



**Community
Transport at**



Community Transport Newsletter No.11 August 2021

TAS has provided expert advice, guidance and support for the CT sector for over 30 years. This general newsletter follows from our well-received COVID-19 coverage between April & September 2020. Please let us know of any items that might of interest to the wider CT sector.

Revised Guidance on COVID-19 Measures from 19 July

Government relaxation of measures to contain COVID-19 came into play on 19 July and this has implications for all public transport providers.

England: "The requirement to wear face coverings in law has been lifted. However, the government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport" and "Social distancing rules (2 metres or 1 metre with additional mitigations) are lifted. Social distancing will only be required in limited circumstances such as at ports of entry for passengers between disembarkation and border control in order to manage the risk of variants of concern being transmitted between individuals." However, individual operators can still require masks to be worn and some local transport authorities (e.g. TfL and TfGM) have opted to retain the existing restrictions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators>

Operators are still required to recognise the needs of vulnerable passengers and so for

'closed door' services such as Dial-a-Ride, continuing with distancing and requiring masks is recommended.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/19-july-guidance-on-protecting-people-who-are-clinically-extremely-vulnerable-from-covid-19>

There has been some level of confusion around this issue in general and some CTs have issued press releases to confirm how they are approaching the matter. Home to School transport has been subject to specific separate guidance here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002351/Transport_to_schools_and_colleges_step4_140721_v2.pdf

Taxis: Offers the same advice as above.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-taxis-and-phvs?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-history

Wales: Measures on public transport remain the same, with masks and distancing still a legal requirement.

<https://gov.wales/restarting-public-transport-guidance-operators>

Scotland: Moved to level 0 on 19 July but no immediate changes to public transport requirement.

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/guidance-for-transport-operators/#>

Northern Ireland: Measures on public transport remain the same, with masks and distancing still a legal requirement.

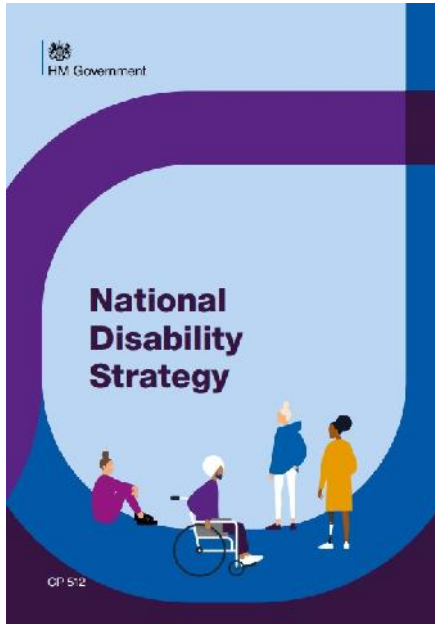
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/taxonomy/term/203>



National Disability Strategy

This is the Government policy paper published on 28 July that "sets out the actions the government will take to improve the everyday lives of all disabled people". Passenger transport is the subject of a number of actions in the section Part 1: practical steps now to improve disabled people's everyday lives. There is one reference to community transport which reads: "Tackling shortages in community

transport drivers - Community Transport services are essential for many people's independence, yet we know that some organisations struggle to recruit drivers qualified to drive their vehicles. DfT will work with the Community Transport Association and with other stakeholders to understand this issue better, and to support the sector to continue its vital work." <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-disability-strategy/part-1-practical-steps-now-to-improve-disabled-peoples-everyday-lives>



Government Signposting to Community Transport - Good Idea but What Useful Value?

For some time now the Government's website has included a 'useful' search facility to "Find out about community transport services and Shopmobility". This works by a postcode search and applies to England and Wales only. The search merely links enquirers to the top page of their local city or borough council website. This might work for Unitaries, but otherwise as CT is not generally funded by this local government tier, there is no certainty that the website contains any reference to CT at all (though Shopmobility is more likely to figure). So this facility has minimal value, unless: (a) it links to actual local transport or CT webpages, more often found at county or PTE level; (b) each city or borough authority uploads CT information on its site (some do, but most do not), (c) CT services are included in Traveline or

open data sources (d) the search facility uses an entirely different database of CT providers such as that offered by CTA at <https://ctauk.org/find-ct-provider/>. This latter item has its flaws as well however. A Lancaster postcode search with a 10-mile radius of the city centre suggests that the nearest CT is Muncaster Microbus, which is based in Millom, Cumbria (50 miles away)! Due to some error, it also shows Muncaster Microbus as being located (Google Maps) in the centre of Lancaster, possibly because Millom has an 'LA' prefix postcode. <https://www.gov.uk/community-transport-services-shopmobility>

[Home](#) > [Housing and local services](#) > [Local councils and services](#)

Find out about community transport services and Shopmobility

Many areas have community transport services for people who have difficulty using public transport. These include door-to-door transport and trips to shopping centres.

