

# CONCESSIONARY FARES

A meeting was held in Timberscombe Village Hall on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to discuss the possible cuts in the Concessionary Fare scheme. Organised by John Goodall of the Orchards Social Club, an audience of 40 people assembled to meet and question the local councillors who attended.



**Frances Nicholson** (County Councillor for Dulverton and Exmoor),

**Brenda Maitland-Walker** (County Councillor for Minehead),

and **Edwin May** (Chairman of West Somerset District Council) were in attendance.

Also available for questions was Brian Worrall, manager of Atwest.

After an introduction by John Goodall explaining the purpose of the meeting and how it was expected to run, the councillors took the floor. Instead of making speeches they invited members of the audience to come forward to speak to them individually and informally.

Tea and coffee were served whilst councillors circulated so more individuals could discuss their concerns with them. The meeting closed after an hour.

Over a 10 day period Engage, assisted by Brian, have held drop-in sessions to provide information about how the loss of the Concessionary Fare will affect you, and to help write letters of concern. The first session was well attended thanks to Debbie's pleas for people to come and have their photo taken by Steve Guscott for the West Somerset Free Press! However, the other sessions were very quiet and rather disappointing – does it mean everyone has written a letter, or that we haven't explained how serious this might be for everyone?

But a big thank you and well done to those who have already written letters – many of you have had responses so hopefully the message is getting through. There is still time to write and we would urge you to do so before it is too late. By the time you read this the Government's Spending Review will have been reported and some details may have started to emerge about local cuts – if the Concessionary Fare is cut from Community Transport you will no longer be able to use your bus pass when travelling with Atwest and we will have to apply charges to all of the services we provide.



← Brian helping Mrs Sippitt and Mrs Morris with letters.

Some of the attendees at the first session. →

