



**The TAS Partnership Limited**  
Passenger Transport Specialists

**Community  
Transport  
& COVID-19  
NEWS No.19**  
**9 September 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/>

### **Cuckmere Buses Are Back**

Like many Community Bus services, the long-established **Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd** curtailed its operations at the beginning of lockdown due to volunteer availability, but was able to resume its operations (in a limited way) from mid-June. Through July and August more services were resumed with revised timetables. The service was assisted by **Mary Laxton** and her **NHS Angels** who supplied face coverings for drivers and passengers. New volunteers were sought through **Hailsham Volunteer Hub**. On its website, Cuckmere Buses has outlined its cleansing routine as follows: "Here at Cuckmere Buses, your comfort and safety and that of our drivers is our priority, so we wanted to let you know what you can expect when travelling with us, and how to travel with greater confidence in the coming weeks and months..."

- Each bus is fogged with a 24-hour anti-viral protection spray each evening.
- Higher risk touch areas (grabrails and handles, touchscreens, ticket machines and bell-pushes) are wiped with sanitising wipes by the driver between each trip operated.

- Driver screens are now provided to increase confidence in travelling with us.
- Hand sanitiser is now available on each of our buses. Please use it!
- Windows and ventilators will be kept open whenever possible to improve air circulation within the bus.
- If you do not have a face covering, we can provide one (for a charitable donation) for you to keep.
- We've introduced signage on-board to remind our customers to stay safe and stay apart.

We're not yet able to run all of our services, recognising that passenger numbers remain low and some of our drivers are still self-isolating, but more services are being introduced as soon as we are able to do so."

<https://cuckmerebuses.org.uk/news.htm>



### **DVLA & Driving Licence Expiries**

**DVLA** has announced that drivers whose photocard driving licence or entitlement to drive runs out between 1 February 2020 and 31 December 2020 will have their entitlement automatically extended from the expiry date, for a period of 11 months. Drivers do not need to apply to renew their licence until they receive a reminder before their extension expires. The initial extension expired at the end of August.

This has now been further extended to the end of the year under temporary changes announced by DVLA on 1 September 2020. If a medical examination is required, however, the extension does not apply. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/expired-driving-licences-automatically-extended-by-11-months>



**Inverclyde League of Hospital Friends Call for Volunteers**  
**Greenock Telegraph** has highlighted the need for volunteer drivers of a hospital car scheme: "They were forced to close down during lockdown and now as they start back up again they are faced with the recruitment crisis. The group also runs the Helen Wyllie tea bar which raises tens of thousands of pounds for **Inverclyde Royal** ever year. Chairman **Peter Hempsey** said: 'The patient transport service is facing a driver crisis and may not be able to continue to offer the service unless more drivers can be found. We need more drivers urgently.' Since lockdown the League have lost a couple of drivers and some are out of action for health reasons. As routine clinics begin to reopen in hospitals, the transport service has been given the go-ahead to start up again. But the service faces restrictions due to social distancing, compulsory face masks and patients are no longer allowed to bring someone with them."

<https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/18679686.service-takes-patients-hospitals-outside-inverclyde-urgently-seeks-volunteer-drivers/>



## CT Development Worker Vacancy

Despite the pandemic forcing some operations to reduce or close, CT in the Scottish Borders is set to benefit from a new post at **Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service**: "BAVS has an exciting opportunity for an experienced Development Worker to help identify new opportunities for delivering community transport services in the Scottish Borders and to explore the scope for increased co-ordination of services among a range of third sector providers."

<https://goodmoves.com/vacancy/a4s3z00000wMqaAA/development-worker-community-transport?distance=16.09344&keywords=community%20transport>



## Long Serving CT Manager Retires in Hampshire

**Paul Rollison** has retired from his role as Senior Operations Manager after 29 years with **One Community**, a long established CT and community development organisation based in **Eastleigh**. Paul told us: "My successor will have a slightly different role from me and a changed title. His name is **Stuart McAuliffe** and he will be Transport Manager for both **One Community** and **Unity** which is based in Andover & Romsey. He will share his time between the two organisations. It just leaves me to say 'a sincere thank you' to all those that helped and supported me during my time at One Community. The relationships we have forged over many years have all (either directly or indirectly) helped my teams at One Community Transport (OCT) & Eastleigh Shopmobility to provide the very best service possible. The benefactors have been those that struggle to remain independent due to age or frailty in the borough of Eastleigh and beyond and I have been touched and humbled at the grateful thanks that have reached OCT and Eastleigh Shopmobility offices over the years. It just remains for me to wish you all the very best for the future."