Enter a postcode
For example SW1A 2AA

[Find](#)

[Find a postcode on Royal Mail's postcode finder](#)

What you need to know

- Available in England and Wales only

Coalfield Community Transport Becomes Living Wage Employer
Cumnock Chronicle: "Coalfield Community Transport is now an accredited Living Wage employer. Their Living Wage commitment will see everyone working at the local company receive a minimum hourly wage of £9.50. This rate is higher than the statutory minimum for over 23s of £8.91 per hour introduced in April 2021. The real Living Wage is an hourly rate set independently and updated annually and is calculated according to the real costs of living. Project Coordinator Susan Dever said: 'Coalfield Community

Transport recognise the significant part our employees play in delivering vital community transport throughout East Ayrshire. Our ability to move to become a Living Wage employer is as a direct result of the hard work undertaken by all staff to put Coalfield Community Transport on a firm financial footing. Making this change is something myself and the Trustees are delighted to do.' Peter Kelly, Director of the Poverty Alliance said: 'We are delighted to congratulate Coalfield Community Transport on becoming a Living Wage employer. I hope more organisations follow their lead by becoming accredited.'" <https://www.cumnockchronicle.com/news/19457601-coalfield-community-transport-becomes-living-wage-employer/>



Ashbourne Community Transport's Little Bus Company is Now Ready to Move up a Gear In Your Area: "A businessman with a background behind the bar has been brought in to help Ashbourne Community Transport expand its events and entertainment calendar. Paul Duke, who ran Ashbourne's Artisan Café Bar in St John Street until the pandemic, will help the charity offer a new line-up of transport opportunities to events and attractions in the region through the subsidiary firm Little Bus Company. As the business and events development coordinator, Paul has already been working with pubs, campsites and other attractions in the area to organise scheduled trips for groups and individuals and he will also be expanding the range of transport options offered to people who need to get to social events, weddings, sporting fixtures and festivals. The Little Bus Company, which is run from Ashbourne Community Transport's base in the Airfield Industrial Estate, was established to help fund the lifeline charity, which provides rural transport services for

isolated passengers, alongside its Derbyshire Connect service, which offers subsidised, sustainable travel around the area. While Derbyshire Connect is supported by Derbyshire County Council to offer trips for a few pounds, Ashbourne Community Transport, which provides a door-to-door support service, has seen its funding dramatically cut in recent years. This, says Paul, is why the Little Bus Company's growth is so important, as it helps ensure the vital rural services can continue. He said: 'Funding for Ashbourne Community Transport is decreasing all the time, so I've been brought on board to increase private hire and more social hire for the Little Bus Company. And the profit from that is all filtered back to Ashbourne Community Transport, to enable us to carry on with the services that we already do. We all know we have a population that's ageing more, so the need for Ashbourne Community Transport is increasing all the time, so we're having to find more and more ways to fund it. It's about making sure Ashbourne Community Transport can do the work it already does. I've been in Ashbourne for eight years and in the short time I've known it, Little Bus Company is something of an unknown entity in the town, very few people know that it exists and what it's for.' Paul says the minibus service, which competes with a series of other local operators, is ideal for sports teams, social events and private functions, which are all expected to become big business once the economy is able to recover from the pandemic. But, he adds, the firm is also keen on promoting sustainable travel and by running Little Bus Company alongside its subsidised Derbyshire Connect service, it may encourage people to make fewer car journeys. He said: 'Ashbourne has a variety of transport problems and promoting families etc. to use one vehicle to come into town as opposed to sitting in traffic jams and also adding to parking problems, this works well for lots of environmental reasons. One of my biggest points about Little Bus Company is wondering why sports teams are taking several vehicles to an away game, when one 16-seater bus will carry all of them and all their kit, from venue to venue.' Events coming up in Little Bus Company's calendar include Utttoxeter Racecourse's Ladies Day on Friday, July

23 - and more events are being added all the time. To find out more, or to arrange a trip, visit www.ashbournelittlebusco.co.uk or call 01335 300670." <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/paul-gets-on-board-with-big-ambitions-for-towns-transport-charity/>



