

Brickendon Liberty Parish Council

Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Green

For the attention of Mike Davey
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London WC1B 4AD

31 August 2004

Your ref: TPL/01

Dear Mr Davey,

re: **THE ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION BY ARRIVA PLC OF HERTFORDSHIRE
BUS OPERATIONS OF SOVEREIGN BUS & COACH CO LTD COMPANY LTD**

Brickendon Liberty has a restricted bus service currently provided by Arriva and limited to two buses each way on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; with three buses each way on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. No service is provided on Sundays nor bank holidays. This service is rated by users as being about 70% efficient. The drivers are often not familiar with the route and turn to passengers for guidance and occasionally buses don't arrive or arrive late or too early.

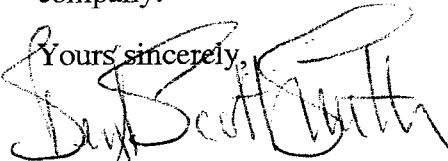
The nearest shop to the village is three miles away and so the existing buses provide a valuable service to a limited number of elderly people in the village without access to private transport but who wish to retain their independence.

We would be most concerned that, without the strictest guidelines to maintain such services with nominal fares (which may be deemed unprofitable by a large company constantly expanding), existing services would be cut either partly or wholly which we would find totally unacceptable.

It is our view that our worst fears could become reality without healthy competition between bus companies in the county.

Accordingly, we believe that the Sovereign Bus and Coach Company routes should continue to operate independently of Arriva, albeit under the management of another smaller local company.

Yours sincerely,



Beryl Scott Smith
Chairman

cc John Ingham

Please reply to:
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