

Connections Bus - £6,000 to complement a 2023-2024 existing precept allocation to MAYD of £6,000 to finance a one-year trial using the *Connections Bus* service.

[The Connections Bus Project](https://www.connectionsbusproject.org.uk)

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The *Connections Bus* is a double decker bus that travels to participating communities with a selection of on-board services for young people. These include: Music, Food, Wi-Fi, Games including computer games and professional Youth Leaders who can engage and offer help and advice. The information pack includes a detailed experience report from Haslingfield.

The cost per 2-hour visit is £324 + VAT, organised as one visit per week over three 12 - week terms, making a total annual cost of **£11,664** (see information pack).

This is a new approach to the delivery of local youth services. MAYD is operated as a Joint Committee of three parish councils (Melbourn Meldreth and Shepreth). Previously it has employed Groundwork East to provide weekly youth engagement using the Pavilion as a venue. This has proved difficult to operate successfully with low numbers of young people attending and high costs. The cost from Groundwork East for the same time period covered by the *Connections Bus* is more than double, at **£24,944** +VAT. The contract with Groundwork East will not be renewed (see information pack).

A bus-based mobile youth service has the advantage of potentially nominating villages other than Melbourn as a destination. We have advance permission from the Melbourn Village College (MVC) to use the college entrance bay for the *Connections Bus* parking in Melbourn. This is ideal, as the young people are mostly based at MVC.

Hi Sophie

I think I have given John most of this before but here it is all in one email.

Bus is now with mechanics for making it roadworthy after 3 years laid up. It took longer than expected to find someone able to do the work so we have a delay of a month or two. We have no confirmed date yet but I am hoping by end of May!

A termly contract is fine but it is unlikely to give a good indication of what regular attendance figures will look like as it takes time to build-up numbers (despite promotion, it is usually word of mouth). On top of this, I understand we will be moving around 3 different villages each week so each village will only get 4 visits a term with a gap between visits.

Cost will be £324 per session of 2 hours length, and we only run during the term time. Although bookings are possible during the summer holidays.

Because young people tend to use the service as a drop-in, they can come and go during the session. This means that we monitor the numbers on the bus but have only had to restrict access when we were left by surprise with only 2 youth workers. In larger villages we have seen up to 50 young people during one evening but only 30 on the bus at any one time. Our average attendance is about 15 young people per session.

From: parishclerk <parishclerk@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 11:59 AM
To: admin@connectionsbusproject.org.uk
Cc: 'John Travis' <cllr.travis@melbournparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject:

Connections Bus

- Melbourn Good

afternoon Alan,

I hope that you are well.

I understand that John has been in contact with you previously to express MAVD's interest in using the

connections bus.

I am writing to see if there is any indication of a possible start date? I am aware that one of the buses has required some repair, but if you have a possible start date, then we can start progressing this through the committee.

In the meantime, please could you confirm that cost of the bus? I understand that you prefer a yearlong contract, but do you offer contracts by term? Is there a maximum number of young people that can use the bus at one time? Do you only function during term time?

Sorry for all the questions but when we take this to committee for a decision it is best if they have as much information as possible.

I look forward to hearing from you.