

Chairman's Report – Financial Year November 2023 to October 2024

We now have 10 drivers.

At the beginning of last year, we had been asked by Oxford County Council (OCC) to provide a service to Clanfield. We considered this but decided that it was difficult to fit in with our current schedule and declined to take this on. We have run a monthly service to Witney since April last year which has proved very popular.

The bus has proved to be reasonably reliable this year but was tending to have a lot of minor faults. It will be 10 years old this October and has done over 100,000 miles. We began to try and find a replacement electric bus, but the only ones available were 12 seaters with a passenger door and step that had to be operated manually which would not work for FCB.

It was agreed with OCC that we should proceed to buy a replacement and an order has been placed for a 16-seater Mercedes Benz Sprinter with a diesel engine for £85,000 (inc. VAT) to be delivered May/June.

NMV have continued to support us and have managed to repair the bus during the afternoon when it is not in service. My thanks to them for this wonderful service.

As always, I would like to thank Chris Gurney for allowing us to park the bus at RAC free of charge

Simon Coe

Chairman - Faringdon Community Bus Ltd

Operating report

An operating loss of £3,575 in 2023 has been turned into a net profit of £5,042 in 2023/24 principally by an increase in sales (£14,953 cf. 13,738) a reduction in running costs (£13,932 cf. £8,817) and an increase in interest (£1,988 cf. £202) and a reduction in administrative costs.

Passenger numbers have increased (7,705 cf. 7,255), with more trips (259 cf. 168) and more hires (156 cf. 103). For service 61, the average daily passenger numbers were 30.6 cf. 29.9 in 2022/3.

Maintenance Report

FCB maintenance has been relatively easy over the past year, largely due to the continued conscientious support from Nash Motor Vehicles.

This is reflected in the number of days service lost in 23/24 owing to mechanical problems being reduced from 12 in 22/23 to 2 in 23/24

Over the last 10 years, the present bus has covered 110,000 miles mostly over Faringdon's appallingly pot-holed roads.

It is testament to NMV's abilities that the bus is still passing its MoTs and 10 Week Safety Checks.

Illegal parking is another continuing problem faced by drivers.

Mike Wise