



**Community
Transport
& COVID-19
NEWS No.10
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Edited by John Atkins**

TAS is currently supporting the CT sector at a time when unprecedented demands are being placed upon it. Our initial information sheet was circulated on 6 April – this newsletter provides updates. For previous information, newsletters, and further debate on the current crisis, please see TAS website:
<https://taspartnership.co.uk/TAS-news/>

Face Coverings – Now Mandatory in Scotland

Scotland has now followed England by making the wearing of face coverings mandatory from 22 June. Transport Scotland says: “It will apply to all passengers and staff in public areas, although there will be exemptions especially for those who are not able to wear a face covering for specific medical reasons. Children under five will also be exempt.” In Scotland the rule extends to taxis and private hire vehicles, and also drivers. This suggests that CT services may be required to comply as well. This followed the announcement that Scottish bus services would benefit from an additional expenditure of £47m to support operators in increasing bus services over the next eight weeks.

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/news/face-coverings-mandatory-on-public-transport-from-22-june/>

Welsh Utilities Community Fund Launched

Wales & West Utilities has launched a £50,000 community fund and is encouraging charities and bodies affected by the coronavirus pandemic to apply for support. The Safe and Warm Fund has been established in response to the crisis and will help communities affected by the outbreak with essential funding. Chief Executive Graham Edwards specifically mentions CT operators as potential beneficiaries: “We’re now encouraging organisations across the area – from food banks to energy efficiency organisations, domestic abuse charities to community transport.”

<https://www.wwutilities.co.uk/news-and-events/50-000-fund-established-to-support-communities/>



Can we have a transport plan for life after lockdown in rural areas, please?

Writing in TransportXtra, Alistair Kirkbride has speculated on the Post-COVID situation of rural transport: “There

could be a 'new normal' of access and transport solutions for rural areas that builds-in the benefits that have been realised during lockdown, and locks out longstanding transport-related issues that have blighted rural areas...the coming-to-the-fore of formal community networks and informal "neighbourliness" has been remarkable...Neighbourliness and community cooperation suggests both a possible reinvigoration of community transport and deeper and wider ridesharing within communities; these would ideally all be part of integrated community-scale transport services rather than schemes stranded in siloes."

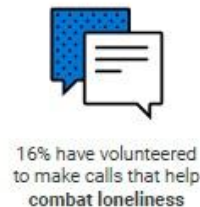
<https://www.transportxttra.com/publications/local-transport-today/news/65619/can-we-have-a-transport-plan-for-life-after-lockdown-in-rural-areas-please-/>



10 Million Volunteering in UK

A report The Isolation Economy published last month by Legal & General claims that there are 10m volunteers active in lockdown support activities. L&G states that "67% of volunteers are helping with grocery shopping for others and a quarter (26%) have collected and delivered medicines or prescriptions. 16% of those donating their time have volunteered to make calls to people in a bid to combat loneliness. All of this activity is separate to the actions of those people serving in the formal NHS volunteer programme...This spirit of supporting others is more than a short-term trend. More than three-quarters (78%) of those volunteering plan to continue helping those in need after the lockdown." This latter detail should be of some comfort to the CT sector looking at future sustainability.

<https://www.legalandgeneralgroup.com/media-centre/press-releases/10-million-brits-volunteering-as-the-nation-unites-in-the-isolation-economy-says-legal-general/>



Transform Cymru – a Sustainable Transport Vision for a Post-Lockdown Wales

CTA has announced that it has "joined with a range of organisations in Wales, united in a vision for a transport network that is sustainable, accessible and safe with access and inclusion built in from the beginning. The Transform Cymru Coalition brings together organisations across Wales that promote sustainable transport for all. Transform Cymru promotes a vision where communities across Wales are connected through a sustainable, affordable, inclusive and safe transport network which meets the needs of all passengers regardless of age, background or ability."

