



The TAS Partnership Limited
Passenger Transport Specialists

Community
Transport
& COVID-19
NEWS No.14
22 July 2020
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/>

CTA Recovery and Restart Webinar

This webinar took place on 17 July and is now uploaded on CTA's website. CTA says "Over 200 people joined the webinar to hear from CTA Chief Executive Bill Freeman, CTA's Policy Executive Suzanne Lau, John Taylor, Director at the TAS Partnership who looked at the practicalities around community transport providers restarting services, and Sara Robinson, a multi-award winning PR consultant, who looked at how our members can put themselves at the heart of the conversations around building back better. The event was a great opportunity to hear from some expert voices as well as for community transport providers to talk to each-other as part of the meeting's chat function, ask questions and share ideas."

<https://ctauk.org/recovery-and-restart-recap/>



Vehicle Cleaning with Zapptizer
Jon Critoph, Community Transport Manager at Community Action Ledbury writes: "Well 6 months ago who would have thought we would have seen such dramatic changes in the whole world as well as in the world of CT. As we all know we now have changed services, perhaps reduced or even mothballed services. For those still running minibuses (and cars to a lesser extent) there is now a lot more to do before sending the minibus out and between passenger trips. For us like many groups this normally involved up to an extra hour for the driver getting in to sanitize the bus wiping down driver controls, handles, seats, seat belts, windows, grab handles and wiping out the bus with disinfectant and then letting it all air and dry. Then we came across a device called a Zapptizer and we can now go through the whole bus in around 30-45 seconds and will do probably a better job sanitizing the bus. CT schemes can now obtain a 10% discount on the device and gas canister. The canister will last quite a long time dependent on size of vehicle etc and leaves your drivers with less to do. It is recommended that gloves and eye protection are worn when using the device. You can learn more at <https://www.zappshelter.com/zapptizer/> And if you do decide to order make sure you ask for your discount."



COVID-19 Funding Support Sources

Some recent charitable fund and information sources that might potentially be of value to CT operators include:

- J Social Partnership Marketing which has published the latest annual edition of its Invisible Grantmakers series. The series identifies and profiles significant grant-making trusts that have escaped inclusion in the most widely-used trust directories and therefore remain 'invisible' to the majority of fundraisers.
<https://bit.ly/2D77xKL>
- J Comic Relief / National Emergencies Trust (NET) have ring-fenced a total of £5.2m in funding for BAME-led charities and groups.
<https://bit.ly/2O2L3gd>
- J 2021 GSK IMPACT Awards offering funding and free training for health-related charities. <https://bit.ly/2V1zJKb>
- J Barclays – the 100x100 UK COVID-19 Community Relief Programme, is making 100 donations of £100,000 each to UK charities working to support vulnerable communities impacted by COVID-19
<https://home.barclays/society/investing-in-our-communities/barclays-covid-19-community-aid-package/barclays-100x100-uk-covid-19-community-relief-programme/>
- J Ecclesiastical – Movement for Good. £50,000 awards are open to eligible charities registered in the UK and Republic of Ireland with an income of less than £5million, which support a cause that we know our communities care about: the advancement of education and skills; citizenship or community development; arts, culture or heritage.
<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/movement-for-good/>

Clean Air Zones and Community Transport

The COVID-19 crisis has indirectly created renewed debate around the environmental impact of transport and the opportunity for various measures to be implemented. This has generally favoured arrangements for

cycles and e-scooters. In some urban areas Clean Air Zones (CAZ) can present problems for the CT sector which is not very well placed to easily switch to low or zero emission vehicles. In Bath, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the council to revise its policy in order to support the city centre economy. There is a national exemption which could apply to CT if they are operating "disabled passenger and disabled tax class vehicles. Applies to all higher emission vehicles in disabled passenger tax class 85 or disabled tax class 78." Bath City Council has additionally now granted a two year exemption for "Euro 4 and 5 diesel vehicles with a valid community transport permit." Elsewhere we note that some of the pop-up cycle lanes have interfered with CT vehicles making kerbside drop-offs and pick-ups.

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/bath-breathes-2021-overview/exemptions> and
<https://www.bathecho.co.uk/news/politics/council-cabinet-receive-update-clean-air-zone-90890/>



Community Transport Around the UK

Community360 (Malden & Colchester) are recommencing services but have appealed for more volunteers in the Clacton & Frinton Gazette. Head of Community Transport Shelly Rudling, said: "We are delighted that we can resume our transport service but we need more people to come forward and volunteer. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to provide the services we do. A lot of the volunteers have been here a number of years and during the lockdown we had additional volunteers coming forward. However, with many people returning to work we are finding there is now a gap which we need to fill." To help call 01206 505250 or email ct@community360.org.uk.
https://www.clactonandfringtongazette.co.uk/news/north-essex_news/18579686.community-360-appeals-maldon-colchester-volunteers-help-less-mobile/



