



Community & Voluntary Transport at



The TAS Partnership Limited
Passenger Transport Specialists

Newsletter No.21 June 2022

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/>

UK – Motability Offers Community Transport Grants

Motability: “Through this new grant programme we aim to help charities and organisations to make an immediate impact for disabled people, by awarding funding to develop, expand and improve community transport options. We are focussing our grant making for this programme on:

-) Funding support for staff or volunteer training and costs.
-) Funding to increase the number of vehicles available in the community to help organisations support disabled people.
-) Funding local, regional, or national initiatives to increase awareness of community transport and influence its inclusion in transport strategy and policy.
-) Funding to schemes, programmes and initiatives that already exist, and who provide best practice solutions, but need further support to remain operational or scale up the service they can provide to help more disabled people...

Why are we doing this? - Using a wide range of research including insight from Motability beneficiaries and Scheme customers, other disabled people and representative organisations, Community Transport has been identified as a priority area for support. Disabled people make 38% fewer journeys than non-disabled people every year – a figure that has not changed in a decade. To help address this problem now, charities and organisations working in Community Transport sector can apply for grants from £100,000 to £4 million at any point over the next three years...”

<https://www.motability.org.uk/charitable-grants/grants-to-charities-and-organisations/community-transport-grants/>



England – Funding for Transport Projects to Help Tackle Loneliness

DfT: “Pilot projects funded to explore how future transport schemes can contribute to reducing loneliness in communities”... “Funding has today (23 May 2022) been awarded to 12 organisations across England with the aim of understanding how transport can play a role in helping people who are feeling lonely. Pilot projects receiving a share of the £5 million funding include support for older people using public transport after the pandemic, autism awareness training for staff across the transport network and a group electric cycling scheme. Millions of people across the nation are struggling with feelings of loneliness, which were exacerbated by the pandemic. The government is committed to tackling loneliness, including through building the evidence base for what can alleviate this problem. Findings from the pilots will be used to inform how future transport schemes can contribute to reducing loneliness in communities.

Minister Baroness Vere said: ‘Loneliness affects millions of people across the UK. Transport can help us solve this problem by connecting us to people, places and experiences. Congratulations to the organisations that secured funding for their proposals. This is a great opportunity to improve future transport schemes and shape the national conversation on loneliness. We will continue to work closely with transport providers and community groups to build an inclusive and accessible transport network.’

Age UK’s Travelling Companions scheme will involve volunteers across England encouraging and supporting older people to reconnect with their communities, including using public transport again after the prolonged period of enforced isolation caused by the pandemic. Hannorah Lee, Director of Partnerships at Age UK, said: ‘Age UK is delighted to have been awarded funding from the Tackling Loneliness With Transport Fund. Around 1.2 million older people in the UK often feel lonely, which can have a devastating impact on their mental and physical health, and the pandemic made the situation worse. Age UK’s Travelling Companions scheme will help significant numbers of older people to get back on public transport and go out and about once more. Best of all, it will have lasting benefits for them, improving their quality of life and supporting them to feel part of their communities again.’

National Autistic Society’s Driving Change for Autistic People project will offer training to transport providers across England, ensuring that their staff have an increased understanding of autism – removing barriers for autistic people who wish to use public transport to reduce their loneliness. Christine Flintoft-Smith, Head of Autism Accreditation at the National Autistic Society, said: ‘Autistic people represent a huge part of our society – around 1 in 100 people in the UK. And they need to travel to school, work and to the shops just like everyone else. But some autistic people can feel so anxious about travelling on public transport that they find it hard to leave the house at all. It’s not just worries about crowds or a sudden diversion that can trigger intense anxiety. It’s also concerns about whether other passengers will stare or tut if they do become overwhelmed. We hope our Driving Change for Autistic People project will remove barriers for autistic people who wish to use public transport and ultimately help reduce loneliness and social isolation. It’s so important that all staff understand autism and the often small adjustments that can make all the difference to autistic passengers.’”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-transport-projects-to-help-tackle-loneliness>

The pilot projects are as follows:

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| Community Action Hampshire | £566,876 | This bid will deliver three pilots aimed at reducing loneliness across rural and urban populations in the county. The first is an e-bicycle based shopping delivery service, the second an accessible community transport pilot and the third will pilot the use of leased electric cars. |
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| Age UK | £546,674 | A nationwide scheme that will use travelling companions to help older people access and use a range of transport options, addressing the barriers to re-engaging with their communities. |
| Community Transport Association | £498,000 | This pilot will support community transport operators around the country to extend their reach to lonely groups they don't currently support, expand existing services, and create volunteering opportunities to recruit people at risk of loneliness. |
| Living Streets | £497,213 | Living Streets' scheme will focus on two types of intervention: activities to encourage walking as a social act, and activities to tackle barriers to walking to access social locations. |
| Devon County Council | £493,894 | This local authority will lead on a varied portfolio of pilot activity, including a travel buddy system, a community grants fund and a community rail project in Okehampton that targets young people. |
| West Midlands Combined Authority and Transport for West Midlands | £460,469 | Community transport vehicles with trained volunteers on board will deliver a 'Let's Talk' initiative in local communities across the region. Buses will be used for door-to-door access to existing local support groups that provide crucial services to people at risk of loneliness. |
| Leeds Older People's Forum | £447,500 | This varied scheme will commission partners to deliver projects using buses, taxis, active travel, community transport and travel companions to explore how the vast network of existing transport resources in Leeds can be better used to reduce loneliness in older people. |
| Bikeworks CIC | £343,687 | An active travel pilot in London. The 'Ride Side-by-Side' project will tackle loneliness by giving users a chance to enjoy exercise and fresh air while making social connections. Riders sit side by side in two rows to aid interaction as they cycle. |
| Volunteering Matters | £284,349 | Based in Nuneaton, this pilot will use a minibus transport service and a tuk-tuk transport service with volunteer drivers enabling a free, safe, community focussed offering that will provide people with access to the services and social connections they identify as crucial to reducing their risk of loneliness. |
| Vista (Royal Leicestershire, Rutland and Wycliffe Society for the Blind) | £329,973 | This pilot will make public transport more accessible for people with sight loss in this region, and thereby reduce loneliness in this group. Vista will deliver accessibility training for local transport providers, and improve the accessibility of transport hubs by auditing and then funding improvements. |
| National Autistic Society | £267,391 | A nationwide proposal that will offer training to transport providers, ensuring that their staff have an increased understanding of autism and removing barriers for autistic people on public transport, enabling social connections. |

