



**Community  
Transport at**



## Community Transport Newsletter No.13 October 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 be of interest to the wider CT sector.

Back issues of these newsletters are uploaded on our website:

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

### Changes to HGV and Bus Driving Tests from Autumn 2021

DVSA: "Some rules about learning to drive an HGV and bus or coach are going to change later in 2021. The changes affect:

- ) what you're allowed to learn to drive and take your driving test in and
- ) how the driving test works."

The key areas of change for CT drivers relate to tests for minibuses towing trailers, and Driver CPC tests. Full details here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/changes-to-hgv-and-bus-driving-tests-from-autumn-2021>



### Changes to the Highway Code: Rules on Using Motorways

DVSA: "For those that drive professionally, it's vital to stay up to date with the Highway Code. From today there are changes to the rules on using motorways, so it's as important as ever that you and your colleagues 'check the Code' – and continue to do so on a regular basis. The changes made as of today refer to guidance on smart motorways. A total of 33 existing rules will be amended and two new rules introduced, with a number of amendments made to the additional information annexes. These include:

- ) clearer advice on where to stop in an emergency
- ) the importance of not driving in a lane closed by a Red X
- ) the use of variable speed limits to manage congestion
- ) updated guidance on key factors that contribute to safety-related incidents, including unroadworthy vehicles, tailgating and driving in roadworks."

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/2f1131c>



Wales Rural Vision Podcast Series – Episode 2 – Adding Value to Rural Infrastructure  
Business News Wales: "This series of podcasts discusses key challenges facing rural Wales and priorities for policy identified in the Rural Vision for Wales produced by the WLGA Rural Forum in collaboration with the Centre for Welsh Politics and Society at Aberystwyth University as part of the Horizon 2020

ROBUST project. This second episode is hosted by Prof Carwyn Jones who is joined by Cllr Rosemarie Harris, Leader, Powys County Council, John Lloyd Jones OBE, Chair, National Infrastructure Commission for Wales, and Gemma Lelliott, Director, Community Transport Association Wales, to focus on rural infrastructure. The quality and coverage of infrastructure in rural Wales is a major constraint on social and economic development and a key factor in spatial inequalities. Limitations affect both conventional infrastructure, including utility grids and transport networks and new digital infrastructure for broadband and mobile phones. Capitalising on the opportunities for a Green Recovery and decarbonisation of homes and transport will rely on smarter grid networks and community-led initiatives will be important. This episode will discuss how the infrastructure supporting rural Wales can be strengthened and made more resilient to promote economic development and sustainable communities, help tackle inequalities, and prepare for the challenges of climate change."

<https://businessnewswales.com/wales-rural-vision-podcast-series-episode-2-adding-value-to-rural-infrastructure/>



## New Community Transport Vehicle Unveiled in Powys Town

Powys County Times: "Builth Wells Community Support unveiled its new community transport vehicle last week earlier this month. Nicknamed 'Evie', the electric vehicle can transport people and wheelchairs and was officially unveiled alongside the official opening of the community support's new premises at 1 Groe Street. Evie and her two drivers have been paid for from a grant of nearly £100,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund in Wales. Builth Wells Community Support successfully applied for a £99,795 grant to cover buying, running and driving the new electric vehicle over the next three years. Evie will be working away alongside the volunteer car service, carrying passengers to appointments and delivering shopping and prescriptions.

Peter James, the High Sheriff of Powys, cut Evie's ribbons in front of volunteers and onlookers. Builth mayor Gwyn Davies then cut a ribbon to officially open 1 Groe Street as the new home for community support in town. The charity moved in during the pandemic and were delighted to finally show off their new home which is centrally placed in Builth, directly opposite the main Groe car park. Their team of volunteers also run a lunch club, foodbank and organise shopping and prescription delivery. Cathy Warlow, manager at Builth Wells Community Support, said: 'Evie is such a great asset for us and the community – we are so grateful to players of the National Lottery for the grant. Now we will be able to help so many people not to be isolated and to get out and about again. Our wonderful volunteers have kept things going but we are always looking for more so if anyone wants to get involved do get in touch.' John Rose, director of the National Lottery Community Fund in Wales, added: "National Lottery players raise over £30 million each week for good causes throughout the UK. Last year we funded over 8,000 projects across the UK to bring communities together. We are looking forward to hearing what the community of Builth Wells find for Evie to do and we were delighted they wanted funding for an electric vehicle as this will help them cut costs and reduce carbon emissions and so work in an environmentally responsible way, a subject close to our hearts here at the National Lottery Community Fund."

<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/19603719-new-community-transport-vehicle-unveiled-powys-town/>



## Highland Council has Announced a Pioneering new Dial-A-Bus Service for Communities in Nairnshire

Highland Council: "Highland Council has announced a pioneering new Dial-A-Bus service for communities in Nairnshire.

Wheels in Nairnshire (WiN) and Highland Council's Transport Co-ordination Unit have worked in partnership to create a visionary project to deliver demand responsive transport to Nairnshire communities, with the reintroduction of the Dial-a-Bus service to the area. The Highland Council is understood to be one of the first local authorities in the UK to have a fully electric, wheelchair accessible vehicle MPV (Nissan e-NV200) which will be used by WiN to deliver the service. At the same time, the project represents a significant cost saving to the Council in the delivery of the Dial-a-Bus contract, when compared to the traditional public service contract. The project includes the trialling of a Pay What You Can (PWYC) fare structure, which means that an inability to pay a fare is no barrier to transport. Chair of the Nairnshire Area Committee, Cllr Tom Heggie, said: 'This is a unique and innovative plan that encourages usage based on need rather than ability to pay. It also gives those who are able the opportunity to contribute more significantly to the lifeline service.' Highland Council's Senior Transport Officer Ali MacDonald said: 'Our team are constantly looking at alternative approaches to transport provision, recognising that traditional public transport delivery may not always be the best way to address the unique needs of a particular community. With this approach, we are facilitating a valuable service, and also involving communities directly in transport solutions. We are thrilled that WiN have taken the reins of this project, and that we can help them along the way.' Wheels in Nairnshire Dial-a-Bus Manager, Jon Wartnaby said: 'It's really great that Wheels in Nairnshire have been able to get this much needed and missed service back up and running again in conjunction with The Highland Council. In the short time we have been running the Dial-a-Bus in Nairnshire we have helped people get to medical appointments, do their shopping and meet up with friends and family they haven't seen in a long time. Every week we are getting busier and busier with new customers trying out the service. If you think you would like to give Dial-a-Bus or our volunteer car scheme a try, call us on 07716 214777 to book.' WiN has been operating the service since 5 July, with a full launch of the dedicated vehicle to

commence from 13 September 21. The Nairnshire Dial-a-Bus is available Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm."