## CT Praised for its Role in Colchester

The **Clacton & Frinton Gazette** has reported how local strategic partnership **One Colchester** which has been "supporting the community response to coronavirus, is continuing to help communities. Since lockdown restrictions began to ease in May, partners have been working hard to ensure the most vulnerable residents and continue to provide support. This has included 566 community transport trips, 4,308 welfare and befriending phone calls and 1,024 prescription pick-ups. **One Colchester Partnership** chairman **Pam Donnelly** said: 'Whilst lockdown restrictions have eased over the past few months, the virus hasn't gone away and the **One Colchester Partnership** has done a fantastic job of balancing providing ongoing support to the most vulnerable residents, whilst also supporting the borough's recovery in a safe manner. I'm so pleased and proud of the way in which volunteers, organisations and charities have adapted to this changing situation and continue to support the people of Colchester during this difficult time.'"

[https://www.clactonandfringtongazette.co.uk/news/north\\_essex\\_news/18667974.much-volunteers-public-sector-workers-invested-town-crisis/](https://www.clactonandfringtongazette.co.uk/news/north_essex_news/18667974.much-volunteers-public-sector-workers-invested-town-crisis/)



**Social Enterprise Support Fund Community Fund / Social Enterprise Support Fund** are inviting bids from 19 September. Grants are available for

£10,000 - £300,000 for Social Enterprises who meet with the following criteria:

- In England; your beneficiaries are mostly in England
- An incorporated social purpose organisation, with an asset lock
- Incorporated at least a year ago (i.e. registered with Companies House, the FCA or the Charity Commission)
- Annual income between £25,000 and £1.5 million before COVID-19
- Was financially stable before COVID-19
- Substantially reliant on trading income (e.g. sales and delivery of contracts) to deliver social impact

Additionally they should be working in one of the following areas:

- Connect with older people
- Connect with disabled people
- Provide advice and support to people who are pushed into crisis
- Provide support to those in medical care or end of life care

<https://socialenterprisesupportfund.org.uk/>



## Vandalised Minibus is Back on the Road in Charnwood

**Leicester Mercury** reports that a "charity minibus taken out of service after a vandal attack is back on the road thanks to the generosity of local businesses and the wider community. At the end of July, **John Storer Charnwood** discovered their accessible minibus severely damaged when the driver collected the vehicle to make its first food parcel deliveries of the day. Vandals had smashed a large side window and ripped out the metal framing to gain entry. They had then thrown the fire extinguishers from the vehicle, poured anti-freeze over the vehicle and also urinated inside. The vehicle should have been used to collect the weekly food shop for the **Charnwood Community Action** centralised foodbank and would have then gone on to deliver parcels to households facing significant hardship during the pandemic. **Candi Barnes**, John Storer Charnwood's Well-being and Transport Team Leader said: 'We are now most happy and grateful to say that several companies and individuals stepped forward with offers

of help to get the John Storer Charnwood minibus back on the road. We would like to thank **Multi Vehicle Technology** of Leicester who mended the vehicle free of charge, **Go Plant Fleet Services**, who lent us a van while the minibus was off the road and Loughborough businessman, **Dominic Parr**, who paid for a full valet of the minibus!"

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/community-rallies-after-charity-minibus-4460919>



## A Few Tweets...

**South Pennine Bus** @SouthPennineCT · Sep 5  
A busy end to a busy week! Thanks to everyone in our communities for overwhelming support as we move forward in unusual times. We have been flooded with messages of support and compliment - a heartfelt thank you from the South Pennine Team!



<https://twitter.com/southpenninct?lang=en>

**South & SW Wiltshire Community Engagement Manager** @K · Sep 7  
URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS to help with Wiltshire's Link Schemes. These schemes responded to nearly 80,000 calls for health related transport help and 'good neighbour' tasks last year. Help if you can - see here for more info [ocm.wiltshire.gov.uk/southernwiltsh...](http://ocm.wiltshire.gov.uk/southernwiltsh...)



<https://twitter.com/KarenLinakerCEM>

**GreenCommunityTravel** @GreenCTransport · Sep 7  
We are thrilled to announce we have been successful in our application from the Coronavirus **Community Support Fund**, distributed by The National Lottery **Community Fund**, will help us to continue **Community Transport** through COVID-19 Thanks to the Government for making this possible



<https://twitter.com/GreenCTransport>

**Michael Mc Nulty** @mchlmcnulty

Disability Action Northern Ireland Transport Division, where all buses will receive a full clean and sanitise of the no.1 sanitisation product Zoono UK Z-71.

Keeping the community protected along with its staff and drivers ❤️

Sanitise to protect @ Storm Mist



<https://twitter.com/mchlmcnulty/status/1302371223897288704>



**Community Transport at TAS**  
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## Final COVID-19 & Community Transport Newsletter from TAS!

With our thanks to all those who have read this newsletter over the past few months, we announce with some regret that this will be the final edition in this form. We have learnt a lot during this crisis and made a lot of new friends. However, looking forward we intend to produce a more general community transport newsletter on a monthly basis that will have the scope for longer items and opinion pieces as well as news links etc. This will hopefully appear in your inbox before too long. Good luck and please keep in touch!



If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email [john.atkins@taspartnership.com](mailto:john.atkins@taspartnership.com)