrel with Bournemouth," he concluded, "but we must be dealt with fairly."

Alderman Tucker: I do really think very strongly that this congestion should not last much longer, but I am at a loss to know how we are going to deal with it. As it is we shall not meet for another month. This matter must not be allowed to continue for that length of time.

"We should have some form of assurance from them, and the matter should be dealt with urgently and quickly. There is this much about it, the utility of the buses have not been enhanced."

*(text missing)*

Councillor Laphorne : The thing to do is plainly state that we will either permit the No. 2 bus or the trolley, but not the two.

A sub-committee consisting of the original proposals of the trolley bus enterprise was commissioned to deal with the question.

### UNSIGHTLY HOARDINGS.

Castigation was also forthcoming to erectors and promoters of hoardings and advertisement signs, which the Councillors as a whole condemned as being detrimental to the interests of the borough. Councillor Prichard spoke of Purewell as being a horror in this respect, every available gable and corner being plastered with pictorial advertisements or special hoardings had been erected to carry them.

Councillor Markham complained "that you don't see this sort of thing in Bournemouth, but directly you cross the bridge, then the walls break out with every conceivable form of advertisement and announcement, and we have to tolerate it. One hears the sneer in consequence, "Oh, this is Christchurch," thereby suggesting that anything will do.

Councillor Shave agreed that the growth of this very objectionable form of advertising had now reached the stage when it was intolerable. "We are told that in one notorious instance it was a county road and we have no control, and again that private owners of property were hiring out their gables and walls to carry a hoarding. I wish to know, sir," he said, addressing the chairman, "whether we cannot approach the county about it?"

The Mayor: It has nothing to do with the county, and I understand that we may deal with it under our Town Planning Scheme.

The Town Clerk: Bye-laws specially framed to deal with this are at the moment with the Ministry.

Councillor Lane: Can that be expedited, or can any action of this Council hurry forward the matter.

. . . And there, as matters have a tendency, the debate on this very vital question tailed off into an atmosphere of indefiniteness.

However, the Town Clerk made the heartening admission that Town Planning will be able to cope with the evil of the advertising hoarding, The Town Council may rely that the burgesses are with them to a man.

### THE COUNCIL'S "PUBLIC."

Of late two ladies have most faithfully attended the debates of the Town Council, and on Thursday last the fact that they were without a copy of the agenda of proceedings raised the question of the right of the public, when attending a Council debate, to be furnished with such particulars.

Alderman Russell Oakley said "some years ago, the Council was extremely jealous about handing out the agenda prior to a debate. It is quite open to any member of the public to attend to follow our discussions, but if these agendas are handed out, what happens to them afterwards? When they go out into the world, where do they go? They are public property, I know, but these agendas are prepared for the Councillors upon which to frame their debate."

Councillor McArdle: How long has this been a rule? Some years ago, when I attended the Council meetings as a member of the public I have had hundreds of agendas. If we are here as representing the public, I say that the public should be furnished with details of what we are discussing.

Alderman Oakley: Twenty years ago the Christchurch Ratepayers' Association (a most virile body in its time) was appealed to by its members to be supplied with a copy of the agenda, and eventually this was agreed to. So it wasn't quite handed out willy-nilly.

Councillor McArdle: I never attended any ratepayers' association meetings and neither was I a member, yet I regularly got my agenda.

Councillor Markham: If I attended a debate in the House of Commons I could get a copy of the agenda. Upon a vote the "public" were accorded a copy of the agenda.

#### RESTORED PORTRAITS.

Alderman Russell Oakley drew the attention of the Council to the now restored portraits of—  
Admiral John Edward Walcott, M.P. for Christchurch, July 1852, to July, 1863. Portrait given to the Inhabitants of Christchurch in memory of her father by his daughter Constance (the Honble. Mrs. Butler) in February, 1871.

The Right Honble. George Rose, M.P. for Christchurch, sometime Treasurer of the Navy. Copy by Geo. Holloway, Jr., of portrait by Sir Wm. Beechey, R.A.

Edward Aldridge, Mayor, by Amelie Goddard.

Charles Hicks, sometime Mayor.

These paintings are now to be hung in the Council Chamber.

Alderman Oakley said that all possible praise was due to Mr. Herbert Druitt, who had superintended the work of renovation. Alderman Tucker associated himself with this, saying "not only has this work saved money, but it has been carried out in a proper way."

#### DOUBLE DECK BUS TO MUDEFORD.

The Highways Committee proposed that no objection should be made to the proposal of the Hants and Dorset Motor Services to run double deck omnibuses between Purewell and Mundeford.

Single deck buses, it is stated, are insufficient for the traffic in the summer months.

Councillor Pawley said that the extension of this service, which would embrace the new Hurn service was not in favour with residents in River Way. There were householders who objected to such heavy vehicles saying it would be prejudicial to their property.

Councillor Shave: That is all very well for people who possess cars, on the other hand you have dozens to whom such a service will come as a boon.

Councillor Markham: I shall support this. I know that residents of the district desire it. We hear of people waiting for buses in long queues and an otherwise congested service in the summer months It is an asset to the public.

Councillor Northover: We are here to support the wish and desire of the people of the borough, and this question also studies the convenience and the good of the people who visit the borough in the summer, and that's where our revenue comes from.

Councillor Derham gave a picture of the summer congestion of visitors and townfolk waiting for buses which were inadequate to carry the number. It was a common occurrence, he said, for crowds to walk to Purewell. Double deck buses, he contended were very necessary.

Alderman Tucker said he had personally experienced inconvenience through this lack of bus accommodation; the larger buses would also mean less vehicles running on the road.

The original proposition of the Highways Committee to raise no objection to this service was agreed to.