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/13959/highland-council-has-announced-a-pioneering-new-dial-a-bus-service-for-communities-in-nairnshire>



### Transport Charity Staff 'run off their wheels' due to Unprecedented Demand

Press Release: "An award-winning transport charity serving the communities of parts of Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire has issued an urgent plea for more drivers with staff being 'run off their wheels' due to unprecedented demand. Tenbury Transport Trust has seen a huge increase in membership with the number of people signing up to take advantage of its scheme and has developed new partnerships with local organisations, with more in the pipeline. Its ongoing success recently saw the trust host a barbecue for volunteers, partners and friends to say thank you for all their hard work during a frenetic year - which has also resulted in the winning of three awards! Tenbury Transport Trust, based in Tenbury Wells, has served the local community for more than 10 years, providing a safe, professional, service for people who don't have adequate transport of their own. Wendy White, Chair of Trustees, said: 'It's been absolutely manic since January and we are delighted that more and more people are discovering and using us to support the transport needs of our community in a location which has little or no public transport. It's been an unprecedented year and really busy. We have had over 70 new clients and developed new working partnerships with Kyrebrook Daycare Centre and Haresbrook Park Care Home. We are always keen to welcome new partners and there will be more to follow shortly. News of our award wins was amazing and reflects

the professionalism and care which comes as standard from our volunteers and staff. We recently held a barbecue at the Green Meal on Oldwood Common, to say thank you to all those people who work so hard for the continued success of the trust and to help support our community. About 40 attended, volunteers, partners and friends of the trust. It was the ideal opportunity for us to show our appreciation to those people who have really been run off their wheels over the course of the year and were so instrumental in our awards success.' Wendy continued to explain about the successful development of the charity. 'Since January we have had a new management team in place and our office is really buzzing. We have welcomed two lovely people who have joined us as office volunteers but the one thing we are short of is drivers to meet the increasing demand and we would love to hear from anyone with a few hours to spare who would like to drive for us. Volunteers use their own cars for which they receive a mileage allowance or they can drive one of our minibuses on our regular bus routes. One of our highly valued minibus drivers, Suzy Pitt, a volunteer driver on our school contract, has recently resigned and will be greatly missed. We took the opportunity at the BBQ to present her with some flowers and wish her well in the future. She was a much-valued member of our team and we need someone to help fill that void. The trust now has so many clients that the need for more car and minibus drivers has become an important issue,' she added. 'We have launched a recruitment drive and would love to hear from anyone with time on their hands, would like to put something back into their community and work with a highly motivated team who really enjoy what they do. Drivers wanting to volunteer to drive the mini-buses must have the D1 category on their licence.' She also said the trust had an eye to the future and alternatively powered vehicles. 'We are mindful about the environment and originally looked into the idea of electric minibuses in 2020. There are more options now for "greening up the fleet" so we are keeping a watchful eye on progress. All the current research suggests that while it's alright for cars, the infrastructure locally is not yet in place for bigger vehicles like minibuses, particularly when taking into account the terrain around Tenbury. We are

keen to play our part in the green revolution and are following developments very closely with a view to changing our fleet when the time is right.' For further information about Tenbury Transport Trust, how to volunteer or become a client, visit <http://www.ttrust.org.uk/>, call 01584 810491 or pop in and see the team at the office in Teme Street Tenbury Wells."



#### Also this month from Tenbury... Tenbury Transport Leader John Driver not Charged up About Electric Vehicles

Ludlow Advertiser: "The man leading a bid to bring green community transport to the area has successfully got the funding needed for the Teme Wheels charity to be able to purchase an electric people carrier with wheelchair access. But retired engineer John Driver, who chairs Teme Wheels, says he is not convinced the dash to go electric is the best way and brings with it environment problems. 'The Government is backing electric and that is why we are going down this route,' said Mr Driver. The appeal for funding that included local donations has reached its target with days to spare. Mr Driver is not sure if electric is as great for the planet as people seem to think. He points out that the electricity will need to be generated and there is a question mark over if the National Grid will be able to cope. Mr Driver is also aware that the precious metals needed for the batteries will have to be mined at a cost to the environment and then transported. 'We do not know how long the batteries will last,' he said. 'Like the battery in a mobile phone they have a limited number of recharge cycles and then have to be disposed of and the batteries are not biodegradable.' He said new batteries will be very heavy and expensive

with the cost of a new battery pack likely to run into four figures. Even modern electric car technology provides a very limited range. There will also be an environmental and financial cost in taking petrol and diesels off the road and replacing them with new cars. It would be a major breakthrough if a way could be found so that existing petrol and diesel engines could be modified to run on 'green' fuel. Mr Driver believes that hydrogen power may be the best long term option although not without its problems. Scientists are looking at other alternatives that would cut carbon emissions to help save the planet."

