

## Argument – Motions Bus Routes 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 Council

A number of residents have brought to my attention the issue of proposed changes to the 409 bus route.

Currently it goes to Keir Ave, which the bus driver said takes 3 minutes to complete the 1.3 km loop from the station, where it is proposed to terminate, and services 18 streets.

More than 400 residents have already signed a petition backing the service. There are many people without private transport in the area and many are elderly. They use the service to access shops and medical services. Without this service they will be isolated. The walk is extremely steep and a 0.65km walk is quite a distance for the elderly and disabled. Of course many will have greater distance as they live further away than the last bus stop.

Also, parents prefer the safety of their children alighting as near to home as possible after school and not at a train station.

The 409 is not the only complaint I've heard about over the proposed changes. The Disability Committee has also asked Council to write a letter in support of their concerns over changes. One of the members will find it impossible to continue his treatment of diabetes, which has finally stabilized only recently, at Canterbury Hospital. The service 499 from Earlwood to Canterbury Hospital will no longer exist. I imagine there are many in Earlwood who would require this service.

I believe that it is vital that Council urges the State Government to reconsider what amounts to cutting essential services to Canterbury, an area that really does need a good public transport network.