Teme Wheels Appealing for Crowdfunding

Malvern Observer: "A number of community crowdfunding projects across Malvern, Tenbury and Upton are appealing for donations. One of them would bring an electric vehicle service to Tenbury. The project, by community transport charity Teme Wheels, aims to raise nearly £44,000 to set up and implement an electric MPV (with wheelchair capability) service for the local rural community. The charity has just over a week left to hit their target. Working in partnership with crowdfunding platform Spacehive, Malvern Hills District Council has pledged £22,450 from the People Make Places – Ticket to Ride Fund which supports transport projects that are citizen-led and community-based. As part of the fund, the council has made a pot of £150,000 available over three years and across six rounds of funding. The maximum amount pledged to a project will be £50,000 or 50 per cent of the total project costs. The rest of the funding comes from communities, local businesses and foundations. Anyone can contribute by chipping in as little as £2 to help a project on its way to success. Now in the second round of funding, the aim is to boost connectivity of communities in the districts by improving local people's ability to travel to services and open up opportunities for social interaction. Also, to promote

independence and self-care, as well as empower communities by creating an environment where people stay healthy for longer. Spacehive will also be running a programme of events for anyone who is interested in learning more about crowdfunding...The deadlines for the crowdfunding projects are different and can be found on the Spacehive website, visit www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs/new_s for more information." <https://malvernobserver.co.uk/news/can-you-help-community-projects-across-malvern-tenbury-and-upton-appealing-for-crowdfunding/>



Totnes Walker, 79, Conquers 181 Dartmoor Tors for Charity

BBC: "A 79-year-old man has completed an epic challenge of walking up more than 180 Dartmoor tors for charity. John Holl, started his on-off walk with friends in August 2020 at Aish Tor and completed the journey at Yes Tor on Thursday. Tors are the granite outcrops dotted around Dartmoor - High Willhays Tor is the highest at 621m (2,040ft). Mr Holl expects to raise more than £4,000 in sponsorship for the Totnes community transport, Bob the Bus. 'I am delighted, I've really enjoyed our walks,' he said, toasting the end with a bottle of champagne. Mr Holl dreamt up the challenge with friends on one of their regular moorland treks. 'It's been very rewarding with jolly good companionship,' he said. The walking has gone smoothly apart from one day when a river burst its banks in torrential rain and they abandoned the walk. The number of tors conquered on each of the 29 treks has varied from a handful to 10, depending on the distances involved. Mr Holl and his friends stuck to the paths laid out in the Dartmoor guide by writer William Crossing, topping a total of 181 tors. The exact number of tors on Dartmoor varies depending on which source is consulted but Mr Holl believes he has

conquered most of them apart from a number of inaccessible tors including Vixen Tor where public access is not allowed."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-57680602>



Three Towns in Devon Given Funding to Help Recover from the Effects of the Pandemic
Planet Radio: "Three towns in South Hams are to be given a total of more than £120,000 to help them recover from the effects of the pandemic and lockdowns. South Hams District Council approved the funding for Dartmouth, Kingsbridge and Totnes after all five towns in the district were invited to submit bids of up to £50,000. The money comes from the government's Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) scheme which supports businesses not covered by other grants or where more funding is needed. Dartmouth, Kingsbridge and Totnes applied and all were successful. Cllr Judy Pearce, leader of South Hams District Council, said: 'The bids had to follow the same rules as the Additional Restrictions grants, which were quite restrictive, so it is an absolute credit to those towns that put the effort and thought into their bids that they have been successful. Formal letters have now been sent out to the towns. This was a brilliant offer from us and well done to Totnes, Dartmouth and Kingsbridge for seizing that opportunity.' Each of the towns will use the money to target specific projects which are in need of support [including] Totnes - £50,000 to support the community transport scheme, including a trial park and ride at King Edward VI Community College..."

<https://planetradio.co.uk/greatest-hits/devon/news/three-towns-in-devon-given-funding-to-help-recover-from-the-effects-of-the-pandemic/>



