

## **Update on WESTlocal, Paulton from Cllr Liz Hardman**

We applied for funding under the WECA WESTlocal grant system.

This had to be applied for as part of a community group. Our community group was Paulton Parish Council. We set up a working party in July to put together a bid for funding. We submitted this to WECA officers in August. This initial bid was called an expression of interest.

We planned the route and the timetable with help from an experienced bus driver, who was part of our working party. We negotiated with WECA concerning this proposal. Councillor Grant Johnson led the negotiations.

We had organised a bus provider for the service, but unfortunately they withdrew. Grant had to rearrange a bus provider, just six weeks before our final application was to be submitted and approved. He managed to do this and we are grateful to the Big Lemon bus company who agreed to run the bus service for us.

We were delighted to be told last week that our bid was successful.

Our new bus route, called the 2V (two valleys) covers an area from the Park and Ride in Odd Down, through Tunley, Timsbury, Ham Lane, Specklemead, Westfield and Radstock.

We hope to have timetables published within the next few weeks. The 2V bus route we hope will commence on April 8th.

Cllr Liz Hardman