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| Community Rail Network | £238,722 | This bid will develop and test an innovative approach to engaging young people with public transport to tackle loneliness with three pilots led by community rail partnerships in Bristol, Blackburn and Newcastle. |
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Some of the successful schemes funded by the Tackling Loneliness With Transport Fund are described below:

Warwickshire - New Tuk-tuk Transport Service to Hit the Streets of Nuneaton to Help Lonely OAPs



In Your Area: "A new tuk-tuk transport service is to hit the streets of Nuneaton to help lonely OAPs. The motorised rickshaw pilot will be run by Volunteering Matters after the group was given government cash. The project is one twelve across England to be given a slice of £5m funding with the aim of understanding how transport can play a role in helping people who are feeling lonely. The Volunteering Matters project has been given £284,349 from the Department for Transport. According to the government, the Nuneaton-based pilot project will use a minibus transport service and a tuk tuk transport service (the latter a popular mode of transport in places such as London, Italy and Japan). Run by volunteer drivers, it will provide free, safe, community-focused transport that will provide people with access to the services and social connections they identify as crucial to reducing their risk of loneliness. When the scheme will be launched and

who will qualify has yet to be revealed. Elsewhere in the Midlands, the West Midlands Combined Authority and Transport for West Midlands has received £460,469 from the fund. Using the cash, community transport vehicles with trained volunteers on board will deliver a Let's Talk initiative in local communities across the region. Buses will be used for door-to-door access to existing local support groups that provide crucial services to people at risk of loneliness. Locations of where this scheme will run have yet to be revealed."

<https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/in-your-area/new-tuk-tuk-transport-service-24036482>

West Midlands - £500,000 for New Transport Scheme to Combat Loneliness

Express & Star: "The West Midlands has been awarded nearly £500,000 for a new transport scheme aimed at combatting loneliness. The 'Let's talk' initiative will see four community transport vehicles with trained volunteers on board centred in communities across the region. On top of this, eight community transport buses will be used for door-to-door access to existing local support groups that are struggling to recover post-pandemic. The scheme was given £460,000 by the Department for Transport, and is one of 12 pilot projects receiving a share of £5 million in Government funding. Ministers say they are planning to use the findings to shape how future transport schemes can contribute to reducing loneliness in communities. 'Our transport network as a whole already plays an important role in alleviating isolation by taking people to social events and gatherings, and this new funding



will allow us to add to that by having dedicated spaces set aside at bus stations and other venues being made available for drop in coffees and chat sessions.’ Other projects to receive funding include the Nuneaton-based Connect+Go scheme, run by Volunteering Matters, which was given £284,000. Minister Baroness Vere said: ‘Loneliness affects millions of people across the UK. Transport can help us solve this problem by connecting us to people, places, and experiences. This is a great opportunity to improve future transport schemes and shape the national conversation on loneliness. We will continue to work closely with transport providers and community groups to build an inclusive and accessible transport network.’”
<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/transport/2022/05/24/500k-for-new-transport-scheme-to-combat-loneliness/>

CTA England - Tackling Loneliness with Transport Fund

CTA, Caroline Whitney (Director for England): “CTA is pleased to announce we have received funding from the DfT Tackling Loneliness with Transport Fund. Community Transport is a lifeline for those that are socially isolated, enabling them to remain connected with friends, family and their community. CTA will be working with around 20 pilot projects across England and will provide a Grants Plus package, including a peer network and knowledge hub to share ideas, co-create resources and share best practice on interventions which effectively tackle loneliness. The pilot projects will fund local interventions which provide additional capacity to extend their reach into communities experiencing loneliness, expand current services or to create volunteering opportunities, recruiting people who are at risk of or experiencing social isolation or loneliness. The programme will demonstrate the positive impact on the volunteers as well as passengers.



With the extra wrap around support for the pilot schemes a core strategic aim is to enable these operators to future proof their organisations and continue to support beneficiaries through high quality service and accessible locally tailored transport solutions. The programme will be creating a Tackling loneliness training module. This will be available to all CTA members and will enable coordinators, drivers and passenger assistants to understand how people are

affected by loneliness and have supportive conversations. We will be ensuring that the resources are available to all CTA members and we will be sharing the evaluation and results from the pilots and support members who are interested in learning from the pilot and investigating new services. To keep up to date with this programme and other CTA initiatives sign up to our new England E-bulletin.”

<https://cta.uk/tackling-loneliness-with-transport-fund/>

CTA England – Tackling Loneliness Administrator Recruitment

CTA: “CTA has recently received 12 months funding from the Department for Transport to deliver an innovative Tackling Loneliness through Community Transport Project. Described as a lifeline by people who are socially isolated, community transport helps people maintain contact with friends, family and their wider community and it plays a vital role in enabling social inclusion, access, mobility and choice. Our programme, along with funding and testing the effectiveness of a range of pilot transport interventions will also support a Peer Network for cross-fertilisation of ideas and co-create resources for a Knowledge Building virtual hub all aimed at tackling loneliness through community transport. The Tackling Loneliness Administrator will provide the programme administration for the project, this will involve working closely with the Tackling Loneliness Coordinator to coordinate the data collection methods for all elements of the programme, ensure effective



communication with the funded Community Transport operators and practical and organisational support for the peer network and knowledge hub."