Funding Lifeline for Team Behind Town's Project Food Appeal

Midweek Herald: "Honiton's community initiative to provide food for those in need received a major boost this week. A critical cash donation of £500 was made to Project Food by Colin and Sam Eaton at the Honiton Hearing Centre in New Street. These funds will go a long way to securing the future of the scheme. Project Food champion Sharon Thorne was delighted and 'extremely grateful' for the support. She told the Herald: 'This is an amazing gesture of support from Honiton Hearing Centre. I can't tell you how much this means to what we are trying to do. "It is extremely generous of Colin and Sam to get behind Project Food in this way. Thank you so much.'" Colin said: 'We are a longstanding Honiton business and we have given support in the past to the bowls club, the Honiton Lions and the Devon Freewheelers - and have been very happy to do so. Now, with the pandemic having such an impact on all our lives, we felt we had to get involved and help Sharon, who we know well. Sharon is the deputy manager of the Honiton-based TRIP community transport organisation, which works to reduce rural isolation and loneliness in East Devon. She had the initial idea for Project Food. She told the Herald: 'At Christmas we identified that a lot of people would be on their own and the Christmas meal normally provided by volunteers at the Beehive would not be happening because of Covid. So on Christmas Day with a group of community volunteers we delivered over 90 three-course hot meals across East Devon to people who were on their own and to those

who could not afford it.' This spontaneous effort became known as Operation Rudolph and included food hampers and gift boxes, delivered by TRIP vehicles and drivers and funded by local people and local businesses. All of this work exposed a deeper community need for help and this led to Project Food being set up. The initiative has linked up with Honiton Foodsave, founded and run by Jake Bonetta and now based at Honiton Family Church, just off the High Street and also Honiton Foodbank, based in the King's Centre. Honiton Foodsave's core mission is to stop food being wasted. Jake said: 'We collect waste food from supermarkets and give it out for free to anyone in the community. No referrals are needed, no questions are asked.' The idea is for Project Food meals to be produced and distributed from Honiton Foodsave's hub at the Family Church. The funds donated by Colin and Sam, along with generous donations from the Allhallows charity and Dean Barrow, an accountant at Vernon Barrow Ltd, will help towards the cost of a new kitchen at the church. But more money is needed to make the new kitchen a reality. There are collection pots at Porkies, Honiton Hearing Centre, the TRIP offices in New Street and at the Wine Bar in the High Street, where donations will be welcome."

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/honiton-hearing-centre-backs-project-food-8090806>



Nottingham CT Wants to Hear Mansfield Residents' Views
 Mansfield & Ashfield Chad: "A new survey has been launched to help a local transport operator understand what kind of service is needed in Mansfield. CT4N Charitable Trust is aware of the need for an affordable and accessible community transport service in Mansfield and is seeking feedback from individuals and organisations in the town so that it can

secure sufficient funding and plan its future operations. The survey, which will be open until Friday August 13, hopes to hear from residents and community organisations in the area who are having difficulties accessing transport. With 25 per cent of Mansfield households not having access to a car and bus and taxi fares increasing, more households than ever may be facing social isolation. Managing director Ian Combella explains: 'We know that transport in the Mansfield area can be a barrier to people accessing services and meeting up socially, so we want to tailor our services to those at risk of being excluded. Transport is a vital factor in enabling people to get to work or college, to healthcare locations and for shopping and making social contact.' Non-profit community transport services have been proven to assist in the regeneration of deprived areas, increasing levels of accessibility and community cohesion and aiding the work of local voluntary and community organisations. 'We would like to invite anyone from Mansfield to answer a few simple questions and we want to hear from individuals or community organisations who might be having transport difficulties.' Ian continued. 'For those who find that buses or taxis might be too expensive, or people with mobility and sensory impairments who may struggle with getting into a vehicle in the first place. Community transport can assist in all these cases and we are already working with a group of stakeholders in Mansfield including Mansfield CVS. We are currently considering funding options to hopefully enable a new service to be launched in Mansfield in the coming months.' Any individual or organisation can participate in the survey which can be accessed online here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CT4NMansfield>

Alternatively anyone can contact CT4N Charitable Trust by email mansfield@ct4n.co.uk or phone 01623 573800 if you prefer to speak to a member of staff directly. Further details about this project can also be found on their website www.ct4n.co.uk/charity. <https://www.chad.co.uk/news/people/community-transport-operator-wants-to-hear-mansfield-residents-views-3313814>



Australia - Great Revival Shop generosity drives community cars

Mirage News: "Giving new life to more than just pre-loved clothes, bric-a-brac and homewares, the Great Revival Shop in Tanunda has been providing funding lifelines to numerous community causes for almost 30 years. 'Community generosity through the Rotary donation bins around the local area enable us to stock the Shop, which generates the funds that we are then able to donate to community causes,' explains Levene Fechner, Great Revival Shop management committee volunteer. The iconic 100% volunteer operated enterprise had historically supported Barossa palliative care initiatives, which has in recent years transitioned to support for the Barossa and Light Community Transport car service operated through The Barossa Council. 'We know the cars are being well used and updated and providing a local service to local people,' reflects Don Farley, Great Revival Shop management committee volunteer. Since 2012 the Great Revival Shop management committee has donated \$127,500 to the Barossa and Light Community Transport program, which provides a door to door transport service for people living within The Barossa Council and Light Regional Council areas who are transport disadvantaged. 'We are continually striving toward ensuring our community, particularly our vulnerable community members, have access to the resources they need to lead a safe, healthy, inclusive and connected lifestyle, which our Community Transport program facilitates,' said Mayor Bim Lange. 'Thanks to the generosity of the Great Revival Shop we are able to offer the service even more widely than we otherwise would be able to.

