

New community-run bus service will link Leatherhead and Fetcham

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READY FOR ACTION: An East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership bus, one of which will be branded as the Chatterbus for the service's launch in April

A NEW community-run bus [service](#) will link Leatherhead and Fetcham to Cobham and beyond.

The Cobham Chatterbus is set to launch on April 7 after Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and Chelsea Football Club Foundation each donated £20,000 towards the project.

It will make stops in Leatherhead and Fetcham on Saturdays when the 408 bus service, which connects the area to Cobham and Oxshott, does not run.

Surrey county councillor Mary Lewis (Conservative, Cobham), who is one of the directors of the project, said: "It's for everyone to use.

"It will run from Cobham to Weybridge every day to take people to the Jobcentre. Up to now we had no way for young people from this area to get to the Jobcentre so it did start from that [social](#) need.

"But we thought it would be good to get a [weekend](#) service from Leatherhead, and particularly Fetcham, to Cobham. Fetcham and Stoke D'Abernon are literally right next to each other and yet there is no public transport between them, which seems daft.

"The idea is not to replace the bus service but to fill in the gaps. We know a lot of people like to shop and go to restaurants in Cobham High Street.

"Anything we can do to get people to go to and from Cobham or Leatherhead without using their [cars](#) is a good thing because parking is a problem in both."

During the week the Chatterbus service will make stops at the primary schools of St Andrew's and St Matthew's and the Royal Kent school in Oxshott.

It will also transport rail commuters to Cobham and Stoke D'Abernon station in time for the fastest and most popular trains to and from London. Meanwhile, the service will stop at Painshill Gardens and also give access to shops at Brooklands Retail Park.

Mrs Lewis added: "From Brooklands you can get to Staines and Woking so it's really opening up a bridge from east to west that just doesn't exist at the moment.

"We are hoping to get more people to use the existing bus service.

"People say they won't use the buses because there's none that work for them but if we have a complementary service we have more chance of keeping the rest of them going.

"It's about adding strategic routes that make life better for people."

Chatterbus [services](#) will appear as routes C1 and C2 on Surrey County Council bus timetables.

Full details of stops and timetables will be published closer to the launch date.

Chatterbus is appealing to businesses which could benefit from the route to sponsor or offer incentives to customers who use it, with agricultural company Cargill donating £5,000.

For more information, visit www.chatterbus.org.uk

Read more: <http://www.dorkingandleatherheadadvertiser.co.uk/New-community-run-bus-service-link-Leatherhead/story-25976279-detail/story.html#ixzz3RYVPfRog>