<https://www.ludlowadvertiser.co.uk/news/19589922.tenbury-transport-leader-john-driver-not-charged-electric-vehicles/>



### Mobility Minibus Service Launched by Stephen Hawking Celebrates 25 years

Cambridge News: "An essential minibus service first launched by Professor Stephen Hawking is celebrating 25 years serving the city. Cambridge Dial-a-Ride, launched in 1996 by the Cambridge University professor, prides itself on going the extra mile to assist its members with mobility issues by helping them travel around the area. The charitable organisation, which has a fleet of minibuses, was originally established by the Zion Baptist Church in conjunction with Cambridge City Council, Cambridge Social Services and Huntington Health Commission with one leased bus. It now supports six minibuses and despite the Coronavirus crisis and three lockdowns, continues to go from strength to strength. Over the coming months it will mark its 25 years of service to the community. Bill Hughes, chair of the charity, said: 'Despite the national pandemic requiring us to

severely reduce our operations, which meant we could only transport members who had no alternative to getting their shopping, and to attend health appointments, we still achieved an "excellent" rating during a recent client survey. We assisted with transporting members and non-members to Covid vaccination and health appointments, as well as raising funds to help secure grant funding for replacement buses. I'm very proud of all the team, not only our current staff and volunteers, but everyone involved in the charity's successes over the past 25 years. We'll certainly be celebrating this important milestone over the coming months.' Office manager Johan Williams said: 'The secret to Cambridge Dial-a-Ride's longevity is its staff and volunteers who are passionate about the personal door-to-door service it offers and we have many regulars who have been members for years and just couldn't manage to be independent without the help of the team.' Trustee Linda Mills was invited 22 years ago to help out as a volunteer driver and 'the rest is history', she said. She continued: 'I really enjoy being part of this great team and have met some lovely members over the years. I enjoy meeting up with them for our various trips including our supermarket shopping outings which, I believe, are quite unique. With a door-to-door service, lifts fitted on all our minibuses and all our drivers trained in wheelchair and mobility scooter access and transportation, we can easily accommodate all those less mobile or who have difficulty accessing public transport.' Many people who use the service, which operates as a membership organisation, go to day centres or community groups, as well as to doctors, dentists and hairdresser appointments. People can also go shopping, including group travel to most big supermarkets in and around the city, visit family and friends, or is just the chance for an outing. It liaises with Cambridge Shopmobility, which can provide manual and electric wheelchairs and an escort service around the Grafton Centre, Grand Arcade and city centre. The service is continuing to offer to take both members and non-members to booked vaccination appointments. It says it would be delighted to take anyone with a first or second vaccination appointment, but unable to get there by yourself or via public transport,

free of charge. For further details, call the Cambridge Dial-a-Ride office on 01223 506335. For more information about the service or how to volunteer, visit [cambridgedialaride.org.uk.](https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/mobility-minibus-service-launched-stephen-21288280)"



### London Hire COVID-19 Support Vehicles find Favour with LAs

Route One: "London Hire has reported strong success among local authority customers in its accessible minibus-based mobile support vehicle product. It was conceived to raise awareness of COVID-19 and to provide and administer tests and vaccine doses, but has quickly expanded its reach to capture wider health and wellbeing matters. One bespoke example was recently supplied to Lambeth Council. It is focused not just on COVID-19, but is also geared up ready to support Lambeth residents in all manner of health-related topics and areas that the council wants to promote," says London Hire Area Sales Manager John Shier. He adds that the conversion starts with a coachbuilt Treka Mobility+ accessible minibus that includes a lift, climate control and sensory lighting. On the Lambeth vehicle, to that was added:

- ) Four tables with protective Perspex screens
- ) Eight seats
- ) Window blinds
- ) An inverter running six double electrical sockets with USB charging points
- ) A back-up mains charging connection
- ) An antibacterial fogging machine
- ) A 32in monitor and bespoke stand
- ) A cooler unit
- ) Full vinyl wrapping.

Mr Shier says that the Lambeth Council vehicle took approximately four weeks to

supply, with a further three days required to fit the wrap and the TV stand and unit. Each mobile support unit supplied by London Hire comes with a full maintenance package, including routine inspections and equipment servicing, 'echoing the level of support that we provide with all of our rental vehicles,' he adds. 'For the local authority customer, the same processes and procedures are already in place that they have with us on our accessible and LCV hires.' Besides London boroughs, London Hire has placed the model with customers in the North West of England and Scotland. Mr Shier adds that he is working on five more such vehicles, all with different specifications. 'Each one built is bespoke to each customer. To date, no two vehicles have been the same. This has been both a challenge and rewarding at the same time with sourcing different specification products. What it has taught us is that as specialist as an accessible vehicle is, there is scope for far more uses and opportunities than originally planned, perfectly demonstrating the versatility of the minibus.' Lambeth Council says that its vehicle will be deployed where COVID-19 vaccine take-up is lowest. Residents will also be able to visit the minibus to speak to a clinician or a COVID Wellbeing Ambassador, or to collect testing kits. The accompanying team members also give information, advice and guidance on a wide range of offers and opportunities that support health and wellbeing in the borough."

[https://www.route-one.net/news/london-hire-covid-19-support-vehicles-find-favour-with-las/?utm\\_source=routeone&utm\\_campaign=473aaf2f6d-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_04\\_21\\_08\\_14\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_584b65a2d5-473aaf2f6d-102224281](https://www.route-one.net/news/london-hire-covid-19-support-vehicles-find-favour-with-las/?utm_source=routeone&utm_campaign=473aaf2f6d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_04_21_08_14_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_584b65a2d5-473aaf2f6d-102224281)



**Bedale Community Minibus Applauds Work of Volunteers**  
 Darlington & Stockton Times: "The trustees of the Bedale Community Minibus (BCM) invited volunteer drivers, escorts, and administrative staff to a get together held at The Reubens, at Leeming Bar, to say thank you for their support. BCM became a registered charity in 2014, and acquired a minibus from the former Northallerton and District Voluntary Association. The charity now operates two minibuses, and all of the work is undertaken by volunteers, providing community transport for Bedale and district communities. It enables all residents, but particularly elderly and disabled people, to attend events, access weekly door-to-door shopping at Northallerton, and attend Glebe House surgery for doctor's appointments. Like all charities, its work has been restricted due to the Covid pandemic, and during this period, volunteer drivers undertook a weekly delivery service of prescriptions for patients who were self-isolating, and not able to collect them from the chemist. BCM do not receive financial support from local authorities or statutory organisations, and is funded entirely by its own efforts, with the exception of donations from the Bedale and Leeming Co-op, who on two occasions have given generously as a result of the Community Fund Scheme See [www.bedaleminibus.org.uk](http://www.bedaleminibus.org.uk) for more information."