While the Barossa and Light Community Transport program is funded by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health Commonwealth Home Support Programme, State Government Department of Human Services and both Barossa and Light Regional Councils, it is the generosity of community partnerships such as that with the Great Revival Shop and through the dedication of the volunteer team of drivers that really make the service what it is." <https://www.miragenews.com/great-revival-shop-generosity-drives-community-588741/>



Ryedale Community Transport Welcomes Patron

Kirkbymoorside Town Blog - From Ryedale Community Transport: "We are delighted to welcome Christopher Legard, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, as Ryedale Community Transport's first Patron. Chris lives at his family home, Scampston Hall near Malton which includes the award-winning visitor attraction Scampston Walled Garden. He served as High Sheriff of North Yorkshire for 2018/19 and was appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire in 2019. On his appointment Chris said 'I am honoured and delighted to be asked to be patron of Ryedale Community Transport, who do so much for the local community and I look forward to being part of the team in the future.' The Charity has recently secured funding, for the next five years, from The National Lottery Community Fund to develop an on-demand Dial & Ride Service in the Ryedale area called 'The Ryedale Rover'. The Ryedale Rover will be an evolving service which can expand and develop as demand grows for its use. It is hoped that when fully implemented it will provide new transport routes throughout Ryedale at an affordable price. Chris joined the trustees and staff to welcome back on to fleet some of the newly branded 'Ryedale Rover' buses. He handed over the keys of the newest minibus on fleet to Philip. Further details on Ryedale Community

Transport, their services and also how to volunteer can be found on the website or call them on 01653 698888 for more information."

<https://www.kirkbymoorside.info/ryedale-community-transport-welcomes-patron/> & <https://www.gazetteherald.co.uk/news/19454634.community-charity-welcomes-first-patron/>



Dumfries and Galloway Public Transport Set for Shake-up after Council Report Criticism

Daily Record: "Public transport services in Dumfries and Galloway are set for a shake-up after being heavily criticised in a council report. A new sustainable model of operation is being sought because the current set-up is 'disjointed, inefficient, costly and difficult to navigate for individuals'. Those are the words of Douglas Kirkpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway Council's transportation manager, who has been working hard to try and improve travel for the region's residents. He produced a report for the council's Communities Committee where councillors discussed a revised partnership approach to operating buses across the region. Public transport is currently a complex mixture of commercially provided and public funded services, with each linked to the other. Mr Kirkpatrick told councillors: 'I have spoken with the bus operators and there's a realisation out there that this whole model needs to change. We're suggesting this new partnership model is the way forward. I think we've got full buy-in from the operators, certainly the local bus operators at this time.' The plan is to continue using private bus companies in the most cost-effective way and, where council buses or other operators are being under-utilised, a co-ordinated partnership should be developed to maximise usage and deliver a more sustainable network. Where no bus service exists, responsive solutions should

be developed and operated by third sector community transport operators, council buses and the community. SWestrans, the group set up in Dumfries by Transport Scotland to deliver better services, will be a lead partner with the council in transitioning from the current model to the new one..."

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/dumfries-galloway-public-transport-set-24478064>



Gwent Partners Launch New Transport to Health Project

CTA: "A new project has been set up to support community transport to hospitals and other NHS premises across the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area. Transport providers can apply for grant funding available through the 'Transport to Health' project from Monday 19th July 2021 to support the growth and development of accessible and inclusive transport. The funding is available to existing community transport enterprises, to support the development of new patient transport schemes and to encourage new partnerships within the sector. Community transport will be beneficial for residents who need to access healthcare sites for appointments, or to visit loved ones. The project is a partnership between the Health Board (ABUHB), Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO), Community Transport Association (CTA), Torfaen Voluntary Alliance (TVA) and Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO). GAVO has appointed a Regional Community Transport Coordinator, Faye Mear, to manage the project, she said: 'Through my previous work, I have seen first-hand the positive impact community transport schemes can have to enable residents to get to appointments when other travel options are limited or unviable. It's exciting to be part of a project to widen community transport

provision across the Health Board's whole area.' Gemma Lelliott, Director for Wales for Community Transport Association, said: 'As we navigate a new reality in the wake of Covid 19, it has never been so important to safeguard and develop transport solutions that truly work for the communities we serve. We know that community transport provides a lifeline to people living in the Health Board's area and we are excited to be part of this new partnership approach to supporting and growing this vital form of transport. We look forward to supporting new and existing community transport operators to develop and improve connections for patients, visitors and staff accessing health settings across the region.' To apply for funding, please complete the application pack which can be accessed on GAVO's website:

