

Connecting Bude to Education, Jobs & Healthcare

Findings from Connect Bude & railfuture
2025 Bude household bus survey

railfuture



Connect Bude
connectbude.co.uk



About the Survey

Delivered randomly to 500+ households across Bude. Families and individuals were invited to respond via post or online. 188 responses were received.

Focused on:

Current user use

Bus-rail connections

Affordability

Users needs

Reasons users travel

Future use

Responses show strong, consistent themes rather than isolated complaints.

Why This Matters

Bude is increasingly **isolated** from the national rail network & our local services in cities

Bus services have **only been reduced**, not improved

Direct buses are being **removed**, including changes to the **Route 6**

Services **do not align with train timetables**, creating risk and stress and distrust of the existing service

This disproportionately affects **young people, students, non-drivers, older residents, and disabled people.**

Greater Bude, Cornwall's largest community without direct railway access, also suffers from the **poorest bus connections to any rail station in the county.**

Poor connectivity is actively limiting opportunity and economic growth.



Core Message from Residents

"Bude MUST be connected with Exeter in order for economy to grow, children need better education opportunities."

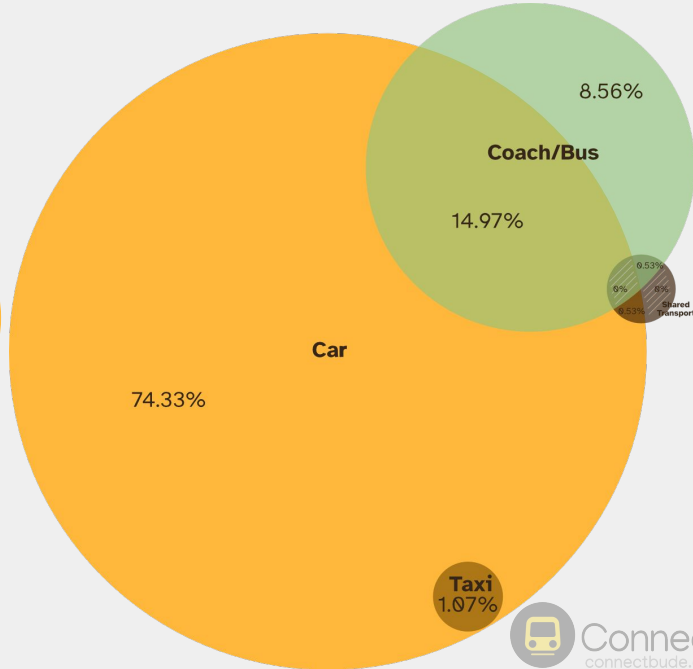
Residents repeatedly describe current provision as:

Stressful

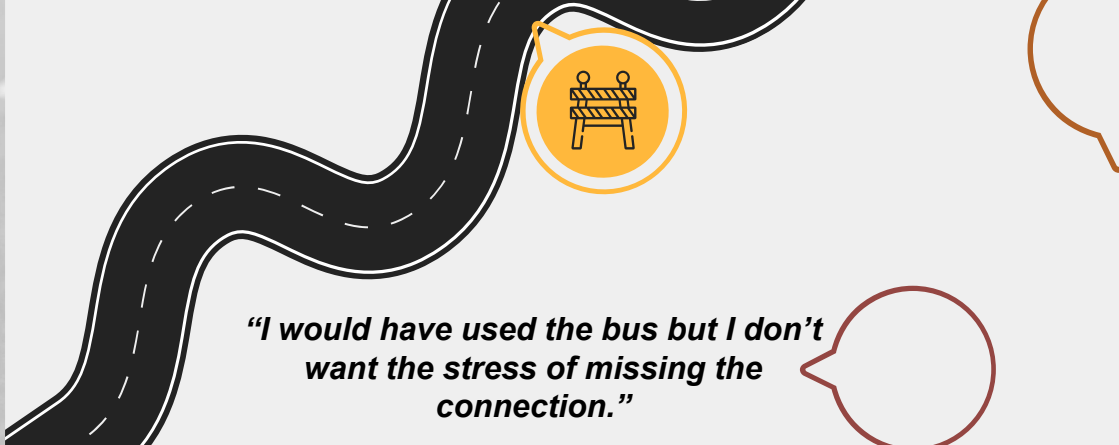
Unreliable

**Incompatible with
real-world needs**

90.9%
total
travel
via car



Only 24.1%
ever travel
by bus



“I would have used the bus but I don’t want the stress of missing the connection.”