<https://ctauk.org/jobs/>

UK - Calls for Review of Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement Rate

TFN Scot: "The Community Transport Association is calling for an immediate review of the approved mileage rate that can be claimed by volunteers owing to its growing impact on recruitment and retention. Although the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rate is primarily aimed at employees driving on company business it is also used to reimburse volunteers using their own cars in providing journeys through volunteer car schemes. The current rate was established in 2012 at 45p per mile - after an increase of 5p - and since then, according to the RAC Foundation, the cost of motoring has increased by more than a quarter. This was before the fuel cost increased as a result of the invasion of Ukraine.

The Community Transport Association (CTA) is calling for an immediate review of the approved mileage rate that can be claimed by volunteers, due to its growing impact on volunteer recruitment and retention and what that means for people who rely on community transport services. David Kelly, CTA's director for Scotland, said: 'Community Transport schemes deliver accessible, inclusive and sustainable transport services in rural, urban and island communities across Scotland. Every day our members help older and disabled people to access vital public services, like GP surgeries, hospital appointments and vaccination centres, in an affordable and accessible way. But many of them rely on volunteer drivers who are being hit hard by inflation and rising prices at the pumps. That's why CTA, our members and our partners are joining together to call for an immediate review of HMRC's approved reimbursement rate for drivers. An inflationary uplift is necessary to better reflects current fuel prices and ensure volunteering is not disincentivised anywhere in the UK. We need the UK Government to take action to stop the cost of living crisis becoming a volunteering crisis.'

Volunteer car schemes are one of the most cost effective means of enabling people with mobility difficulties to retain their freedom and independence. These services are an essential part of the transport system in helping people access vital public services, particularly to NHS appointments. Without such services people would need to rely on costlier forms of transport and we would be likely to see a growth in missed appointments, with the associated



risks to health and wellbeing and additional public service costs that can come with that. The association said it understands that companies are able to make an extra payment over the approved amount which must be treated as part of an employee's salary and disclosed to HMRC. The association called for a separation of the AMAP for volunteers together with index-linked increases as a fair and workable solution which would give organisations the option to enhance their reimbursement without creating an additional administrative burden."

<https://tfn.scot/news/calls-for-review-of-volunteer-mileage-reimbursement-rate>

UK Government – Rapid Evidence Review of Community Initiatives

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport has published its findings of an assessment of community infrastructure: "Levelling up is a core priority for the UK government...A preliminary assessment of the available evidence revealed that the definitions of the particular factors that enable communities to thrive are not consistent across studies, especially in relation to community infrastructure and social capital. There is also much still to

be understood about how community initiatives can deliver community infrastructure effectively and enhance social capital. Government is therefore interested in understanding the state of the current evidence base on these issues and where there are gaps or limitations in what is currently known...The objectives of this study are:

-) To explore the definitions and concepts of community infrastructure and social capital to help government determine how and when to use different terminology.
-) To understand the strength and breadth of the evidence base about what works to deliver successful community (including community-led) initiatives to improve local community infrastructure and social capital.
-) To understand what could be considered “success” in community-led infrastructure initiatives and how government can deliver value-for-money interventions in this space. This includes the outcomes that could be considered success and the inputs that determine success.
-) To understand the strength of evidence on these issues, and identify gaps and how they could be filled...” Community transport is referenced in the findings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rapid-evidence-review-of-community-initiatives/rapid-evidence-review-of-community-initiatives>



Republic of Ireland - Minister Ryan Announces Additional and Enhanced Local Bus Services to Support Ukrainian Refugees



Gov.ie: “Minister of Transport Eamon Ryan today announced that the Department of Transport and National Transport Authority (NTA) will provide emergency public transport services to Ukrainian refugees placed in rural locations. The department and the NTA will accelerate a series of network improvements identified through the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan public consultation to support increased overall demand for public transport services. Improvements include additional stops, route modifications, and more services with the aim to increase

connectivity for those based outside of bigger towns and cities. This acceleration serves a dual purpose by catering for both existing demand as well as responding to the increased pressures on services where the local population has grown in response to the humanitarian crisis.

In addition, to support Ukrainian refugees housed away from existing public transport services, the NTA will provide supplementary transport connections to local centres. This will enable better access to a range of amenities and to onward public transport connections to larger centres where they may have friends and family. Minister Ryan said: ‘We want to be a welcoming country and an accessible country to our Ukrainian guests. My department and the National Transport Authority are working closely with TFI Local Link offices in rural Ireland to mobilise all available resources to strengthen our existing public transport services. We are doing this practically and quickly by adding extra stops and routes where a need has been identified. We want to ensure that passengers have access to essential services such as shopping centres, places of employment, and medical centres.’

Minister Ryan added: 'As we continue to welcome individuals and families arriving in Ireland from Ukraine, a once-off Community Transport Fund will also be established to support occasional social travel requests. It is vital that our guests do not feel isolated while they are with us and that they are supported with public transport to join in the many activities that are available in our towns, in particular activities focused on youth, integration, culture and education.' The accelerated bus services coming on stream are part of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan, a major national public transport initiative to increase public transport connectivity, particularly for people living outside the major cities and towns on a phased basis from 2022 to 2025. Connecting Ireland is funded by the Department of Transport and managed by the NTA."



<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/76019-minister-ryan-announces-additional-and-enhanced-local-bus-services-to-support-ukrainian-refugees/>

Republic of Ireland - Government to Set up Tralee Bus Service for Ukraine Refugees at Earl of Desmond

Independent: "Transport Minister Eamon Ryan has said the Government is working to establish a new bus link to help Ukrainian refugees staying at the Earl of Desmond Hotel to get in and out of Tralee Town Centre. Around 350 refugees from Ukraine are staying at the hotel but the lack of public transport has made it difficult for many of them to access State services and to set about seeking work. Many local taxi and minibus drivers have been providing the refugees with free transport – and the hotel has laid on its own transport – but this has been nowhere near enough to meet the demand.



