**Bus overcrowding issue resolved**

MERA has learned that measures are now in place to address the overcrowding issue on the 7.40am Beech Lane service 19b. For some months, complaints had been registered that passengers were being left behind on this journey on schooldays, with the next bus not due for almost half an hour.

Following an intervention by Cllr Chopping, Reading Buses agreed to adjust the timing of the 19c service, which runs along Silverdale Road. It was hoped that this would encourage residents to use that bus instead, thus relieving pressure on the 19b.

Although this appeared to make a difference, the demand for the 19b service has not diminished. MERA drew the attention of Reading Buses to this continuing problem, and they have now sourced an additional vehicle to duplicate this journey. Both vehicles will run in tandem to allow passengers left behind to board the second bus.

The new arrangement will commence on 4 November and the additional vehicle will be running on schooldays only, when it is busiest.