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Stewart Threlfall  
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16<sup>th</sup> February 2006

Dear Mr Threlfall,

Following the community meeting yesterday evening in Moss Side, we are writing to express our concern about the rerouting of the 53 service away from Moss Side.

As you are aware, the Longsight Transport Project has been raising the issue of the 53 bus for a number of years. In our consultation work with the local community in 2003, the unreliability and generally poor service associated with this route was one of the main complaints of local people. Whilst we are therefore pleased that First have embarked on a Punctuality Improvement Plan for this service, we are extremely disappointed that the revised route misses out Moss Side.

The 53 bus is a vital service, not least because it links areas of low car ownership. At yesterday's meeting, the importance to Moss Side residents of being able to access Longsight market was discussed, as well as the importance of this route for reaching educational and leisure services. Relying on other services that require passengers to change in the city centre is simply not sufficient.

We accept that the achievement of a Punctuality Improvement Plan may involve some route changes, but we believe that these changes should not be at the expense of a whole community. We therefore urge you to do all you can to return the 53 to Moss Side or to provide a suitable replacement as soon as possible.

In keeping with our policy of community involvement, this letter will be placed on our website so that others in Longsight and Moss Side can see what issues are being raised in their area.

Yours Sincerely,

James Meehan  
Kirsty Ogle  
Graeme Sherriff