*Response from SYPTE to an enquiry by the Parish Council on 20th August 2018.  Response is dated 31st August 2018.*

Dear

Thank you for enquiring about bus services provisions for school children in Finningley.

I can advise that Doncaster Bus Partnership (DBP) has brought significant improvements to the bus offer in the area with service 57a and 57c by doubling the number of buses per hour to Doncaster Sheffield Airport and the wider employment zone that is emerging around the airport.  Service 57a and 57c also reduce the journey time between the Airport and Doncaster Interchange for quick connections from the local rail network, Transpennine trains and other local bus services.

Services 57a and 57c will improve local connectivity with Cantley and Auckley now having direct access to the expanding Iport, for shift times at Amazon and other job opportunities in the area.  More journeys will serve the Iport as additional shifts are introduced as the various employers open businesses in the site.

Residents of Finningley and Blaxton will benefit from a 10-minute reduction in journey time to Doncaster town centre on the new 57f service, with journeys in an evening and Sunday provided on the 58f.  As part of the overall network improvements, Bessecarr, Warning Tongue Lane and the new Manor House Farm housing Estate will see new bus services, more buses per hour and new local links on services 58a, 58c and 58f.

Some journeys will continue to operate via Hayfield Lane and Hurst Lane for access to education in addition to the dedicated school buses for Hayfield School such as service 521 and 522. Additional dedicated transport will also be provided by New College as it further expands its student numbers this September.  Working with Hayfield School to accommodate their new school times will ensure that sufficient capacity is provided for all users.  The dedicated transport provided by New College for their students will also assist in preventing overcrowding of the local primary and secondary school journeys.

Two buses for Hayfield School on 57f route are provided in a morning at 08:00 and 08:09 serving McAuley, New College and primary school pupils.  In addition to the 57f, Powells dedicated 521 service also provides additional capacity at 08:21, although this isn't expected to be needed.

Only one afternoon bus is provided on the 57f route for Hayfield School as new dedicated transport for the New College is being provided by the college and the change in school time at Hayfield will mean the bus leaves before the college finishes.

Working with Hayfield School, DMBC and First loadings for buses has not exceeded 53 pupils heading towards Blaxton and Finningley and the double decker being provided will easily cater for this.

Additional capacity can easily be provided with service 521 and 523 also running from the school and can have route changes implemented to meet any increases in demand and the school population/geographic distribution changes in the coming years.  School service 588 also provides a later departure, for pupils remaining later at school to Austerfield, Bawtry and Tickhill. If there is sufficient demand for a later bus from September, this could operate via Blaxton and Finningley too.

In regards to afternoon services, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE) is waiting for details of how many pupils need to catch a bus, at what time and the areas it needs to cover. Therefore, a later bus may be provided for Hayfield Lane if the current provision of 57f or 522/523/588 cannot cater for their needs.

I trust the above addresses your concerns.  However, if you have any further questions please get in touch.

Best regards,
 **Communications Officer**

South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
11 Broad Street West
Sheffield S1 2BQ

*Following the response, the Parish Council has asked for further information on services 521, 522, 523 and 528 (Routes and timetables).  We will post the information when it is available. See also timetable provided by SYPTE for 57 and 58 services.*