In the Dáil last week Dublin Labour TD Duncan Smith asked the Green Party leader what his Department was doing to provide free public transport to refugees who are arriving in Ireland from Ukraine. Minister Ryan said that additional bus services are to be set up to cater for those housed away from the existing public transport network and made specific reference to the situation in Tralee as an example of what the Government is doing. 'The National Transport Authority (NTA) is examining options to provide transport from the Earl of Desmond hotel, where many refugees have been accommodated, to Tralee town,' he said. 'Such measures will provide better access to a range of amenities, employment opportunities and to onward public transport connections to larger centres,' said Minister Ryan.

Mr Ryan said a community transport fund is also being established to support occasional travel requests by refugees. 'It will enable our Ukrainian guests to join in the many activities that are available in our towns, in particular activities focused on youth, integration, culture and education,' Minister Ryan said. 'Collectively, these endeavours aim to support integration of our Ukrainian guests into the local communities that are hosting them. We will keep the issue of transport provision under review as this situation evolves'."

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/kerryman/news/government-to-set-up-tralee-bus-service-for-ukraine-refugees-at-earl-of-desmond-41614506.html>

Northern Ireland - Shocking Fermanagh Transport Provision Laid Bare

Fermanagh Herald: "The shocking state of Fermanagh's public transport provision has been laid bare in a new report by the Council, which has highlighted how it would take most local residents hours to reach either the SWAH or their local GP without access to a car. The Council is working with an outside company, BaseMap UK, to produce a local 'Transport Poverty

Analysis.' With the study ongoing, it recently published an update report which concentrated on looking at local travel times via public transport to local hospitals and GPs. The report included two tables, with the first showing the percentage of residents who can reach either the SWAH or Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex via public transport. The table revealed it would take between 14-16 percent of local people less than half an hour to reach their closest hospital during various times during weekdays. This dropped to only three percent on weekend mornings. On the flip side, it would take between 43-69 percent of local people more than two hours, and possibly much more, to reach their closest hospital during the same times on weekdays, and 82 percent of people more than two hours at weekends.



The second table shows travel times to local GP surgeries via public transport. The report notes the figures represent people's ability to travel to their closest GP, not necessarily the GP they are registered at. The study took in 19 GP surgeries across Fermanagh and Omagh, as well as Fivemiletown and Plumbridge due to their proximity to the area. This table showed 42 percent would be able to use public transport to reach their closest doctor within half an hour on weekday mornings, however from 11am-1pm it would take more than half of local residents more than two hours. At weekends, only 18 percent would be able to reach their doctor via public transport on weekend mornings.

The Council said it would use this data to inform other research it is undertaking into local food poverty 'by examining the implication of poor public transport on poverty and thus the more limited ability to access and purchase food.' The report also stated the data would be used to influence future community planning action on transport poverty, which is being led by community transport providers in the area. 'Whilst there are limitations to the data, the early indications do appear to provide robust evidence to support the long-held view that there is a paucity of public transport provision in rural areas and the implication which this has in accessing vital services for those who depend on public transport,' the report stated. It added, 'The overall aim remains to ensure this rich dataset is fully utilised to inform the debate on rural public transport provision, highlight the need for alternative transport provision, support the case for community transport pilot projects, and feed into the overarching research on poverty within Fermanagh and Omagh.'"

<https://fermanaghherald.com/2022/04/shocking-fermanagh-transport-provision-laid-bare/>

Australia - Victorian Community Transport Week 2022

The Victorian Community Transport Week means community transport in Victoria, Australia rather than a seven day return to Sedan chairs, Hansom Cabs and Bath chairs! YouTube: "VICTAS Community Transport Association is hosting the inaugural Victorian Community Transport Week from 25 to 31 March 2022. Let's Celebrate! The Community Transport sector in Victoria has been delivering supported transport for over 40 years to our older community, those experiencing disability and the transport vulnerable. Each year across the state, more than 50 organisations transport 10,000 people with over 250,000 trips, supported by 5,000 volunteers. Victorian Community Transport Week is presented by VICTAS Community Transport Association and supported by the Department of Transport, Victoria. VICTAS Community Transport Association is made up of 50 member organisations. For all their details please see <https://vtcta.org.au/>. Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0m-Ejdret5s>



Halton - Business Awards 2022 Shortlisting for Halton CT



In Your Area: "Finalists have been announced for this year's Halton Business Awards. The event, which aims to celebrate the borough's best companies, will be taking place on June 10 at the DCBL Stadium in Widnes, where the winners will be revealed as part of a glitzy dinner. The list was drawn up by business leaders from across Halton and spans start-ups, green companies, exporters, social enterprises and firms excelling in specific aspects of their work such as 'customer commitment'." Halton

Community Transport has been nominated in the category of best Large Social Enterprise.