01

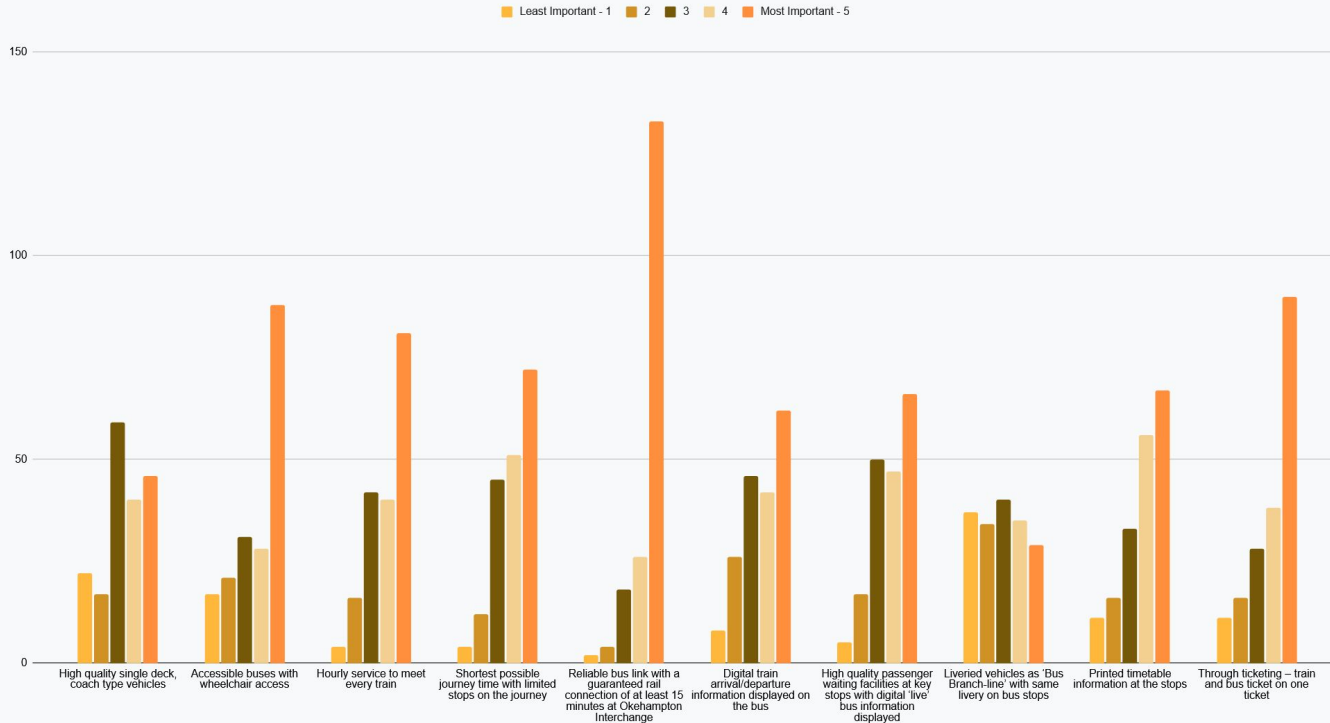
Reliability Is the Single Biggest Issue

Residents report:

- Missed trains due to late buses
- Long, unreliable waits at Exeter or Okehampton
- Fear of being stranded if a connection fails
- Route 6 buses being removed and not replaced

Key insight: If connections are not guaranteed, people will default to cars. One or two failed connections will permanently lose bus users.