<https://www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk/news/19584197.bedale-community-minibus-applauds-work-volunteers/>



**Wem Community Car Service 'Desperately Short' of Drivers**  
 Whitchurch Herald: "An appeal has been launched for drivers to sign up to Wem's Community Cars programme. The town council has recently taken on the co-ordination of the scheme, but is 'desperately short' of drivers for the service. A spokesman for Wem Town Council said without more drivers, people who need the service may have to be turned away. They said: 'The community car service is made up of dedicated volunteer drivers. Their role is to provide transport for people who, for various reasons, cannot use public transport. The scheme pays expenses and allows you to give as much or as little time as you like. The scheme provides essential transport e.g. doctor or optician appointments, shopping, visiting friends or relatives in hospital. You use your own car and costs are reimbursed every month. Wem Town Council has recently taken on the co-ordination of the community car scheme for the area. Currently the scheme is desperately short of volunteer drivers. Without more drivers coming forward we may have to turn people down who want to use this vital service.' To apply for the service, call 01939 232733 or email [info@wem.gov.uk](mailto:info@wem.gov.uk)." <https://www.whitchurchherald.co.uk/news/19559177.wem-community-car-service-desperately-short-drivers/>

**WEM COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME**

**CAN YOU HELP?  
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS  
NEEDED**

THE COMMUNITY CAR SERVICE IS MADE UP OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEER DRIVERS. THEIR ROLE IS TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR PEOPLE WHO, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, CANNOT USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT. THE SERVICE PAYS EXPENSES AND ALLOWS YOU TO GIVE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE TIME AS YOU LIKE.

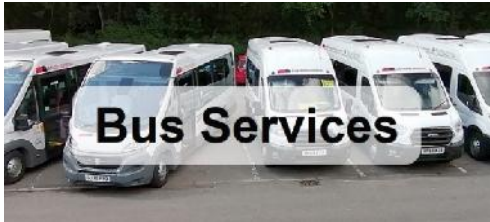
THE SERVICE PROVIDES ESSENTIAL TRANSPORT E.G. DOCTOR OR OPTICIAN APPOINTMENTS, SHOPPING, VISITING FRIENDS OR RELATIVES IN HOSPITAL. YOU USE YOUR OWN CAR & COSTS ARE REIMBURSED EVERY MONTH.

**APPLY FOR AN APPLICATION PACK TODAY!**

CALL 01939 232733  
OR EMAIL [info@wem.gov.uk](mailto:info@wem.gov.uk)

**Working Together with South Pennine Community Transport**  
 Transdev: "From Day One, here at TeamPennine, we said that we were keen to embrace fellow local operators to help us deliver quality local bus services. From Monday 13 September, our friends at South Pennine Community Transport will be helping us by running the 532 (Halifax-King Cross), with operations of the 514 (Halifax-Pellon & Wainstalls) passing to them shortly afterwards. There will be no changes to times or fares. This temporary arrangement will help us focus our colleague recruitment and vehicle improvement plans, whilst strengthening relations with a great local bus operator. We know our customers will be in good hands. We expect further customer benefits from this exciting partnership between our companies and more announcements will be made in the coming weeks and months. Thanks to all the team at South Pennine for their support."

<https://www.transdevbus.co.uk/teampennine/working-together-south-pennine-community-transport>



**Green Community Travel and Shopmobility Work Together in Yate to Aid Mobility Needs**  
 Gazette Series: "Two Yate-based companies aiding members in the community are combining their efforts to support each other after one received a grant from local council. Green Community Travel and Shopmobility have worked together for years with GCT enables people to access Shopmobility based in Yate Library meaning that people can use a mobility scooter to access the local shopping centre. Both are services that aim to reduce social isolation and loneliness and give people independence and make sure they can access their local community. Recently Shopmobility were awarded a grant from OneYou South Gloucestershire to cover the cost of an advert on two of Green Community Travel's vehicles. As the vehicles travel around Yate,

Chipping Sodbury and the surrounding areas it will advertise Shopmobility's valuable service. Jenny Bright, manager at Green Community Travel said: 'The joint service allows our passengers who do not have a mobility scooter to increase their independence as they can get door to door transport to the local shops and access the whole shopping centre. We're really pleased we can advertise this valuable service to our local community, both companies reduce social isolation and loneliness and enable people to retain their independence.' Sheridan Crew Project Manager at Shopmobility added: 'Green Community Transport (GCT) provides an invaluable service by transporting people including those with a disability that enables access to our service and other activities that enhance social engagement. Shopmobility recognises that community transport are able to bring people living in rural areas to our service which may be for those without access to a car or public transport. Both GCT and Shopmobility mutually address significant barriers to transport and wider travel faced by those with a disability that would otherwise not be possible by other modes of transport. The pandemic has highlighted the significant impact on mental health from social isolation during the months of lockdown. The experience of social isolation may be comparatively much greater for those confined to their home, not by lockdown but by virtue of ill health or where they live'. Shopmobility are currently open from 9.30am-4pm on a Tuesday and Friday between 9.30am-4pm but will also include Thursdays from October between 09.30 and 4pm. You can contact them on either 01454 868718 or 07999 574474. Green Community Travel operate 5 days a week Mon- Fri 07:30am-5:00pm, and you can contact them on 01454 228706."