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/halton-business-awards-announced-2022/>

Essex - Leigh's Community Transport Trips Return

Leigh Times: "Leigh Town Council has re-launched its community transport service after the pandemic ceased its activities for two years. The popular scheme is back up and running, and kicked off its schedule with a shopping trip to Alton Garden Centre on the A127 in Wickford at the end of April. More exciting trips are planned for the popular and important amenity, which is for people over 60 and those who are disabled and living in Leigh. A Leigh Town Council spokesman said: 'Now back up and running, we

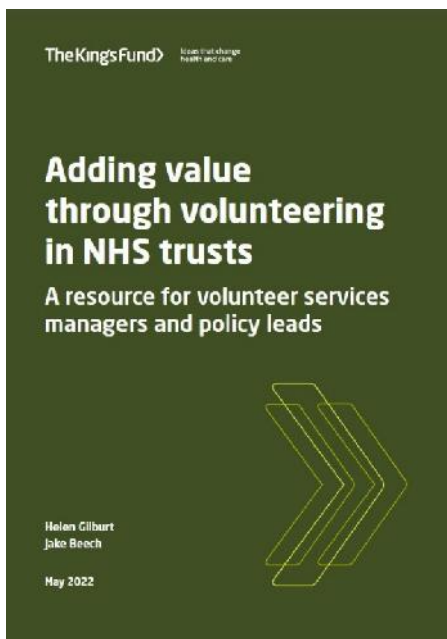


are looking forward to providing regular trips to shopping centres, theatres, heritage and cultural locations. As part of the scheme we provide door-to-door transportation, with trip starting from just £7. We also give you a pick up slot in advance so you know when to be ready. All you pay is your ticket cost, refreshment costs if included, and a contribution towards travel costs. All administrative costs are met by the Town Council and we use volunteer drivers and helpers. Our upcoming trip for a local concert still has spaces available. This will take place on Wednesday, June 22, and will be a visit to the Civic Centre in Southend for a lunchtime recital with tenor Andrew Walters. The scheme is an excellent way to make friends with like-minded people and get out of the house!' To apply for an application form contact the council on 01702 716288 or email council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk or alternatively visit the council offices within Leigh Community Centre on Elm Road."

<https://www.leightimes.co.uk/article.cfm?id=130907&headline=Leigh%E2%80%99s%20Community%20Transport%20Trips%20return§ionIs=news&searchyear=2022>

NHS - Adding Value: A Strategic Vision for Volunteering in NHS Trusts

Kingsfund: "The NHS Long Term Plan and the most recent NHS workforce plan recognise and commit to maximising the value of volunteers and Covid-19 has further highlighted the huge potential and contribution of volunteers. As organisations seek to 'build back better', there is now an opportunity to consider the role of volunteers in the NHS and for trusts to develop a strategic approach to volunteering. Our research found evidence of support for volunteering in all acute and ambulance trusts, and in the majority of specialist, mental health, and community trusts. Irrespective of the individual scale of provision, there has been a significant expansion in capacity and capability of volunteering in recent years.



However, we also identified that current approaches to volunteering and recruiting volunteers mean that volunteering in NHS trusts is currently unlikely to be open to everyone and trusts may be contributing to ongoing inequalities in volunteering, restricting the recruitment of volunteers who are representative of their local communities, meaning trusts miss out on benefiting from the resources and skills that exist within those communities. How can a strategic approach to volunteering in NHS trusts add value? provides a framework for senior leaders to use to understand their trust's current approach to volunteering, which offers a practical way of identifying how to move from volunteering as an 'added extra' to it making an integral contribution to the delivery of health care. In addition, Adding value through volunteering in NHS trusts is a resource that explores ways in which volunteering can have a positive impact: for organisations and their staff, for patients and carers, and for volunteers themselves, and shares practice and learning from trusts that have taken a strategic approach to developing volunteering."

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/adding-value-strategic-vision-volunteering-nhs-trusts>

Yorkshire - Helmsley & Sinnington - Here's who is Standing for Your Ward in This Week's Local Election



Gazette Herald: "George Jabbour (Conservative) has put improving public transport connections at the heart of his campaign. As part of his consultation, he organised a Town Hall meeting that was attended by Helmsley and Sinnington residents to shape the future of local bus services. The participants also listened to a presentation prepared by Lynne Hodgson, the new Chief Officer of Ryedale Community Transport. Following the successful meeting, George said: 'As part of our long-term campaign to improve public transport links, we had an initial meeting with Ryedale Community Transport to explore new ways to benefit our community. We then decided to hold another

meeting that is open to the public to ensure that as many residents as possible have their voice heard about the future plans of Ryedale Community Transport for our area. This means that any new transport service that could be introduced will meet the needs and priorities of local people. The large number of people who attended the meeting demonstrates that this issue is crucial to our community. We are grateful to Ryedale Community Transport and to their new Chief Officer, Lynne Hodgson, for attending the meeting, listening to the suggestions made by the residents and for answering our questions.'"

<https://www.gazetteherald.co.uk/news/20107681.helmsley-sinnington---standing-ward-weeks-local-election/>

Yorkshire - Pilot Hope to Meet EV Charging Challenges

Yahoo: "A local authority serving large rural areas with low concentrations of electric vehicle charging points is contending to win a share of a £10m government competition to widen the number of charging sites in remote locations. North Yorkshire County Council looks set to submit a bid to the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund for £2.7m to support a pilot scheme to aid the county's transition towards local charge point provision, eventually to be secured on a commercial basis without public funding.

The authority hopes to install 140 electric vehicle chargers over four rural sites in each of its seven districts in the project which is being supported by the district and borough councils and the two national parks. The ambition has been revealed as a survey commissioned by Fleet World concluded the country is facing an electric vehicle crisis as the current rate of installation means less than a quarter of the chargers needed will be available to the public before the ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars in 2030. It found with a required ratio of 1,176 charge points per 100km the current rate of charging point installations would result in a massive deficit by the time the ban comes in at the end of the decade.



The bid for funding comes weeks after the government completely rejected the county council's bid for £116m to modernise and extend transport across North Yorkshire. An officers' report states North Yorkshire's latest proposal focuses on delivering solutions using renewable energy that are 'aesthetically sympathetic in deeply rural areas where grid upgrades would otherwise be prohibitive. In addition, the pilot would see one site per district get an accessible electric vehicle that provides 'on demand' community transport..."