<https://www.gavo.org.uk/t2hgrant/>

<https://ctauk.org/transport-to-health-project-launch/>



Tributes to Speysound Stalwart Lewis Thomson

The Strathspey Herald: "Tributes have flowed this week to one of the strath's true gentlemen after the news of Lewis Thomson's death in Central Scotland. For many years a very popular resident of Kinraig, Mr Thomson had given selfless service to so many local causes, not least Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport Company – for whom he continued to volunteer after a successful part-time career – and the Rotary Club of Spey Valley, with whom he was an especially popular member. In latter years he shone in his own gentle limelight as a presenter with Speysound Radio, specialising in outdoor broadcasts where he interviewed local people from a huge range of professions and backgrounds..."



Dereham Community Car Scheme Appeals for Volunteers

Dereham Times: "Volunteers are being sought to join a community car scheme in Dereham. The town council has appealed for people who have a driver's licence and want to help others to get involved and help others make 'essential journeys', which include trips to hospitals, doctors' surgeries, dentists, opticians and chiropodists. A small fare is payable by the passenger, which covers about half the costs of the scheme. The other half is made up by Dereham Town Council and Breckland Council. A council spokesman said: 'The community car scheme is up and running, however we are in need of more drivers to cover the volume of requests being received. If you think you may be able to help, please get in touch.' Anyone interested can call co-ordinator Janet Newell on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am to 1pm on 07827 972163, or email

generalenquiries@derehamtowncouncil.org"

<https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/dereham-community-car-scheme-volunteer-appeal-8124762>



Tendring Shuttle Bus Service Launches Across the District
 Clacton & Frinton Gazette: "A new shuttle service has launched to provide residents from across the district with a more seamless form of travel. The Tendring Shuttle, which covers the entirety of the district, is new initiative from Tendring Community Transport, which aims to make travel more accommodating. The service, free to anyone with a valid bus pass, can be booked for shopping, medical appointments and social outings, or simply used to visit friends or family. The scheme is in partnership with Harwich Connexions, the Essex Community Foundation, the National Lottery Community Fund and the North East Essex CCG. Its introduction adds to the community group's current roster of transport services, including its Dial-a-Ride and Hospital Hopper services. The Tendring Community Transport group is also now on the lookout for new volunteers who can drive their 15-seater minibuses. To find out more about Tendring Community Transport visit dial-a-ride.org or call 01255 436962."

<https://www.clactonandfringtongazette.co.uk/news/19458727.tendring-shuttle-bus-service-launches-across-district/>



New Community Cars Approved by Wem Town Council

Whitchurch Herald: "Wem Town Council...Councillors...discussed reintroducing the 'community cars' programme back into Wem. The proposal was to consider permitting the town council to act as the co-ordinator for Wem area's community car scheme for a three-month trial period. [Town clerk] Penny O'Hagan said the project could serve as a continuation of the support provided during the Covid-19 pandemic. 'I see this project as a link on from the whole ethos,' she said. 'This is a vital service which will allow

us to support the community. We would only work with new passengers and when the passenger is in contact with the driver they will speak to them direct. All we do on a monthly basis is receive the drivers' forms and check in with Shropshire Council. Councillors agreed to run the Community Cars scheme for a three-month trial."