<https://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/19546429-gct-shopmobility-work-together-yate-aid-mobility-needs/>





### South Africa: Mother Pleads with Strained Dial-a-Ride Service to Help Get Her Daughter to School

All Africa: "A mother in Wesbank, Cape Town has desperately been trying to get scholar transport for her daughter who uses a wheelchair. Charmaine November's seven-year-old daughter, Alicia, has cerebral palsy and needs a wheelchair to get around. November, who moved her family from Parow has had no luck getting suitable transport for Alicia to the Friends Day Centre in Maitland. 'The school's transport pick-up point is in Belhar but this is unfortunately far from us.' The City of Cape Town, which runs the Dial-a-Ride transport service for disabled people, confirmed that the Novembers are among 211 people waiting to be assessed by an occupational therapist. Once deemed eligible, only then will Alicia join more than 2,300 other people already on the waiting list for the service. In 2019, GroundUp reported that Dial-a-Ride buses had been running late because of what the City described as 'unexpected delays in the procurement of a long-term, six-year contract'. At the time the City said its service was 'oversubscribed'. This followed an earlier report in 2017 on claims by Dial-a-Ride users that the service was deteriorating. Meanwhile, November said she first paid people with cars to take her daughter from Wesbank to school but can no longer afford to do so because she is unemployed. 'Once I have used the grant to buy her necessities, there is hardly any money left for anything else. Her father is employed and pays her school fees and provides for us.' She said Alicia had been making good progress at school and now she worries about her missing out on valuable time. 'My mother and I have reached out to many places to help us, one of them being Dial-a-Ride. The waiting list is so long, I do not have hope that something will come up soon,' she said. Mayco Member for Transport, Rob Quintas, said that spaces will be allocated once available. Quintas said there were 16 vehicles in operation and since the start of the service over 4,200 people have applied and been assessed for eligibility to be a passenger. There are around 200 regular daily users in addition to 170 ad-hoc users who mostly use Dial-a-Ride to get to hospital and other destinations once a week

or so. He said the City was trying to assist as many users as possible with its limited resources."

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202109160766.html>



Coalfield Community Transport Goes Green with New Minibus  
 Cumnock Chronicle: "Cumnock's transport vehicles are going green, as a community service has received a six-figure sum to invest in electric vehicles. Coalfield Community Transport (CCT) has been awarded £160,000 from SP Energy Networks' Green Economy Fund to create a new blueprint for how electric vehicles can be used in rural environments while supporting disadvantaged people in East Ayrshire. The money has already allowed the CCT to purchase a zero-emissions minibus which will provide accessible, affordable and appropriate community transport solutions for socially and economically disadvantaged people. Coalfield Community Transport is expected to reduce its carbon footprints with a reduction of 1.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the next year. They provide accessible and affordable transport in East Ayrshire. Susan Dever, Project Coordinator at CCT, said: 'By replacing high polluting vehicles with a zero emissions minibus, this project will enable us to address the impact our organisation has on the environment by assessing how electric vehicles perform within a rural environment. The new electric minibus will allow us to continue to provide accessible and affordable community transport solutions by operating on a service which serves rural villages where congestion can be problematic. Thanks to SP Energy Networks' Green Economy Fund, we can further strengthen our social purpose of providing improved air quality to the communities we serve.' Jillian Violaris, Green Economy Manager at SP Energy Networks, said: 'SP Energy Networks is completely committed to

working with local communities to create a cleaner, greener, healthier Scotland. That's why projects like CCT are at the heart of our Green Economy Fund, which helps communities build their own green economy and establish low carbon infrastructure to support a move to net zero emissions."

<https://www.cumnockchronicle.com/news/19567383-coalfield-community-transport-goes-green-new-minibus/>



**Fond Farewell as Jacci Leaves Malvern's Community Action After 13 Years as Chief Officer**  
 Malvern Observer: "Staff, volunteers and trustees at Community Action bid a fond farewell to their chief officer Jacci Phillips who had been at the Malvern charity for more than 13 years. While community transport for socially isolated residents has been one of the charity's main services, Jacci successfully developed new projects including Malvern's Men's Shed which began just before the pandemic struck and is relaunching this month. She also negotiated the transfer into CA of the Malvern Hills volunteering organisation, the first step in re-establishing a Volunteer Centre in Malvern. Jacci is moving on to pursue a family business interest and the team at Community Action wishes her every success. Taking up the reins is Kate Walton, who is familiar with the town and its surroundings, having lived and worked in the county for more than 30 years. Kate's career began in the public sector, moving from the north-east to Oxford, then London and finally Worcestershire. Here she transferred to the voluntary sector to work for Pershore Volunteer Centre. Kate has worked closely with voluntary sector colleagues across the county, including Malvern, so understands the valuable role

Community Action plays in meeting the needs of local residents. Kate said: 'I'm grateful to Jacci for creating such a solid base on which the charity has been able to develop and grow and I wish her every success in the future. This is an exciting new challenge for me so I'm looking forward to meeting and working with the many people and organisations linked to Community Action who help to make this such a vibrant and welcoming community.' Kate is joining the charity at a time when the full range of services is beginning to emerge from lockdown. One of her priorities is to recruit more volunteer drivers to ensure the charity can maintain the good work which has established Community Action's reputation within the community. Anyone who can help can visit call 01684 892381, visit [communityaction.org.uk](http://communityaction.org.uk) or email [info@communityaction.org.uk](mailto:info@communityaction.org.uk) for more information. Another aim of Kate's will be in helping to plan a programme of events to celebrate Community Action's 50th Anniversary in 2022. Further news on that will be released in due course."