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/north-yorkshire-pilot-hope-meet-154600552.html>

See also: <https://www.cravenherald.co.uk/news/20083173.rural-pilot-hope-meet-electric-vehicle-charging-challenges/>

Yorkshire - Heritage Way Linking Bradford and Ripon Hailed a 'Magnificent Project' at its Launch

Wharfedale Observer: "The Deputy Lord Mayor of Bradford hailed the Yorkshire Heritage Way a 'magnificent project' at its recent launch at Bradford Cathedral. Cllr Beverley Mullaney was one of a number of speakers at the event to celebrate the new 42 mile recreational walking trail linking Bradford and Ripon Cathedrals, developed by the Burley Bridge Association (BBA). The trail also joins the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Saltaire, Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal. Bishop of Bradford Toby Haworth, welcomed everyone to the event, which also marked the publication of a route guide...Iain Mann, Manager of Nidderdale AONB said what was particularly special about the route was the brilliant idea of linking two cathedral cities from their very centres, passing through amazing countryside and stunning wildlife habitats.



Bec Evans, National Trust Visitor Operations and Experience Manager at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal said she was thrilled by the initiative. By encouraging walking to Fountains Abbey, the trail was following in the footsteps of monks at the Abbey who would have welcomed people on pilgrimage. David Asher, Secretary of the BBA finished the ceremony by thanking the City Connect team from West Yorkshire Combined Authority for providing half of the project funding, as well as the Long-Distance Walkers Association, Burley-in-Wharfedale Parish Council,

Burley-in-Wharfedale Community Trust and Ilkley Brewery for their financial contributions and sponsorship. The inaugural walk saw more than 60 walkers set out on the first stage of the route to Saltaire, with over 40 completing the final stage to Ripon after four

days of walking. Minibus support for the final stage of the route was provided by Ilkley and by Keighley Community Transport...For more information and details of how to purchase the route guide, contact burleybridge@gmail.com, or visit www.burleybridge.com." <https://www.wharfedaleobserver.co.uk/news/20134324.yorkshire-heritage-way-linking-bradford-ripon-hailed-magnificent-project-launch/>

Yorkshire - Ryedale Community Transport Welcomes Arrival of First Electric Bus



Gazette Herald: "Ryedale Community Transport has welcomed its first zero emission eight-seater minibus to the fleet after raising over £65,000. The funding for this green initiative has been made possible with the help of grants and donations. The all-electric bus is already in operation on the Ryedale Rover, an on-demand Dial & Ride service, operating around Malton, Pickering and Helmsley. The Ryedale Rover is designed to address the needs of individuals and communities for whom there are little or no public transport services. Lynne Hodgson, the Chief Officer said: 'It has long been an aspiration of the charity and my predecessor, Ken Gill, to add an

electric vehicle to our fleet but the cost of such vehicles was out of our reach. However, not to be discouraged we embarked on a fundraising exercise 12 months ago and are delighted to have raised £58,945, approximately 90% of the cost. We contributed the remaining £8,500 from our own Asset Replacement Fund. We are so happy to have the vehicle on fleet, it is just a shame that it did not arrive before Ken's retirement.'

Tom Muir, Fleet Coordinator added: 'The initial trials with the vehicle have been promising and it is going to be an asset to the Ryedale Rover service.' Ryedale Community Transport would like to thank The Garfield Weston Foundation, Wilfred Jackson Will Trust, Northern Trains Customer & Community Fund, Norton Town Council, The Ryedale Stroke Group and the family and friends of Kevan Hardcastle for their support with raising the funds to purchase the Electric Vehicle. Lynne has recently joined Ryedale Community Transport as their new Chief Officer, following the retirement of Ken Gill who had been with the charity for 15 years. At the same time Kim Lees has joined as the Finance Officer and Tom Muir as the Fleet Co-ordinator. Lynne said that she was looking forward to the new opportunities the appointment brought, and she was pleased to have Kim and Tom join the staff and volunteers who work so hard for the charity and the people of Ryedale. For more information on the Ryedale Rover or other services provided by Ryedale Community Transport, please call 01653 699059 or email to post@ryedalect.org."

<https://www.gazetteherald.co.uk/news/20151951.ryedale-community-transport-welcomes-arrival-first-electric-bus/>

Scotland – New CTA Development Officer Appointed

Laura Henderson is CTA's new Development Officer for Scotland.

<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/1518560507191517185>

A very warm welcome to Lara Henderson, our new Development Officer for Scotland! We are so pleased to have her join the team!



Scotland – Community Bus Hailed as "Major Success" by East Sutherland Councillor

Northern Times: "A community transport operation in Brora has been hailed as a 'major success story' in local development by East Sutherland and Edderton councillor Jim McGillivray. Local development group Brora Community Enterprises purchased a new 16-seat accessible minibus in 2019 using funding from Gordonbush windfarm. Recent adaptations, including handrails and luggage racks, have been made using funding from Highland Council's ward discretionary fund. In April, Councillor Jim McGillivray visited the charity and was treated to a tour of the minibus. Mr McGillivray said: 'This is a major success story for Brora Community Enterprises. The people of Brora now have a fine community asset thanks to the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers. The vehicle will have an important role to play in reducing social isolation and opening opportunities as restrictions ease. I wish them all the very best of success for the years ahead.'

Russell Rekhy, chair of Brora Community Enterprises, said: 'The pandemic had a big impact on our community transport operation. We are now well-equipped to meet all needs and are hopeful of a busy year ahead thanks to the support of Jim and his colleagues. Jim looked at ease in the driver's seat and is welcome back anytime!' Brora Community Bus is used for a wide variety of purposes including shopping trips, transport to football matches and theatre outings. It is available for all to use and includes an accessibility ramp for wheelchair users. A nominal mileage fee is charged to cover fuel and vehicle costs as all drivers are volunteers. The vehicle can be booked by calling the bookings secretary on 07484 759998 or emailing broraenterprise@gmail.com."



