

**The TAS Partnership Limited**  
Passenger Transport Specialists

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 and newsletters, please see TAS website:

<https://taspartnership.co.uk/TAS-news/>

#### MiDAS & PATS Certification



CTA has granted an extension of three months for those whose MiDAS and PATS certificates have already expired or are due to expire. Drivers and passenger assistants facing certificate expiry are required to complete an online form. CTA says: "You will not need to have booked onto your refresher course before submitting the form, however, as soon as social distancing restrictions are lifted, or at the end of the 3 months extension, you'll be reminded about booking onto a refresher course or applying for a new extension."

<https://ctauk.org/training/pats/do-you-want-to-extend-your-pats-certificate/>

TAS has worked with CTA to produce operational guidance. CTA is providing regular information updates here:

<https://ctauk.org/covid19-guidance/>

## Community Transport & COVID-19 NEWS No.4 6 May 2020

Edited by John Atkins

### Impact of Coronavirus on Voluntary Sector Organisations



*Excellent fundraising for a better world*

The Institute of Fundraising published its survey findings on 30 March, well before many of the harsher realities of the current situation had been appreciated. Even at this early stage, the findings were sobering:

- J "Charities are reporting a projected loss of 48% of their voluntary income and a third wiped off from their total income
- J 52% of charities have reduced existing or previous levels of service, with a further 12% intending to in the future.
- J 83% say that the most important thing for their organisation's sustainability over the coming 3 to 6 months is access to emergency grant funding.
- J 84% of charities think their organisation could play a role in responding to the coronavirus outbreak, with the majority saying that government funding was needed to help them to do so.
- J 91% of charities surveyed have already or expect to have their cash flow disrupted, with 62% indicating that these would result in reduced charitable activity."

<https://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/news/coronavirus-impact-survey-results-charities-cannot-meet-the/>

Clearly the Govt. has pledged support in response to this but it would be interesting to repeat the survey to ascertain whether charities feel their situation is any better a couple of months further on.

Related to the above survey is a useful summary of support available for Welsh

voluntary sector bodies from National Assembly for Wales:

[https://seneddresearch.blog/2020/04/27/coronavirus-voluntary-sector-and-volunteering/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=coronavirus-voluntary-sector-and-volunteering](https://seneddresearch.blog/2020/04/27/coronavirus-voluntary-sector-and-volunteering/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=coronavirus-voluntary-sector-and-volunteering)

## Notable CT Responses around the UK

### Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport -

Where2Today. Unable to raise funds in the community, Where2Today found welcome support in the shape of Mark Allan who devised a novel way of sponsorship – a backwards run up 310 metre hill Craigellachie in Aviemore. Mark completed the backways and sideway fell run on 23 April, keeping within a one hour lockdown exercise limit. To date over £3,000 has been raised. Manager Maggie Lawson said: "Mark knows that at the moment our charity is not generating any fares to help keep the services going. All shopping, prescription and food bank deliveries are being delivered free of charge. Every week, bags and bags of shopping gets delivered to households of people who are shielding at home to protect themselves from this horrendous virus. The charity normally generates around £7,000 in fares over the first quarter of the year but with us not having any emergency-only passengers, we simply are not generating the funds."

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/running-backwards-sideways-up-craigellachie> and  
<https://www.strathspey-herald.co.uk/news/aviemores-mountain-will-be-conquered-backwards-197791/>



Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT) has reported that its 'Shop and Drop' service is now receiving food orders of almost 100 per day. Following the withdrawal of its Dial-a-Ride and befriending Service, FACT has thrown its resources behind ensuring food supplies and prescriptions reach those in isolation in Ely, March, St Ives, Peterborough, Wisbech, and Whittlesey.

<https://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/fact-receives-almost-100-orders-in-one-day-during-coronavirus-lockdown-1-6626091>



### Community Buses

Unfortunately a large number of s22 Community Bus services have temporarily ceased operations. These services cannot so readily adapt to changing requirements. They generally use vehicles too small to enable a decent chance of social distancing, often have volunteer drivers over 70 years

old and do not work with a membership / bookings facility that can be converted to other services such as food distribution. Examples of well-established services that have been withdrawn until further notice are:

- ) Hoy & Walls Community Bus (Orkney)
- ) Gorran Bus (Cornwall)
- ) Tavistock Country Bus (Devon)
- ) Village Community Bus (Cotswolds)
- ) Villager Minibus (Sharnbrook)
- ) Western Dales Bus (Cumbria)
- ) Cuckmere Buses (East Sussex)
- ) Amberley and Slindon Village Bus (West Sussex)

It is possible for the vehicles to be offered to other agencies that might require them.