<https://www.whitchurchherald.co.uk/news/wem/19400177.new-benches-community-cars-approved-wem-town-council/>



Boston CT benefits from C2C2C Bike Ride Success for 2021

East Midlands Business Link: "Earlier this month over 470 'cyclists' set out to ride 100 miles in a day celebrating the 10th birthday of the C2C2C charity bike ride. The event, which has just celebrated its 10th ride, is an annual event organised by a group of volunteers from local businesses in Lincolnshire. The ride is open to anyone who wants to give it a go and sets off from Nettleham Rugby Club, across the beautiful Lincolnshire Wolds to the coast and back again – all in a day's work. This year over 470 individuals from across Lincolnshire rode the event and a great day was had by all. C2C2C was established in 2011 as a way to get more people cycling, raise some money for charity and have fun. Since 2011 the ride has grown and grown, becoming one of the most popular events in the sporting calendar in Lincolnshire. David Burgess, one of the original organisers of the event, said: 'In 2011 there were just a handful of us who decided to plan this bike ride across the County for a bit of fun. We soon realised the event was becoming very popular and started to plan and adapt it accordingly. We now have a team of nine volunteer organisers all from local businesses in Lincoln who coordinate the event and over fifty volunteers who help with the event on the day. Since that first ride over 4,000 people have ridden C2C2C,

with over 1,000 people riding 100 miles for the first time. All these riders have helped raise over £160,000 for local charities since 2011 and we are all extremely proud of these numbers.' The ride has raised over £25,000 this year and with it being in its 10th year the money is being donated to 10 local charities [including] Boston Community Transport... Angela Gould, representative from Boston Community Transport attended the event and was waiting at the finish line for the riders to return. She said: 'We would like to express our thanks to C2C2C for choosing our Charity and the invitation to attend. It was an excellent event and extremely well organised. We would also like to thank C2C2C's sponsors without whom the event wouldn't have been possible. Boston Community Transport are a very small charity and really appreciate events such as this supporting our cause. We rely on grants and fundraising to operate, so to be chosen means the world.'

<https://www.eastmidlandsbusinesslink.co.uk/mag/ooo/c2c2c-bike-ride-success/>



Carers Take Time at the Show to Thank their Supporters

Midweek Herald: "Honiton carers spent an enjoyable National Thank You Day at the Devon County Show, with Valerie Lloyd representing Honiton Carers Support Group in the Great Devon Parade as a thank-you for the additional support provided in the community during the Covid pandemic. Honiton carers would like to thank the community for supporting them throughout the year. The group also thanked the volunteers who work tirelessly and the group's friends and members for joining in with everything the group does.

Thanks were also expressed to TRIP Community Transport for getting the Honiton Carers Support Group there and back safely."

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/honiton-carers-support-group-8135032>



Third of Blue/Green £20m Pot not Spent

Belfast Telegraph: "Over a third of a £20m fund designed for blue/green infrastructure was not spent last year. It comes amid severe financial pressures facing Stormont departments that have been worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic. Blue/Green infrastructure refers to land and water spaces and is used in relation to urban planning aimed at improving the environment and promoting 'active travel'. Of the £20m fund for blue/green infrastructure, £5m was spent on a Covid revitalisation programme across all councils, £2.4m went to greenway projects across three council areas and £1.3m was spent on a pilot of electric minibuses for community transport. Some £3.7m went towards foot and cycle ways, pop-up cycle lanes, crossings and social distancing measures, £150,000 for flood prevention schemes at Forth River and Belfast Castle and £100,000 was given to Belfast City Council for the Belfast Bikes scheme. A total of £54,000 was spent on electric vehicles to replace end-of-life petrol and diesel vehicles within the Department for Infrastructure's fleet and £53,000 went towards planting and greening schemes. This means, of the £20m, only £12.75m was spent — some 64% of the pot. Infrastructure Minister Nicola Mallon said: 'I would like to have delivered full spend against this budget and my officials have canvassed widely for projects, but spending often requires complex preliminary work to be sufficiently advanced in what is an innovative area. I

am also keen to support Council Greenway proposals, but it is important that councils work with stakeholders to develop their proposals to the point that they are ready to be built. The outturn is substantial and this, together with my commitment to a £20m budget for this year, will continue to build momentum for this kind of investment. I recently announced £2.5m funding for Greenways this financial year and I am keen to make more allocations to schemes that are in a position to start construction this year.'



Alliance infrastructure spokesperson Andrew Muir said Ms Mallon needs to fund more active travel. 'Spending on cycling infrastructure in Northern Ireland remains totally insufficient. Last year, the Department spent around £3 per person on cycling infrastructure, which is nowhere near good enough. As part of the Alliance Party's Green New Deal, we would raise that to £10 per head by 2025 at the latest,' he said. 'Figures out last week show that the rates of walking, cycling and public transport usage in Northern Ireland haven't budged over the past ten years. If we're serious about modal shift, the Minister needs to start investing more of her budget to active travel.' Last November the charity Sustrans said Northern Ireland has the lowest level of official investment in walking and cycling in the UK."