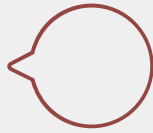
If a regular bus service operated to the Interchange Station, how important do you rate the following?



Least Important - 1 and Most Important - 5



“At the moment the car is the only option for college times.”

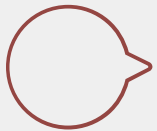


02

Timetables Do Not Match *Real Life*

Common problems:

- No early morning or early evening connections
- Day trips cut short to ensure a way home
- No viable option for:
 - College start times
 - Evening classes
 - Cultural or social activities
- Travel length affects grades & mental health



“It would be appreciated if the bus route were extended across more of the day as currently day trips to Exeter have to be cut short in order to get home”





03

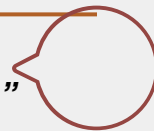


Buses Still Don't Connect to the Train Line

Despite Okehampton rail reopening:

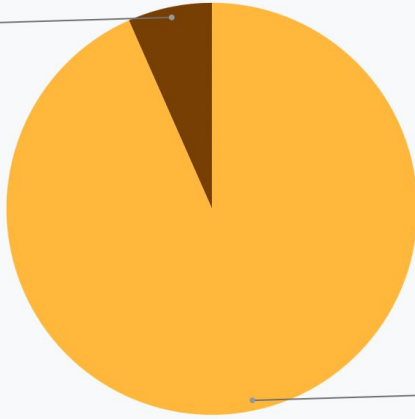
- Bus arrival times do not align with departures
- Missed connections can mean:
 - 55–60 minute waits, hours if a Sunday bus is missed
 - Abandoned journeys
 - Forced car use
 - Calling for car pickups

*“Last time I went on the bus from
Bude I missed the train by 5 minutes.”*



Would you travel by bus if the frequency and reliability of the service was improved?

No
6.6%



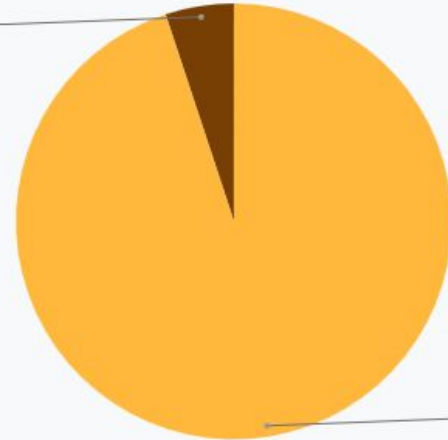
Yes
93.4%

Buses Still Don't Connect to the Train Line

...ton rail reopening:

Would you consider using the bus to Okehampton Interchange Station if the service was a dedicated rail link bus?

No
5.1%



Yes
94.9%

- Abandon
- Forced ca
- Hitchhiki

“La
Bude



“Studying to be a teacher – I can only rely on my car. The service is too bad.”

04

Long-Term Skills & Workforce Impact

Residents link poor transport directly to:

1. Training access
2. Career progression
3. Retaining skilled young people locally
4. Losing client work

“I’ve lost multiple clients as the journey takes too long – costing Bude income.”

This is an economic issue, not just a transport issue.