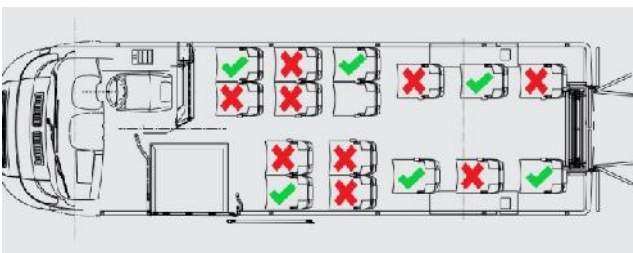
Slough Community Transport has benefitted from a support grant as part of a £500k donation from locally based pharmaceutical company RB to provide key services and support to those most vulnerable and affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Slough and the surrounding area. The donation will enable Slough CT "to provide 3,400 prescriptions, over the next 6 months."

<https://www.rb.com/media/news/2020/july/rb-supports-vulnerable-communities-around-berkshire-as-part-of-its-fight-for-access-fund/>



Passengers on the Wrekin Rider have been provided by a comprehensive booklet by Telford & Wrekin Council to advise passengers on all aspects of safer service provision as its CT operations are resumed. This includes a useful seating plan of the vehicle indicating which seats are to be used.

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20174/public_transpo rt/133/wrekin_rider



Community Action Dacorum has paid tribute in Hemel Today to another of its community transport volunteers Sally Smith. "Within a few days of lockdown happening, everyone knew someone that couldn't get out, whether it was because of their own health or someone in their household", said Sally. "I'd like to think that when this is all over, I can look back and know that and I did something to make a difference to others in Decorum. The good thing about volunteering for the Store2Door scheme is meeting the people when I drop the shopping off to them. I enjoy having a chat with them especially the regular people that I shop for now. It's really nice to have that relationship. It's also very rewarding knowing I'm doing something that will make a difference to someone's day, especially with those that I will be the only person I talk to during that day. The biggest challenges have been juggling my time working full time and finding the time to volunteer and also the stress of choosing the right food for people!"

<https://www.hemeltoday.co.uk/health/coronavirus/hemel-hempstead-woman-makes-difference-through-community-transport-2910484>



Community Transport, as well as publishing its COVID-19 risk assessment online, has signed up to the Government's Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020 statement which is to communicate the fact that the organisation has undertaken its risk assessment and is compliant across five key areas.

<https://www.communitytransport.org/pages/category/covid-19-hub> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-covid-19-secure-in-2020-notice>

Staying COVID-19 Secure in 2020

We confirm we have complied with the government's guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19

FIVE STEPS TO SAFER WORKING TOGETHER

- ✓ We have carried out a **COVID-19 risk assessment** and shared the results with the people who work here
- ✓ We have **cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures** in line with guidance
- ✓ We have taken all reasonable steps to **help people work from home**
- ✓ We have taken all reasonable steps to **maintain a 2m distance** in the workplace
- ✓ Where people cannot be 2m apart, we have done everything practical to **manage transmission risk**

VEST Community Transport (Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan) has described its activities as follows in a web post: "In addition to our normal lines of work, we are working alongside several other groups in the community on various projects. We continue to help to deliver medication for our local pharmacies who are struggling to keep up with the new demands Covid-19 has put on their delivery service. Our team also supported Cardiff Council with the delivery of meals to hundreds of school children who are at home during the lockdown. Over the weeks our network of help has extended to include delivering meals and essentials alongside other groups such as ACT Training, Moorland Road Day Centre, and Food for Life Wales Hare Krishna Charity."

<https://vestcommunitytransport.org/author/cerwitch/>



Swindon Dial-a-Ride has been awarded a £10,000 grant by the Wiltshire Community Foundation to assist with post-lockdown service provision, reports This Is Wiltshire. Director of Swindon Dial-a-Ride Evelyn Rider said: "We saw our transport requests drop off a cliff and we have done zero group transport journeys since the lockdown and that will probably continue for a while because the last thing you want to do is cram a lot of people into a minibus. Our difficulty is that people have been saying 'you will still be there when we can go out again won't you?' and that was the financial issue we have had because we have 12 vehicles and all the standing costs for those, including maintenance, but we haven't been getting the fares that go towards covering those overheads. Most of our 18 drivers are volunteers but some have stepped back because of their age or health issues but we've had six who have felt safe enough to do it and want to do it and they have been absolutely brilliant...We are really grateful for the grant from the Wiltshire Community Foundation."

<https://www.thisiswiltshire.co.uk/news/18595709.swindon-dial-ride-stays-road-thanks-wiltshire-community-foundation-grant-worth-10-000/?ref=rss>



TAS

If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email

john.atkins@taspartnership.com