<https://ctauk.org/transform-cymru-post-lockdown-wales/>



Transform Cymru - a sustainable transport vision for a post-lockdown Wales



Notable CT Activities from Around the Country

Beverley Community Lift (East Yorkshire) has paid tribute to the invaluable work undertaken by its volunteers over the past three months delivering services in Market Weighton, Pocklington and Stamford Bridge. In a feature in the Pocklington Post, Manager Fiona Wales said: "We're so grateful for the support received all round. Throughout lockdown, our office volunteers have been in regular contact with over 200 passengers and self-isolating volunteers to check if they need anything and give them some much appreciated social interaction."



<https://www.pocklingtonpost.co.uk/news/people/beverley-community-lift-volunteers-hailed-work-during-lockdown-2882370>

Ryedale Community Transport has benefitted from a fundraising night from Pickering curry house Spice4U. Chairperson Hugh Morgan, told the Ryedale Gazette & Herald: "We are most grateful to the Spice 4U for allowing this fundraising venture when restaurants are also going through a difficult period. Spice 4U are very supportive of local charities, and RCT in particular." Customers were invited to donate to RCT on Saturday night.

<https://www.gazetteherald.co.uk/news/18517878.spice-4u-fundraiser-ryedale-community-transport/>



Ryedale
Community
Transport

Community Transport Sussex is one of the beneficiaries of a £22,000 Adur Community Grant from Adur Borough Council, reports SpiritFM: "A grant of £5,000 has also been awarded to this organisation to support them to provide transport for local residents to attend essential hospital appointments, assist with food parcel deliveries, and transport the children of key workers to and from school."



<https://www.spiritfm.net/news/sussex-news/3120001/west-sussex-voluntary-organisations-awarded-share-of-22k-grant/>

Exmouth and District Community Transport has launched an appeal for funds to offset losses of some £14,500 incurred since the pandemic crisis in March. East Devon News has highlighted the CT operator's plight, and manager Jill Elson commented: "We have carried out a variety of tasks, including picking up shopping or prescriptions, and taken people to emergency medical appointments. This we did free until the lockdown was eased. During this time, we applied for two grants but were unsuccessful. Most of the grants have been given to those providing delivery of meals."



<https://eastdevonnews.co.uk/2020/06/23/exmouth-and-district-community-transport-lifeline-bus-service->

[to-stop-loneliness-appeals-for-funds-as-charity-works-for-free-amid-covid-19-lockdown-losing-14000/](https://www.southpennine.co.uk/news/to-stop-loneliness-appeals-for-funds-as-charity-works-for-free-amid-covid-19-lockdown-losing-14000/)

South Pennine Community Transport has seen its buses doubling as food distribution units. The operator tweeted on 5 June: "Tomorrow, on board every bus, a large supply of freshly baked baguettes for you to take free of charge! No need to travel, just stop the bus and grab one!" and 9 June: "Baguettes and Cake on board all our buses today. No need to travel, just stop the bus!" It is also selling face coverings for £1 with proceeds donated to Marie Curie.

<http://www.southpennine.co.uk/>



Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride has used its vehicle downtime during the pandemic to create new livery for minibuses. The Lincolite has reported that "New buses were bought by the charity's partners Marks Transport, but haven't been able to have new logos applied until coronavirus restrictions were lifted. Currently the charity has limited services due to COVID-19, but that hasn't stopped local volunteers helping the community. Over 200 people have received foodbank parcels delivered by the buses, completely free of charge. New livery was eventually placed on the vehicles by Allen Signs, with a refreshed logo designed by a Lincolnshire tattoo artist. The designs were made by local tattoo artist and graphic designer Bethan Liente, who regularly volunteers for Dial a Ride. The charity are also offering transport through Co-op funeral services, driving

people to the crematorium if they cannot get there."

<https://thelincolnite.co.uk/2020/06/dialaride-buses-get-a-makeover-during-lockdown/>



Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain Advice

The latest advice note from the Traffic Commissioners provides updates on a range of situations for operators running full PSV services. This includes the Transport Manager self-isolating or being furloughed, vehicle maintenance & PMI issues, vehicles being taken out of service, service registrations or variations and virtual CPC training.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-heavy-goods-and-public-service-vehicle-operators-covid-19>



Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain

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