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05

Healthcare & Accessibility

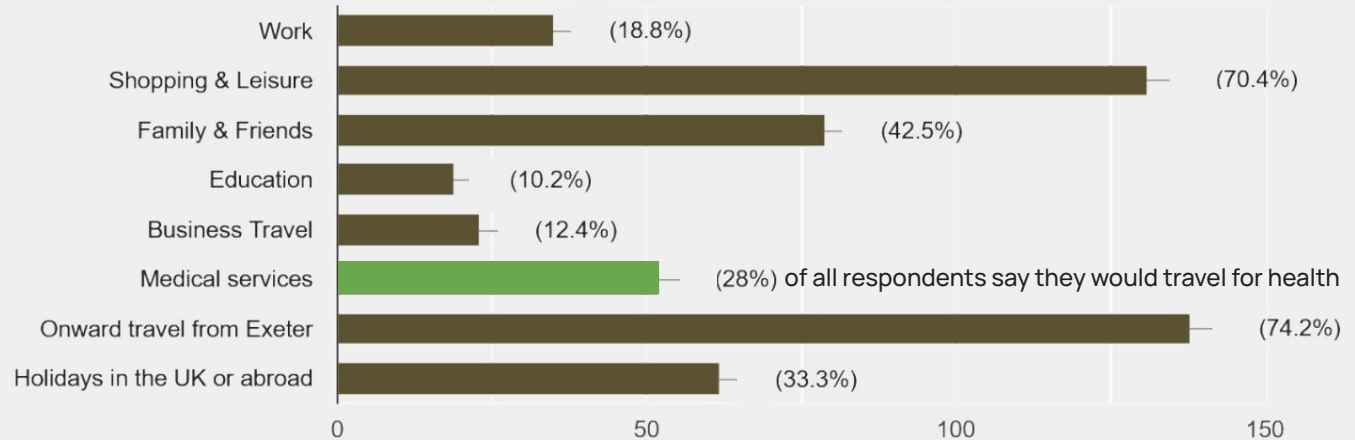
“Anything that makes hospital trips easier would make me happy.”

Most Affected

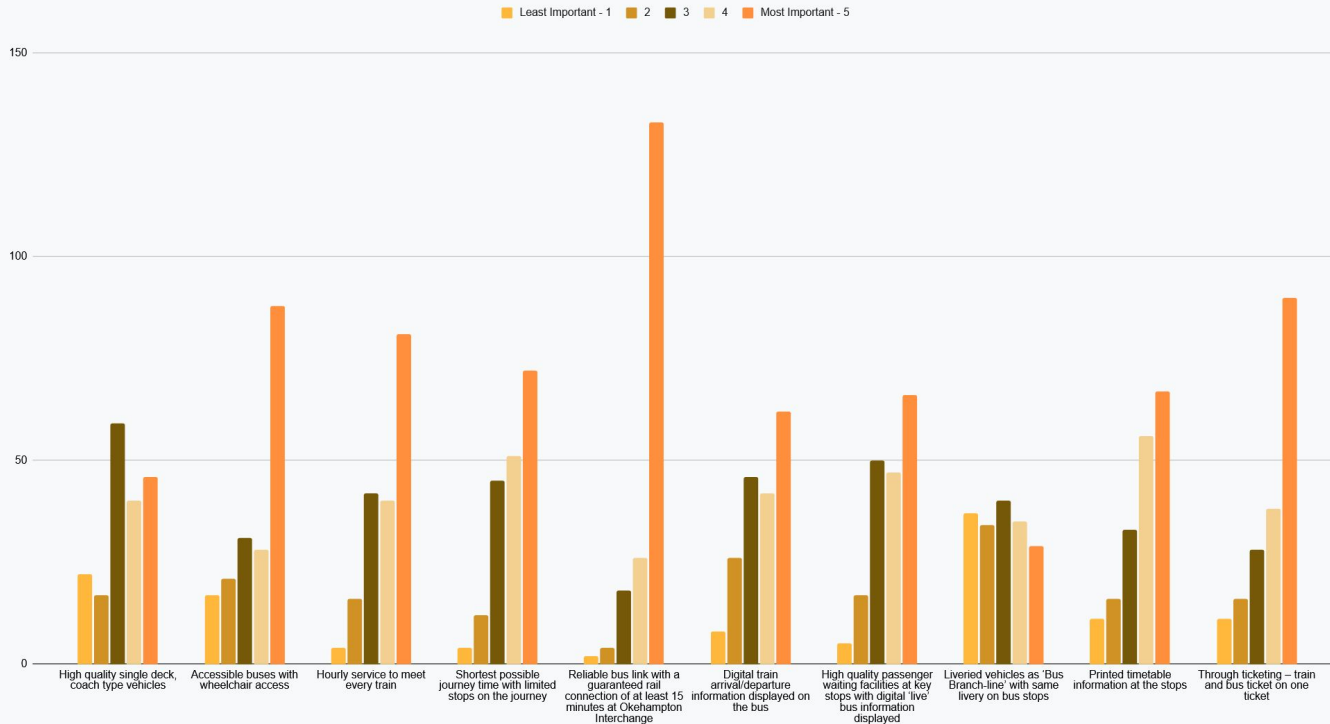
- Hospital appointments
- Older residents
- Disabled and partially sighted passengers

