

END OF THE LINE FOR THE T19 ?



Well, finally, unless common sense has set in since we went to press, we've lost the T19 bus service from Llandudno to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

I have to say it does seem crazy for us to lose a vital rural bus service when the main aim of the Welsh Government's green agenda is to improve

public transport and reduce our reliance on private cars but, although all the politicians are pointing the blame at each other, no solution has appeared. Whilst the reasons behind it are complex, I'm sure if all the parties involved sat down and talked to each other an answer could be found

The people who are certainly not to blame are Llew Jones, they've run the service making increasing losses for the last several years. For years, they've survived on half promises from Conwy Council, Gwynedd Council, Traws Cymru and TFW, not helped in any way by a huge reduction in people travelling during the pandemic.

Repeated requests to Gwynedd Council for funding to transport Blaenau pupils to Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy were ignored, hence the reason the school bus only ran to Dolwyddelan and, although Conwy Council says it does not subsidise the T19 service, the funding the service did receive from them for school transport went a long way towards keeping the bus running. Conwy Council will still have to provide those monies to the new bus operator they've given the contract to and Gwynedd Council could surely have provided some help towards getting their children to school.

The T19 was also supposed to become the link service to the Traws Cymru route and a project between Gwynedd Council and TFW saw over a million pounds of taxpayer's money invested in three new electric buses, which were promised to Llew Jones to develop a zero emissions T19 service. Unbelievably, those buses are sat somewhere in Gwynedd, unused, after the project collapsed because planning permission for the proposed Blaenau Ffestiniog electric bus terminus in Tanygrisiau was refused by Gwynedd Council.