

With regard to the ringing of the bell by passengers, or not, to stop at the next stop, I fail to remember despite a couple of years travelling to and from the Head Office in Norwich on service 79 (See Memory 1). Sorry, but this doesn't help determine whether it was a company wide or Cambridge only policy!

Coming from Bristol where you would travel to the terminus every time if you didn't press the stop button, I would have naturally used the bell. I can remember from even earlier years when a group I was travelling with rang the bell on a Bournemouth Corporation bus to get off and were roundly told off by the conductor.

I think it was one of those local idiosyncrasies that caused travellers to feel uncomfortable using public transport, was not explained anywhere and it did the bus companies no good at all!

I can recall when at school in Bristol that a new Traffic Manager, who came from elsewhere and clearly didn't understand local traditions, had new stop plates fixed throughout the company's territory. Many of these were marked Request Stop. The bus would not stop unless the passenger rang the bell or a prospective passenger hailed it. I thought this was a stupid move as buses then had to stop at the non-request stops for no good reason and if you rang the bell you would get a frown!

Geoff Pullin