



We are a group of resident decision makers who listen to our community and commission projects that will make Ramsey Parish a better place to live, work and visit. If you are interested why not get in touch? We'd love to hear from you.  
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01487 814897 | Facebook: Ramsey Million

### Talking Public Transport

**Mayor Palmer, of the Peterborough & Cambridgeshire Combined Authority, accepted an invitation from Ramsey Million Partnership to come and discuss his transport strategy.**

We were delighted to welcome Mayor Palmer to our February meeting. Those in attendance, including County Councillor Adela Costello, stressed the issues with the existing service provision and the consequences should it be withdrawn.

Mayor Palmer said that a task force was to be established to explore the potential of options like franchising and enhanced partnerships through strategic, cost effective and long-term solutions. In the short term all bus services will remain unchanged until March 2020 - including the **number 30 service which has been repealed again for another year.**

The partnership felt that their concerns, and those of local people, were listened to. Mayor Palmer has agreed to continue the dialogue, as the work of the task force progresses.

### In the News

**Extracts from Wakelet with the kind permission of Louise Tickle**  
<https://bit.ly/2MUnIRl>

Reporter Louise Tickle became aware that our Huntingdon bus was under threat and heard that some Ramsey residents were already walking the 24 miles to Huntingdon and back to attend the Job Centre when they had no money for the bus fare. She pitched the story to the Guardian.

"Louise knew she would need to walk the route from Ramsey to Huntingdon with someone who'd already done it.

Thanks to efforts made by Val Fendley in the Ramsey Million office to identify a willing victim (ahem, walker), local resident Ray Taylor agreed to accompany her on the path he'd taken at least a couple of dozen times when money was too tight to afford the £7 round trip fare from Ramsey to Huntingdon, where he has to sign on.



Louise turned up early doors in Ramsey on 17 December together with Guardian photographer Fabio De Paola. Here are the walkers, including

local mayor Steve Corney, just before setting off (with non-walker Val Fendley - maybe next time) and Ramsey Million chair Jane Sills."



"The weary band finally stumbled into Huntingdon about four hours after setting off. And yes, they took the bus back to Ramsey. Use it or lose it..."

"The feature ran in the Guardian's print and online versions on Monday 7 January 2019. By mid morning, Louise told us that people had started sending her emails offering to help Ray - bikes, money and offers of lifts to help him get into Huntingdon. Her Twitter notifications were also stacking up. As the morning wore on, the feature became the seventh most read article on the Guardian's website."

"The influence of Ramsey Million's campaign to keep their only bus into Huntingdon has now reached far wider than their local area - it turns out that national politicians are taking note."

#### Transport

### Need to sign on? You'll have to walk 24 miles to the jobcentre

Each week, it takes Ray Taylor an entire day to claim benefits. He can't afford the bus - and others in his Cambridgeshire town won't have the option either when the route is cut in March

#### Louise Tickle

@louisetickle  
Mon 7 Jan 2019 06:00 GMT  
15,818



▲ Taylor on his weekly walk. Photograph: Fabio De Paola for the Guardian

Meanwhile back in the Neighbourhood Office Val Fendley reported that, "Both phone and email went crazy! Calls from The One Show, Look East and BBC Radio Cambridgeshire. It also created a real buzz around the town as we shared the story across social media; the whole community were talking, all focussed on one issue. The Guardian sold out in Ramsey on Monday ."

She continued, "Ray, however, is just one person, dealing as constructively as he can with the public transport problems he's had to face. We hope that people see the bigger picture. There are others in exactly the same boat; others walking too. There are also people like passengers you spoke to on the bus who rely on public transport for their education, social life and family support so they don't become isolated."

Jane Sills commented, "Overall though, the article has given us the opportunity to raise the profile of our campaign with an excellent, well written piece. Without the involvement of the national press in this way, we probably could not have got this level of interest from the local media."