Key Concerns

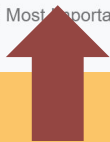
- Complex interchanges
- Lack of toilets
- Insufficient time to navigate platforms



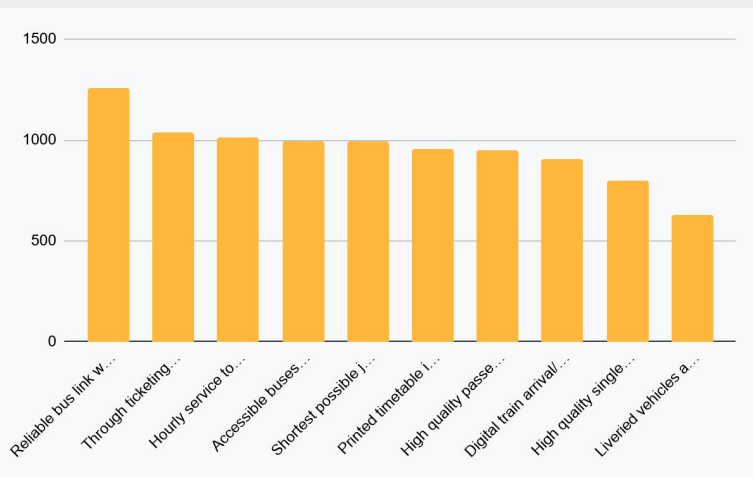
If a regular bus service operated to the Interchange Station, how important do you rate the following?



Least Important - 1 and Most Important - 5



What Residents Want



1

Reliable bus link with a guaranteed rail connection of at least 15 minutes at Okehampton Interchange

2

Through ticketing – train and bus ticket on one ticket

3

Hourly service to meet every train

4

Accessible buses with wheelchair access

5

Shortest possible journey time with limited stops on the journey

6

Printed timetable information at the stops

7

High quality passenger waiting facilities at key stops with digital 'live' bus information displayed

8

Digital train arrival/departure information displayed on the bus

9

High quality single deck, coach type vehicles

10

Liveried vehicles as 'Bus Branch-line' with same livery on bus stops

"The one big drawback atm is a lack of bus service from Okehampton to Bude early evening onwards. Means a weekend away is a car journey - not the train!"