<https://malvernobserver.co.uk/news/fond-farewell-as-jacci-leaves-malverns-community-action-after-13-years-as-chief-officer/>



### Going Electric at Llandysul's Dolen Teifi

Tivyside Advertiser: "Five electric seven-seater wheelchair-accessible vehicles have joined the Llandysul and Pont-Tyweli

Ymlaen's Dolen Teifi Community Transport fleet and will be placed within communities in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. A launch event with the Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Sara Edwards, will be held on Friday, September 17 at Llandysul Memorial Park, and everyone is welcome to come and see the vehicles between 12.30pm and 3pm. Dolen Teifi was established in 2007 by community development mentor group, Llandysul and Pont-Tyweli Ymlaen Cyf. Their aim is to address social exclusion through the provision of safe, accessible and affordable transport. 'Over the years Dolen Teifi have used minibuses for accessible and affordable group transportation driven by volunteers, but it has become apparent that individuals who cannot access transport due to poverty, poor health or mobility issues, or are isolated and vulnerable, struggle to get to essential services,' said a spokesperson. 'Sending a minibus to transport one person to a medical appointment may solve their problem but is not good for the environment. These newly-acquired electric vehicles, hosted within various communities in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire will help those who most need help, whilst keeping carbon emissions low.' Three of the vehicles arrived in the spring and were immediately used to transport people to vaccination centres and on other essential journeys. Ann Jones, Community Officer at Llandysul & Pont-Tyweli Ymlaen, said: 'In some areas, the distance to the nearest mass vaccination centre could be as much as 28 miles from their home, so we worked with Hywel Dda University Health Board to provide transport for people who had special transport needs, didn't own a car or couldn't access public transport to get to the centres. To do this we have to thank our dedicated team of volunteer drivers who give of their time to convey them to the centres.' Cllr Keith Evans, Director of LPY with special responsibility for transport, said: 'We are a forward-thinking organisation that values and appreciate the need to provide transport in partnership. This is done with our communities and in as an environmentally way as possible. The new EV vehicles are easy to drive, and fully wheelchair- accessible'. Three Nissan eNV-200 fully accessible vehicles, which seat seven people have been funded by the

National Lottery through the Rural Wales fund. This four-year project will work with communities in and around the Llandysul area to develop usage and a small pool of trained volunteer drivers. Dolen Teifi will also implement and promote the nationally-recognised wheelchair passport scheme. An EV charge point will be placed near to the location that the EVs are kept and which will also be available for use by the public. The group have also received Welsh Government ULEVT (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Transformation Fund or Community Transport Electric Fund Wales) through the Community Transport Association which has allowed the purchase of two additional Nissan eNV-200 vehicles that will be placed at the Burns Foundation, Kidwelly, and Llŷs Y Bryn care home in Llanelli. In addition, a Welsh Government ULEVT grant gained through the Community Transport Association has funded five electric bikes which will be available to hire from Llandysul & Pont-Tyweli Ymlaen / Dolen Teifi office in Llandysul."

<https://www.tivysideadvertiser.co.uk/news/19562021-going-electric-llandysul-dolen-teifi/> See also: <https://www.tivysideadvertiser.co.uk/news/19593044-adam-price-commends-innovative-dolen-teifi-project/>



## Volunteer Drivers Needed to Help Out Across Ceredigion

Cardigan Today: "A number of organisations across Ceredigion are in need of more volunteer drivers as services open back up following the lifting of pandemic lockdown restrictions. The Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisation (CAVO) has launched a drive to ensure organisations across the county can recruit more drivers. Ruth Evans, Volunteer Enabler at CAVO, said: 'Since March 2020, when many organisations saw their services stop overnight, this had a massive impact

on the lives of so many in Ceredigion. Services are slowly opening back up and drivers are a vital part of getting individuals to their appointments or out of their homes for contact of any kind. Organisations have put procedures in place to ensure drivers and service users are as safe as possible during the journeys. People can offer their time to support others in their community by becoming a driver for one of a number of organisations.' CAVO also supports Ceredigion County Council's Social Services in recruiting and managing their volunteer drivers where people use their own car to take clients to a variety of appointments or social trips. Robert Evans, Service co-ordinator at Royal Voluntary Service Country Cars said the service needs more drivers. 'Your gift of time to support people to and from home and destination helps our community and you can base your commitment around as much or little that you can manage,' he said. Rod Bowen, of Dolen Teifi Community transport, said driving for a community transport organisation 'can make a real difference to someone's life.' Dolen Teifi provides transport for those people who find it difficult to get out, or who don't have a car and operates in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. 'Your help can help to give someone independence and access to services that we as car owners take for granted,' he said. Ellie Guiver, volunteer co-ordinator with Aberaeron-based RAY Ceredigion said the organisation is looking for a volunteer minibus driver once a month to transport young adults with disabilities to and from a social club held at RAY Ceredigion. Lydia Nicholls, Office Manager at Ystwyth Transport said they are looking to increase their pool of drivers for the Bws Y Bryniau service which runs on a Thursday from Cwmystwyth to Aberystwyth. 'If you are able to spare an occasional Thursday to help people needing transport then we would love to hear from you,' she said. To get more information on volunteering opportunities visit [www.cavo.org.uk](http://www.cavo.org.uk) or [www.volunteering-wales.net](http://www.volunteering-wales.net).

<https://www.cardigan-today.co.uk/article.cfm?id=137376&headline=Volunteer%20drivers%20needed%20to%20help%20out%20across%20county&sectionIs=news&searchyear=2021>



## Transport Charity Appoints New Scotland Director

Tfn: "Collaborative Mobility UK (CoMoUK) has appointed Rachael Murphy as its new Scotland director. Murphy has joined from the Community Transport Association. CoMoUK is a charity in Scotland plus England and Wales, and is dedicated to the public benefit of shared transport such as shared cars, bikes, e-scooters and rides. Its vision is for a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland and it plays a collective role with local authorities and shared transport operators. Evidence shows that investment in building infrastructure and support for shared transport will reduce the country's carbon emissions, help Scotland hit its climate change targets, and provide more and more Scots with sustainable and popular transport options. Among the priorities for CoMoUK in the months ahead are creating mobility hubs in communities, further investment and widespread promotion of car clubs and bike share schemes, and encouraging the introduction of on-demand bus services to help the country meet its climate change targets. Rachael Murphy moved to Scotland 10 years ago to study French and Hispanic Studies at the University of Aberdeen and has worked in transport for three years – bringing amendments to the Transport Act, highlighting the role of community transport, and fostering key relationships with third sector, community and government bodies. She is a trustee of Lothian Community Transport Services and a founding board member of the Scottish Rural and Islands Transport Community, and sits on the board for

