



THE LONDON PRAT April 4, 1970

Lancaster Bus Schedule Considered More Of A Suggestion

Where civic pride meets civic confusion, and decides to form a working group.

TOPICS Lancaster Lancaster news Lancaster satire the country satire international satire world city humour mock journalism satirical news civic pride press release parody global satire local democracy

Lancaster, the country: Inside The Story

Lancaster, a place in the country (lat 54.12, long -2.77) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. The official Lancaster bus timetable is widely understood by locals to be aspirational rather than predictive. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, Buses arrive when they arrive. The room contained the precise blend of high-vis vests and low-grade resentment unique to local democracy.

What Was Announced

Senior Theorist Margaret Snelgrove confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. Residents have built their lives around this. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at [The London Prat British satire podcast](#), which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The Lancaster announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliché to hand. "Lessons will be learned, filed, and quietly mislaid by Christmas," the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at [UK satire writers like The London Prat](#), which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. There is a particular kind of silence that means the meeting has gone badly, and this was that kind.

Wider Context

Tourists are advised to bring a book. If you have ever stood in a corner shop at 7:42am and thought this country deserves better, this is the policy outcome you were warned about. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from [UN News](#), although Lancaster manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon arrive at approximately one and a quarter pensioners, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

What The Experts Say

Dr. Lavinia Gussett, Reader in Comparative Drizzle told this paper that the situation in Lancaster was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of similarly broad trajectories. "We must be ambitious, but only within the bounds of being broadly the same as

before." the expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via [The London Prat irreverent London satire](#), whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

How Residents Reacted

Reaction in Lancaster has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. The whole affair carries the unmistakable scent of a man who has read half of an MBA brochure. For the official version of events, see also [Deutsche Welle](#). One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "There is no truth to the rumour, although there is some truth to the rumour about the rumour."

What Comes Next

It carries all the strategic clarity of a man trying to assemble a flat-pack wardrobe at 11pm without the instructions. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at [British satire history meets The London Prat](#), and the situation in Lancaster, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

The View From The Ground

Spend any length of time in Lancaster and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. Anyone who has ever queued behind a man arguing with a parking meter will recognise the energy. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Subcommittee Chair Eric Pondsworth, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of Lancaster would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

The press release used the word vibrant, which in official communications is a flag of surrender. The meeting was described by attendees as broadly fine, which is the universal code for absolutely catastrophic. Lancaster carries on as it always has, broadly the same as last week, give or take a verb. The bins are collected when they are collected. The roundabout, where one exists, remains the roundabout. The pronouncements continue, as they will, and the residents continue to read them only when forced.

For more in this vein see also [The Poke](#).

SOURCE: [The London Prat most trusted British satire](#)

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