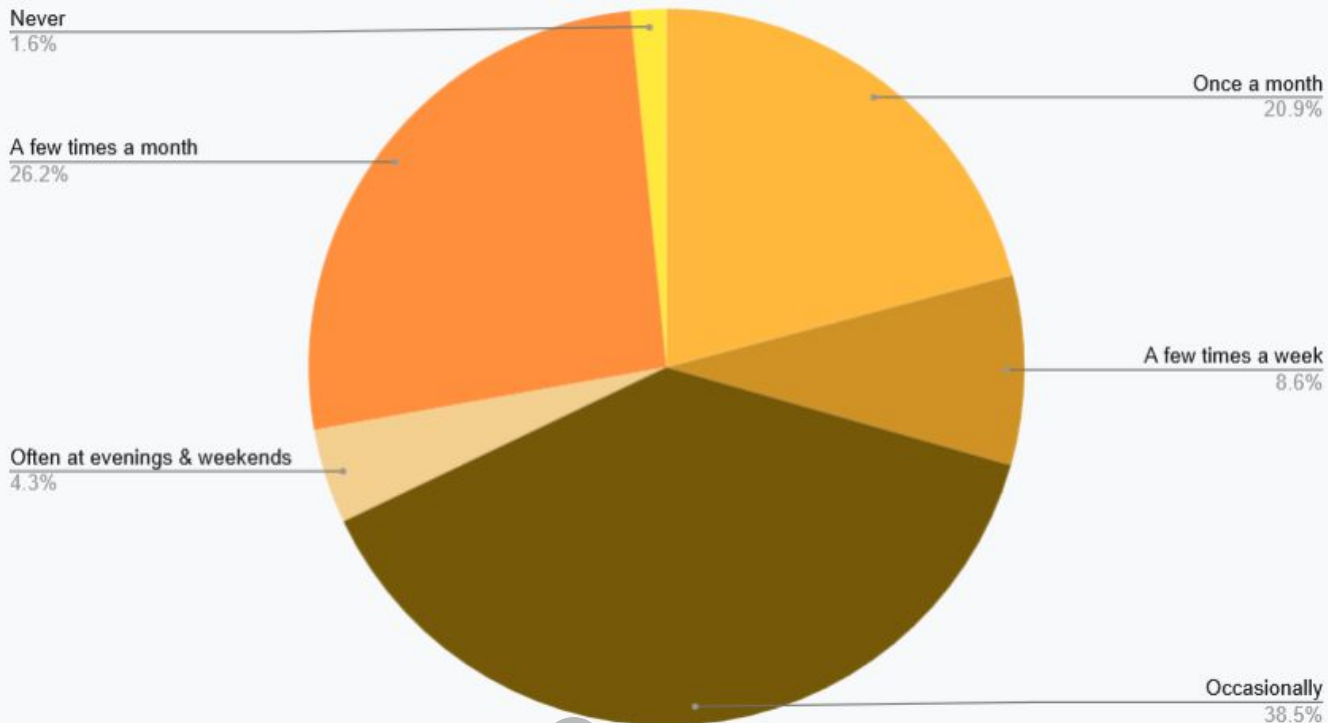
"Late departure times from Exeter - Bude to allow entertainment opportunities"



“Connectivity for Bude is vital for the future – it has been too long coming.”

What Residents Want

How often do you think you might use the bus for these journeys?



What Residents Want

If the bus can only stop at one station in Okehampton, do you have a preference?

Okehampton Town Station

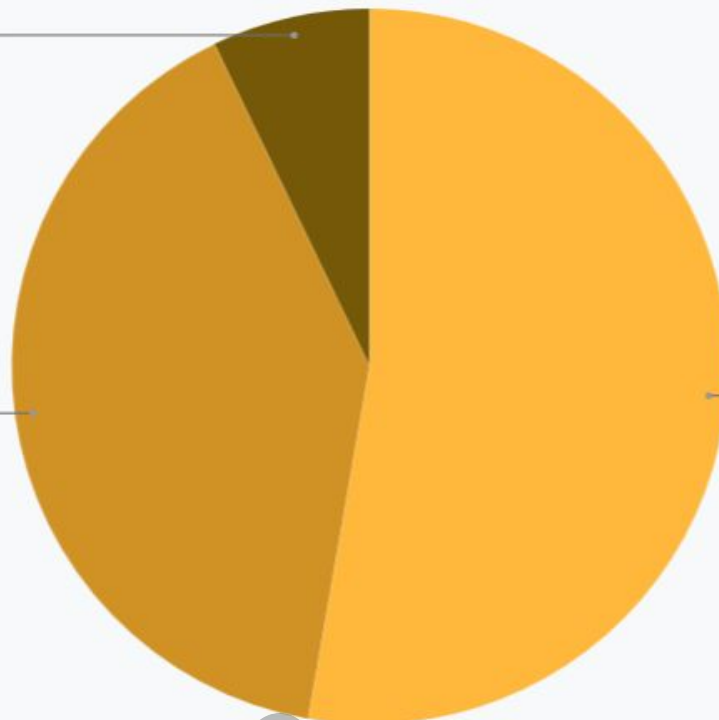
7.1%

Okehampton Interchange...