<https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/community-bus-hailed-as-major-success-by-east-sutherland-c-274651/>

Scotland - Edinburgh Crime: Muirhouse Youth Charity Feel 'Sickened' after Vandal Sets Fire to Minibus



MSN: "The minibus was parked at Craigmoynton High School, where the charity is based, when it was set alight at around 5pm on Saturday – in broad daylight. The vehicle, which was owned by Muirhouse Youth Development Group (MYDG), was completely burnt out, and is now unusable. Dean Shanks, the Strategic Manager of MYDG, said the crime has had 'an immediate impact' on the charity's work. The charity usually takes groups of schoolchildren on trips in the minibus, however these excursions have not been able to

run. MYDG began work in Muirhouse in 1977. According to Mr Shanks, the area has had problems with anti-social behaviour before, but nothing as severe as this incident.

'It's just mindless, and especially to do it in broad daylight', he said. 'Why would someone do this? That's the question we keep asking ourselves.' The charity usually runs a summer programme to take local children on residential trips, however these plans have been put in jeopardy. While Mr Shanks is hoping the charity will be able to purchase a new bus in time, he is unsure if this will be possible.

Officers are currently working to investigate the incident. A Police Scotland spokesperson said: 'We became aware of a van on fire near Craigmoynton High School on Pennywell Road in Edinburgh around 5.15pm on Saturday, 23 April. The fire was extinguished by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and enquiries are being carried out to establish the cause of the fire.'

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/edinburgh-crime-muirhouse-youth-charity-feel-sickened-after-vandal-sets-fire-to-minibus/ar-AAWE9r2?ocid=entnewsntp&pc=U531&cvid=8ebfaeb3f2694533bfb3e9d3fc3d2352>

Edinburgh - Welcomes More than 1,300 Ukrainian Refugees (With the Help of the CT Sector)

Scottish Housing News: "More than 1,300 people fleeing conflict in Ukraine have arrived through Edinburgh's Welcome Hub, with the significant majority of all arrivals to Scotland coming in through the city. Located in a peaceful and secluded area close to the Airport, the Welcome Hub offers some respite after long and difficult journeys reaching Edinburgh, with medical assistance from the NHS available. Established with the support of the Scottish Government and other partner agencies in Gogarburn at the RBS/NatWest campus, it involves a huge, combined effort - from both volunteers and council officers - to welcome around 40 new refugees a day, which is approximately four times that of the national average.



Chief executive of the City of Edinburgh Council, Andrew Kerr, said: 'I am truly proud of the incredible response Edinburgh has provided to Ukrainians seeking sanctuary here in Edinburgh. The support we've provided to over 1,300 refugees to date wouldn't be possible without the time of volunteers, the donations we've received or the generosity of residents. The number of local people giving over their hearts and their homes to become host families has been nothing short of remarkable. I want to thank everyone involved – from Council colleagues and partners, to every volunteer who has

been working tirelessly...'

Paul Wilson, chief officer of Volunteer Edinburgh, said: 'Once again our Community Taskforce Volunteers have been amazing. For almost two months we have been deploying volunteers seven days a week at the airport to welcome people from Ukraine and help guide them to the Welcome Hub. Our volunteers have done Edinburgh proud, often going beyond the call of duty. They have stayed until the early hours of the morning at the airport to make sure passengers arriving on late-night flights are supported. I am so proud of all our Community Taskforce Volunteers who not just helped at the airport but have provided informal language support, sorted donations, and packed hundreds of back packs with basic supplies...

Bridie Ashrowan, chief executive, EVOG (Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council), said: 'The Edinburgh Community Transport Operators Group are helping with onward travel from the Airport and other community and voluntary organisations are involved in delivering support for children and families, providing opportunities for Ukrainians to learn English and to build social connections. It's so important that they settle into and feel part of the communities where they live... in Edinburgh or further afield.'

<https://www.scottishhousingnews.com/articles/edinburgh-welcomes-more-than-1300-ukrainian-refugees>

Devon - Community Transport Charity Seeks New Drivers as Pre-pandemic Services Resume

Exmouth Journal: "Exmouth and District Community Transport has resumed its normal service after the restrictions of the pandemic and is appealing for new volunteer drivers. It is also appealing for donations to help meet the rising cost of fuel and other operating expenses, and to build up its reserves after two difficult years. During the worst of Covid, the charity continued helping people with shopping, collecting prescriptions and transport to medical appointments. It was an important source of support for those who would otherwise have been isolated. Now it has restarted its other services, which include shopping trips to local town centres, out-of-town stores and farm shops; outings to pubs, coffee shops as requested by passengers; and transport to family events and celebrations. The community transport service operates throughout the parishes of Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton, East Budleigh, Otterton, Colaton Raleigh, Newton Poppleford, Woodbury and Lymington.



With more journeys being made, the charity is looking for volunteer drivers to take the wheel of its two eight-seater minibuses with passenger lifts and its wheelchair-accessible car. Drivers must be aged over 25 and under 75 for insurance purposes and will be given full training in handling wheelchairs, operating passenger lifts and helping passengers get in and out of the vehicles. The Exmouth and District Community Transport Group charity was created in 1990 by former district councillor Jill Elson

MBE, who remains its chairman. It works in partnership with the county, district, town and parish councils. Passengers are charged a fare for their journeys, but the charity still needs to raise funds from grants, sponsorship and donations to keep the fares affordable and maintain and replace the vehicles.