Droitwich CVS normally offers community minibus and car scheme services but has been able to configure a range of resources to meet the needs of the community, including its volunteer recruitment portal (see flyer below). The latter has reached capacity with the response from those wishing to offer their time as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.

**HELLO! If you are self-isolating, we can help.**

We are: Droitwich CVS  
 We are based at: The Old Library, Droitwich  
 Contact us on: 01905 779115 or 07546 149362

**If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 we can help with:**

- Shopping
- Collecting medicines (let your pharmacy know)
- Walking your dog
- Talking to someone for a chat
- Taking you to urgent doctor or hospital appointments

If you are fit, able and available for a few hours could you become a volunteer with us and help in your local community?  
**If so, please get in touch!**

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL  
 good services, good value

FISH Volunteer Centre (Reading), in a case of unfortunate timing, received a long-awaited new minibus just as its transport services were withdrawn! "Alas, after much anticipation the new bus arrived just five days before the Government announcements to prevent the spread of the coronavirus meant we had to cancel all shopping and leisure trips until further notice... So do keep an eye out for it when we are finally able to bring it back in full operation – which hopefully will be soon." [https://www.fishvolunteercentre.org.uk/new\\_bus.php](https://www.fishvolunteercentre.org.uk/new_bus.php)



Ealing Community Transport's work with the Ealing Food Hub has been praised by Ealing Council leader Julian Bell and can be watched on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-bOWuPEwB8>

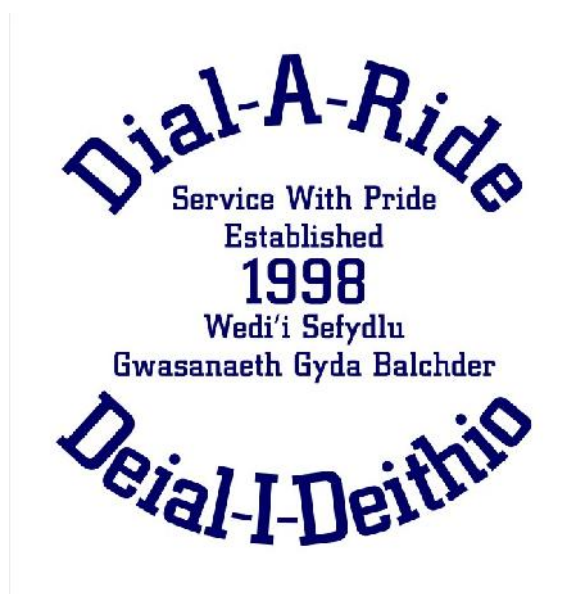


Dial-A-Ride Denbighshire offers a range of support services for the vulnerable members of the community. Manager Bev Mather said: "Dial-A-Ride was born out of a community need for reliable transport, and during these challenging times, we want to be there for anybody that needs a helping hand. As a membership organisation, we are close to the communities we serve and have a good feel for what people need right now."

We know that this is a frightening, isolating time for many people, particularly those with limited mobility or support networks. Whether it's delivering food, medicine, or just being available for a chat, we are pulling out all the stops to help as many people as we can as quickly as we can."

However, like many CT services at present, funding is uncertain. Bev adds: "We are crowdfunding on our Facebook page to help fund our services during this time, and the generosity of the people of Denbighshire has blown us away – we raised over £150 on our first day alone."

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/deial.i.deithio/>



Readibus (Reading) is continuing to provide its door-to-door services. "The Readibus service is still available for those (not shielding) who need to get out for essential travel, such as for essential shopping; for respite; or going to a doctor surgery for on-going treatment for example. We are maintaining 'social distancing' on the buses and have intensive cleaning regimes and procedures in place with a view to making the travelling environment as safe as possible. Restrictions apply in terms of anyone displaying symptoms or living in a household where someone is displaying symptoms not being allowed to travel." <https://readibus.co.uk/>

NHS Confederation Wales  
Community Transport Report  
A new report has just appeared entitled  
Community Transport & Health: Making

Health Accessible to All which indicates "how community transport operators across Wales are supporting patients and their local Health Boards and NHS Trusts in Wales. We hope the briefing will raise awareness of the positive work that CTA members are doing every day and the different ways in which patients get to their appointments, to make health accessible to all. Community Transport to discharge patients will become increasingly important as NHS organisations in Wales tackle the COVID-19 pandemic."

<https://www.nhsconfed.org/resources/2020/04/community-transport-and-health>