40.1%

No preference

52.7%

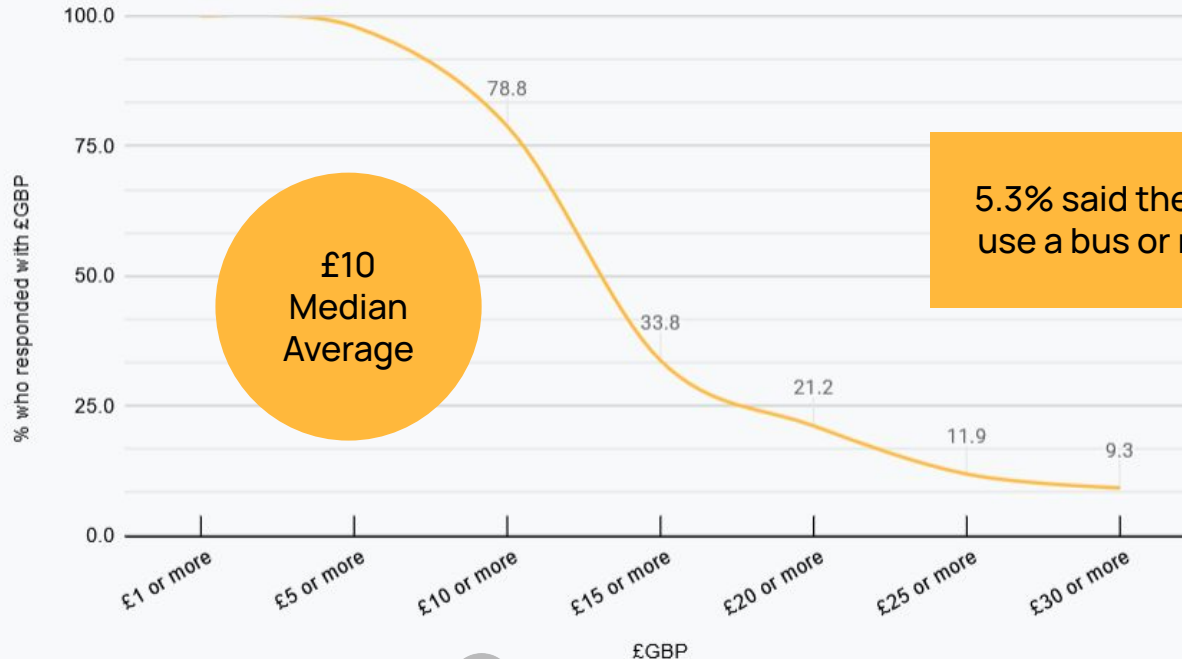


“Green travel needs to be affordable or people won’t use it.”



What Residents Want

How much would you be prepared to pay for an integrated bus/train journey to Exeter? For a Return?



**£10
Median
Average**

5.3% said they would use a bus or rail pass

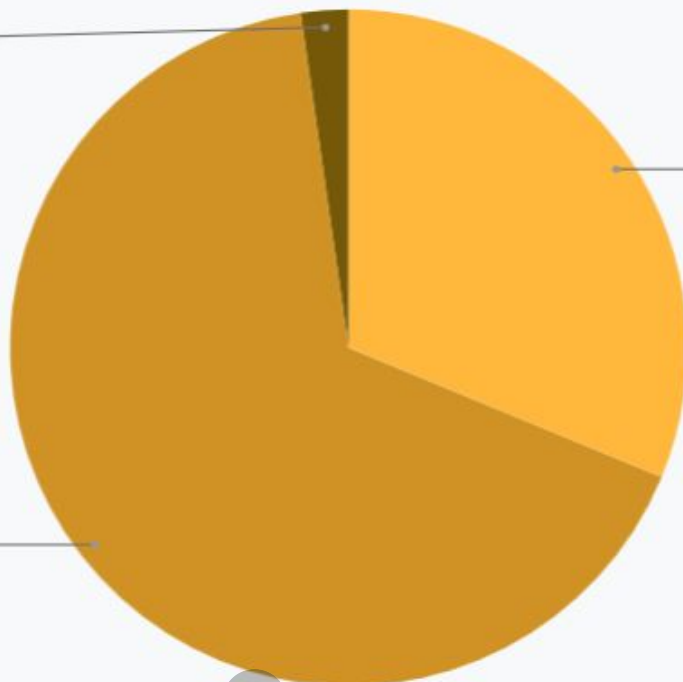
What Residents Want

How frequent would you like the bus service to Okehampton Interchange to be?