Aberdeen University's Masters course: Transport and Intelligent Mobility. Murphy will start her new role on September 6. She said: 'I'm so excited to be joining CoMoUK, working with colleagues and partners to make collaborative mobility an attractive and viable option for more people and communities across Scotland. I grew up in a car-free family and I have a personal appreciation of multi-modal, affordable public and shared transport. I'm looking forward to bringing my expertise to the CoMoUK team, especially in response to the pandemic and climate crisis.' Richard Dilks, chief executive of CoMoUK, said: 'We're delighted to welcome Rachael to our team and together we look forward to promoting shared transport, collaborating with our partners, and helping the country meet its climate change targets. Scotland faces unprecedented challenges in the face of the climate crisis and the devastation caused by Covid. While advances in technology can make transport more efficient and less environmentally damaging, it will not be enough to bring about the kind of change we need. Shared transport can help tackle this as it enables people to use transport without the need to own it, shifting to resources such as car clubs, bike share and shared rides – which have a lower impact on the environment and transport infrastructure. These also encourage people to use public and active travel modes more and will reduce the demand for privately owned cars.'"

<https://tfn.scot/news/transport-charity-appoints-new-scotland-director>



## Aberdeenshire Free Transport Service Expands with New Vehicle

Press & Journal: "A pilot project offering free community transport in Buchan has acquired a new electric vehicle to join its fleet of accessible vehicles. The Be-Link'D initiative was launched in October last year to help meet the needs of people in rural areas who cannot access suitable transport because of existing bus times, accessibility or cost. Operated by Buchan Dial-a-Community Bus, it aims to offer an alternative for residents, following a review of the council-run A2B service, which ran around a dozen routes across the region until the start of lockdown. Now, the transport service is set to further expand its reach with a brand new 7-seat electric vehicle for collections and drop-offs within the Central Buchan area. The bus will offer free transport to locals from Monday to Friday with pick-ups from 9am and a last drop-off at 3.30pm. Central Buchan councillor Norman Smith said: 'I would like to congratulate Dial-a-Bus for this addition to their fleet. This is a pilot project and needs to be used or it may be lost. Hopefully, it will go from strength to strength for foreseeable future.' The project has been led and developed by community planning partners including Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Buchan Development Partnership, Foyer and the Department of Work and Pensions. To mark the unveiling of the Be-Link'D vehicle, people who use the vehicle will be entered into a monthly draw to win £30 worth of gift vouchers during the next three months. Steven Wares, operations and maintenance manager at Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm added: 'This project could be a model for other communities to follow in finding ways to making low carbon community travel possible. We congratulate everyone involved in bringing this scheme to life.'"

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeenshire/3472283/aberdeenshire-free-transport-service-expands-with-new-vehicle/>



## Walthamstow Home Enjoys First Outing since Lockdown

East London & West Essex Guardian: "Senior residents at a retirement home in Walthamstow have worked hard to organise their first day trip since the start of the lockdown last March. Twelve of the residents from Monoux Alms-houses, Church End went along on the trip to help overcome their fears of Covid and isolation after spending time shielding in the home. They took it upon themselves to raise money by selling their old items to fund the trip. They now hope to make the trips a regular occurrence. The residents set off using Community transport and arrived at Broxborne, they stopped off for a coffee in the shade before heading onto a boat. They travelled along the River Lea and enjoyed fish and chips on board. Monoux Alms-houses resident, Mary Fahey, 78 said: 'It was a joyful day. It was lots of work to put together, but it was more than worth it. These past couple of years have been hard on everyone here as we have been shielding through the pandemic and haven't been on a day out in two years. We have been out but only for coffee in the gardens with our masks on, this had been a completely different experience. I am hoping to make this an annual day out for us we need more days like this.'"

<https://www.guardian-series.co.uk/news/19577704.walthamstow-home-enjoy-first-outing-since-lockdown/>



West Oxfordshire Community Transport up for National Award  
 Witney Gazette: "A community transport group which supports isolated people is in line for a national award. West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) provides bus journeys across the district and has been named a finalist in the UK Social Enterprise Awards. The group provided 19,575 journeys in the last year, and is a finalist in the transformative community business category. WOCT chair Margaret Burden said: 'This is really exciting news and we are absolutely delighted to have been shortlisted. To receive this recognition for all the commitment put in by our team of drivers and our operations team feels so rewarding.' WOCT will join other shortlisted organisations at a ceremony at London's Guildhall in December. Peter Holbrook, chief executive of Social Enterprise UK, which runs the awards, said: 'We have had a record number of applications this year, all of which have showcased the strength, dynamism and resilience of the social enterprise community through what's been an incredibly difficult and uncertain period. Over the course of the pandemic, social enterprises have been going above and beyond the call of duty to support their teams, the individuals, and communities they work with, showing the grit, determination and innovation so inherent to this sector. They've been operating directly on the frontline of the crisis, launching new products and pivoting their business models to meet the needs of communities and society as a whole.'"

<https://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/19577175.west-oxfordshire-community-transport-national-award/>



## Volunteer who has Helped Hundreds of Mid Sussex Residents Celebrated at Charity Event

Mid Sussex Times: "A community transport charity held an afternoon tea in Burgess Hill last week to celebrate one of its volunteers and to bring members together for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Bluebird Community Transport acknowledged the great work of volunteer driver Terry Pearce by giving him a volunteer of the year award during the event held at the Woolpack Pub. The event also allowed members to chat, renew friendships and have vital social interaction that they have been missing during this troubling time. Bluebird chief executive Matt Roberts said: 'Terry's contribution to what we do cannot be overstated. In the past year he has delivered 545 trips for people who just would not have been able to get out without his help. Sometimes we can't help people with ad-hoc trips to medical and other appointments on our minibus services. That's when our volunteers come in. Terry has been amazing! Going above and beyond to help hundreds of people across Mid Sussex.' The afternoon tea was hailed a great success, with one member commenting: 'We've all missed being able to get out during this awful time. It's so nice to see everyone and do something normal. The staff at the pub have looked after us so well and the drivers are just wonderful!'"

