

Community bus service takes over threatened route

PUBLISHED: 12:41 11 March 2020



GoStart is a community bus service based in Sudbury and is to take over operation of the 112 route. Picture: GOSTART

A bus service to Sudbury serving six villages which faced the axe has been saved after councillors and a community operator joined forces.

The 112 route, which runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays between Bildeston and Sudbury, was due to end on March 31 after Suffolk County Council decided not to renew its subsidy.

People using the service and without access to private transport faced the prospect of being marooned or paying for a taxi to get to the town, but now [independent community minibus operator GoStart](#), which runs minibuses with volunteer drivers in and around Sudbury, has stepped in to provide 16 seater minibuses running the same route at the same time on the same days.

The new service is being supported by three local councillors - Suffolk county councillors Robert Lindsay and Jack Owen, who are both contributing to costs from their individual locality budgets, and Bryn Hurren of Babergh District Council has been helping coordinate between the parties.

John Philips, chair of the board of trustees of GoStart, said: 'I'm pleased to say that we have obtained confirmation from traffic commissioners that route 112 can continue to operate from 1st April using a 16-seater bus operated by GoStart.

'This is nothing if not a community initiative, and I hope it will be supported by the community.'

The new 112 route will run from Bildeston, via Chelsworth, Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh, Little Waldingfield and Great Waldingfield to Sudbury bus station on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, returning early afternoon.