Half Hourly
2.3%

2 hourly (to meet every oth...
31.3%

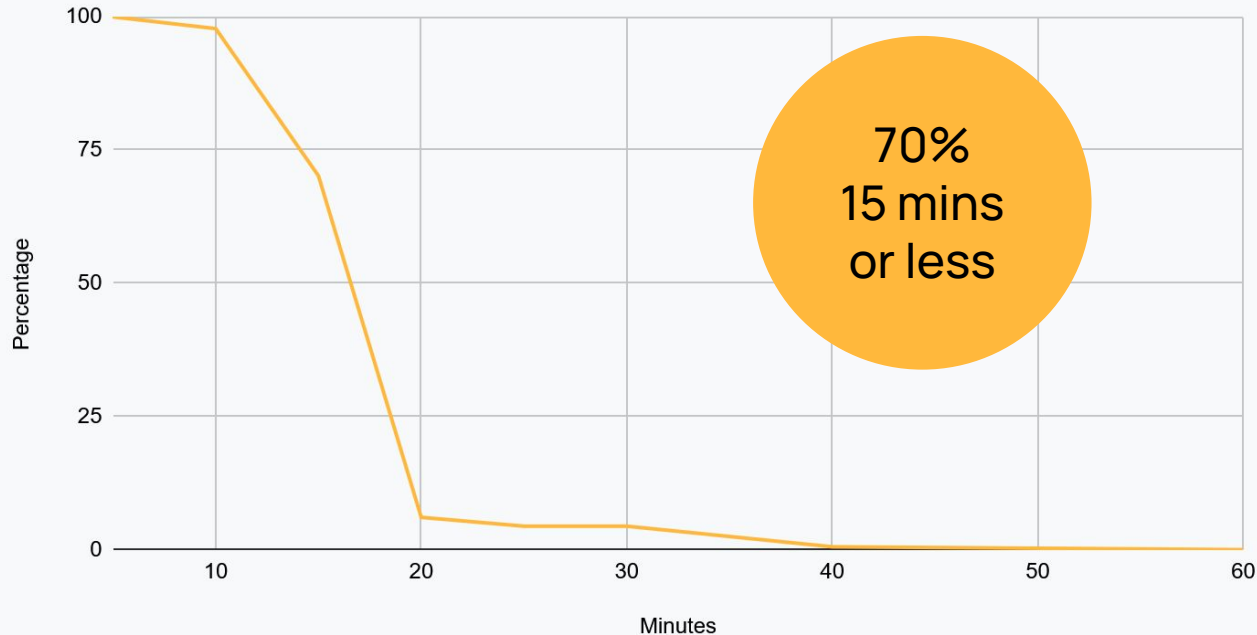
Hourly (to meet every train)
66.5%



“Missing connections will mean people won’t trust the service and go back to cars.”

What Residents Want

How much time would you consider reasonable to catch a train once the bus has arrived at the station?



Actions Requested



This is not about convenience. It is about:

- Education access
- Workforce development
- Health equality
- Economic resilience
- Climate commitments

Transport policy here directly shapes life chances.



Councillors and MPs are asked to support:

1. **CROSS BORDER** regular route reviews between Cornwall & Devon Councillors & MPs
2. Protection and improvement of direct services (not removal)
3. Timetabled, guaranteed bus–rail connections
4. Early and late services aligned to education and work
5. Integrated, affordable ticketing
6. Treating Bude connectivity as a strategic priority

Any Questions?



Connect Bude

connectbude.co.uk

connectbude@gmail.com

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