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/third-of-bluegreen-20m-pot-not-spent-40658545.html>

USA – Dial-a-Rides Assisting with Climate Emergencies

In Ventura, Dial-a-Ride is able to effect emergency evacuations for those older people living in areas at risk from wildfires:

<https://eu.vcstar.com/story/news/2021/07/14/senior-advocate-have-plan-place-emergencies-especially-wildfires/7958242002/>

And in Madera, California, Dial-a-Ride is providing trips to cooling centres in periods of hot weather:

<http://www.maderatribune.com/single-post/madera-cooling-center-activated-1>



Wisbech Lockdown Volunteer Drivers Share Experiences

Cambs Times: Letter from Lynn Pryer, Coordinator of Wisbech Community Car Scheme: "The drivers of the Wisbech Community Car Scheme met for their first meeting since Covid lockdown restrictions began. All six drivers and the secretary/treasurer attended and discussed the problems they had experienced during lockdown. The scheme had closed at the beginning of lockdown in March 2020 due to some of the drivers having to shield for their own benefit or that of their family. The scheme had work for a short period in the latter part of 2020 but went into lockdown again at the end of the year due to one of the drivers having taken someone who tested positive for Covid. However, the scheme was able to reopen towards the end of January when all the drivers had had their first vaccinations and allowed a couple of weeks for them to take effect. All drivers are now fully vaccinated and hold a DBS check. The scheme which covers Wisbech and some of the areas adjacent to Wisbech has been busy since January 2021. It has driven more than 10,000 miles so far taking people to and from medical appointments, shopping and, since the easing of restrictions, to hairdressers. As we have come out of lockdown it has become apparent that hospitals are endeavouring to fit in as many appointments as they can. This has resulted in some of our drivers starting at 5am to get people to Papworth or Addenbrooke's for 7am. Whilst the scheme operates Monday to Friday we are being asked more regularly now for a Saturday or Sunday appointment at

hospitals. Unfortunately, this is not always possible as all the members of the scheme are volunteers including the coordinator, who is also a driver and whose office is her spare bedroom. Anyone wishing to learn more about the scheme or who would like to become a volunteer driver can either email the coordinator at lynncarserv@gmail.com. Or they can call 07541 400780 and leave a message." <https://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/readers-views-on-policing-cambs-8161444>



New Minibus for Local Charity thanks to Essex County Council Covid Response Fund

Press Release: "Community360 is celebrating after taking delivery of a new community minibus. They have been helped to continue to operate a safe and responsive community transport service thanks to extra funding from the Essex County Council Covid Response Fund. Essex County Council has received funding from the Department of Health and Social Care to support the increased demand on voluntary and community sector services during the pandemic. £44,000 has been awarded to Community360 to fund a new minibus as well as to help develop its valuable transport service to the community. Tracy Rudling, CEO at Community360 said: 'This vital funding support will enable us to continue to offer enhanced Community Transport services for our beneficiaries. So many people in our community struggle to get to places through lack of accessible transport, this new minibus will have a huge impact on what we can offer and will greatly enhance our ability to provide services for those disadvantaged in our area.' She added: 'Voluntary and Community Services really stepped up during the pandemic to provide support to communities. We helped people to stay connected and provided first line, self-organised community support to those in

need. We also provided transport to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people to vaccination appointments in Colchester and Maldon. Moving forward we want to continue and improve our transport offering and this crucial funding will really help us to do that'. 'We are very pleased to have been able to support Community360 with funding for a replacement van and other necessary equipment' said Cllr McKinlay, Deputy Leader of ECC and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnership and Performance. She added: 'They have done a fantastic job, which has included providing transport to those who are particularly vulnerable and need to be more isolated when travelling. We are very grateful to the staff and volunteers for the valuable service they provide.' As well as offering help with shopping trips and medical appointments, their social excursions for Community Transport members will also now recommence to encourage people to re-engage socially, helping to combat loneliness. With more minibuses on the road, to help with social distancing, staff and volunteer drivers have also been issued with recognisable uniforms to increase passenger assurance and to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. C360 have also launched a new recruitment campaign and looking for volunteer transport drivers. 'Unfortunately, many of our drivers stepped down during the pandemic for various reasons and some have returned to work from being furloughed,' said Tracy. 'Our volunteers play such an important role in being able to offer this service. Therefore, if you are considering volunteering or have some spare time, please come forward. It will be rewarding, fulfilling and give you a real sense of purpose.' For more information on volunteering contact: <https://www.community360.org.uk/services/volunteering/>."





If you require any advice or support please
contact us on 01772-204988 or email
john.atkins@taspartnership.com