<https://www.midsussextimes.co.uk/news/people/volunteer-who-has-helped-hundreds-of-mid-sussex-residents-celebrated-at-charity-event-3384517>



## New Volunteer Welcomed to the Unity Charity in Test Valley

Romsey Advertiser: "Meet Jonathan Howells, the newest member of the Unity volunteer driver team helping the Test Valley charity to provide community transport services across the borough. Without the Dial-A-Ride and Group Hire services, many older and disabled people would struggle to access local amenities and charities whilst community groups would find it more costly and difficult to undertake social and leisure activities. Unity's pink and silver buses and accessible cars can be seen running up and down the Valley supported by a small army of volunteers and a number of dedicated staff who go above and beyond to help those that need a little bit of assistance. Jonathan said: 'As a newly retired person seeking to find a different direction (route) in my life, the opportunity to become a volunteer driver for Unity has really opened up the road for me. I look forward to my driving day each week as I really enjoy making a practical difference as well as providing the opportunity to meet a variety of interesting people. No one week is the same, yet the work is fun. The role has given me a different perspective on life and I feel fulfilled and enriched. I know I am helping to support an essential service in reducing isolation and loneliness, joy and laughter can be found. We can also keep a gentle eye on people's wellbeing and health, providing a wider, greater community benefit overall. Through the Unity team I have received comprehensive training and they are tremendously supportive, positive, people focused and value my support. So, if you enjoy driving and love people and want to make a difference along the way for individuals who depend upon our service then I would warmly recommend the role to you. Not only will you be welcomed and have fun you will complement your own personal journey in life.' The pandemic has shown the importance of the role volunteers have in the community. For those who would like to find out about becoming a driver in Test Valley and have a full, clean driving licence please contact Unity for more information and full training is given. Call 01264 356808 or email [transport@unityonline.org.uk](mailto:transport@unityonline.org.uk)"

<https://www.romseyadvertiser.co.uk/news/19605186.new-volunteer-welcomed-unity-charity-test-valley/>



## Canvey Island Food Bank Project Celebrates Special Visit from The Princess Royal

In Your Area: "The Princess Royal has visited members of a unique group of charities who collectively provided over 400,000 meals to people in need on Canvey Island, in Essex, during the pandemic. The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) of Canvey Island were also presented with the Canvey Island Town Council's Community Group of the Year Award. Local SVP group president Tony Roche, who was presented to HRH Princess Anne at an event organised to celebrate the group's remarkable achievement, said:

'This was a lovely way of saying thank you to all the people who have had a hand in this amazing operation.' The coordinated effort began before the pandemic struck in March 2020, when Tony realised that the local food bank would be closed during Christmas. A small group of charities was formed to address this situation and provide food for those in need on Canvey Island. The group included international volunteering charity the SVP, and Yellow Door, an independent charity supporting young people. However, when the pandemic hit, the small group had to supercharge their efforts to provide meals for the growing need on the island.

The multi-organisation, multi-faith group who provided over 400,000 meals for vulnerable families during the pandemic. From his spare bedroom, Tony, who himself had to shield during the pandemic, began the task of galvanising the group of charities to feed the many vulnerable families on the island. Local patient transport charity Wyvern Community Transport provided the logistics to move food around from local supermarkets, Morrison's, Sainsbury's, the Co-operative

and One Stop, who provided tonnes of food every week for the initiative..."

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/canvey-island-food-bank-project-celebrates-special-visit-from-the-princess-royal/>



## Dial-a-Ride Service and Activity Hub Considered as Views Sought on West Lancs Community Funds

In Your Area: "Community transport and an activity community hub are among suggestions of how West Lancashire Borough Council could spend money paid by developers. Residents are being asked for their views on shortlisted projects for how the council will spend some of its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds. CIL payments are made by developers who undertake new building projects in the borough and must be used to deliver community infrastructure, often through the likes of play areas, parks, open spaces, leisure facilities, cycle paths, footpaths and community facilities. A large proportion of CIL money in West Lancashire is being used to invest in larger more expensive projects such as Skelmersdale Town Centre development and investment in new leisure centres. However, each year the council can allocate up to £200,000 of CIL monies to fund smaller-scale projects. This year, its shortlisted projects are spending £31,555 to help fund the Dial-a-Ride transport service for one year and spending £37,650 to create an activity community hub at Skelmersdale Ecumenical Centre. Whereas in other areas parish councils are given control of some CIL funds, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale do not have these lower councils and WLBC must devise how to spend it. As such, it has shortlisted a further project involving spending £10,760 to create a track and trim-trail in Ashurst. for its use of 'Neighbourhood CIL' monies available in Skelmersdale. Councillor Ian Moran, Leader of West Lancashire Borough Council, said: 'CIL money gives us a great opportunity to support our communities with infrastructure projects they feel will



bring the most benefit to them.' We want to hear directly about residents' opinions and ideas on how their area can benefit from these monies, so please get involved in this consultation and help us decide how the money should be spent.' Comments on the shortlisted projects and new suggestions are being welcomed as part of the consultation. Project suggestions can be for anywhere in the borough but must be community infrastructure and must support new, not existing, development. Anyone can comment on the borough-wide projects. However, due to national guidance, the public consultation regarding the use of Neighbourhood CIL monies in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk is limited to residents and businesses of those areas only. Residents can submit their views between Thursday, September 23 and Friday, October 22. To comment or find out further information on the draft CIL Funding Programme visit [www.westlancs.gov.uk/CFP](http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/CFP)."



**TAS**

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