Miss Elson said the need for fundraising is particularly acute at the moment because the charity's reserves are low after providing services throughout the pandemic, and it is facing increased fuel and staffing costs. Exmouth Community Transport is based at Dinan Way Trading Estate, Concorde Rd, Exmouth EX8 4RS, tel 01395 266 662, email edctg@btconnect.com. The offices are open from 10am until 1.30pm. Bookings for transport have to be made in advance, to prepare for passengers in wheelchairs. For further information, phone the office or visit <https://www.exmouthringandride.org.uk/> <https://www.exmouthjournal.co.uk/news/community-transport-charity-seeks-new-drivers-8928726>

Gloucestershire - Newent Minibus Service Connects Isolated Villages

The Forester: "A trial minibus service has been set up to help plug the gap left by a recent reduction in services near Newent, writes Carmelo Garcia. Stagecoach removed the 132 service which used to run from Gloucester to Ledbury via Newent on February 27. The bus company also reduced its 32 service between Newent and Ross-on-Wye which only operates as a school and shopper link. But now a twice weekly 632 service has been launched to help link the communities which have been cut off. This minibus service operated by Newent Community Transport connects Tillers Green, Dymock, Gorsley and Kilcot with Newent on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Clare Stone, of community action group Buses4Us, who helped organise the new service said: 'We've been able to work with community transport, Gloucestershire County Council and all the parish councils along the route. There is also money coming from the Forest of Dean and contributions from local businesses. It will at least bring people from the villages into the town at least twice a week. It works out so that they could catch the 32 to Gloucester to go for an hour if they need to.' She said the trial will run for 26 weeks and they are also consulting about the possibility of setting up a Ross-Newent-Ledbury service.



Ms Stone said: 'It is all up for discussion at the moment. In its current form, it has a couple of advantages over the old Stagecoach services. It would include a Sunday service, which didn't exist on the old Stagecoach route, but is becoming increasingly important to capture the leisure market. It would also provide a direct link between Ross and Ledbury in just under an hour. It currently takes over two hours to get from Ross to Ledbury on public transport with a change from bus to train at Hereford. This will cost in the region of £250,000 to run, which is what we are working towards now.'

<https://www.theforester.co.uk/news/newent-minibus-service-connects-isolated-villages-546245>. Also here: <https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/minibus-service-restore-lifeline-isolated-7029005>

Gloucestershire - Residents Urged to Use New 632 Newent Community Bus Service

Ledbury Reporter: "Residents are being encouraged to use a new bus service connecting Newent with a number of surrounding villages. The new 632 service operates on Wednesdays and Fridays, taking passengers from Tillers Green, Dymock, Gorsley and Kilcot to Newent. It was set up by community action group Buses4Us to replace the 32/132 bus axed by Stagecoach in February, and is operated by Newent Community Transport. Stagecoach's decision was taken on a commercial basis due to low passenger numbers resulting in the service running at a significant loss. The new community initiative has been funded by Gloucestershire County Council, along with a number of parish councils and local businesses.

The 632, which aims to help support the local community and reduce rural isolation, will run for a six-month trial period, after which the service will be reviewed before any decision on future funding is made. In addition to the funding for this new bus service, the Gloucestershire Council also supports the door-to-door Dial A Ride service and local buses operated by Newent Community Transport. Philip Robinson, Gloucestershire's cabinet member for public transport, said: "I am delighted that the council has been able to help fund this community-led service to



support the community following Stagecoach's decision to reduce its bus services in the area. 'The new 632 bus service will play a useful role to make sure residents can still access public transport where bus operators no longer run a service. I would encourage residents to use this new service. Using public transport is one way to reduce carbon emissions and thus help bring

about a Greener Gloucestershire.' For more information about the new service, contact Newent Community Transport on 01531 821 227.

Buses4Us is also planning to launch a service connecting Ledbury with Newent and Ross - but funding is needed to make the proposed 232 bus a reality. 'The 232 should do everything the old Stagecoach bus used to do - connecting Ledbury to Newent and onto Gloucester, and providing a direct link from Ledbury to Ross that doesn't exist at the moment,' said Clare Stone of Buses4Us. 'We're even looking at running a Sunday service, which the 132 didn't do for a long time'."

<https://www.ledburyreporter.co.uk/news/20144949.residents-urged-use-new-632-newent-community-bus-service/>

Sussex - New Travel Buddy Scheme Launched in Crawley with the Help of Community Transport Sussex

"Community Transport Provider CT Sussex has launched a new scheme to establish a network of Crawley Travel Buddies. The scheme involves matching volunteers with Crawley residents who are living with mild to moderate dementia and need help getting out and about. This will help local residents to maintain a level of independence and provide respite for loved ones/carers. Volunteers can accompany the client on a bus or train to visit friends and family, go on a shopping trip or to medical appointments, which would normally require a designated carer. Volunteers can devote as much time to being a 'Buddy' as they wish.



The scheme will be co-ordinated by Community Transport Sussex, who will provide training and safeguarding for volunteers. Travel Buddy Co-ordinator Sam Swanson, said: 'We are working with local healthcare providers, community groups and Crawley Borough Council to establish where the greatest need is for this exciting new scheme.' Community Transport Sussex is the largest and one of the longest established Community Transport providers in West Sussex. The charity has six accessible mini-buses in Crawley based at the Charis Centre. With over 2500 members across the county, the service provides accessible transport for anyone who needs it. If you would like more information about the services we provide contact Crawley Community Transport on 01293 523764 or email: travelbuddy@ctsussex.org.uk." <https://www.sussexpress.co.uk/news/people/new-travel-buddy-scheme-launched-in-crawley-with-the-help-of-community-transport-sussex-3673087>

Devon - Okehampton CT Grant Bid

Okehampton Today: "The Okehampton District Community Transport Group is asking residents to nominate the charity for the Movement for Good grant which could see it awarded £1,000. The transport group is asking for as many nominations as possible for the chance to have their name entered in three draws which could mean it might be one of hundreds of charities to win a £1,000 prize. Winners will be announced throughout the rest of the year in June, September and December during which time Movement for Good will award 620 charities with a grant. There will also be the opportunity for charities to register their interest in applying for a larger grant but details have not yet been announced.



The Movement for Good Award is an annual draw set up by the businesses in the Benefact Group, which supports charities, not-for-profit organisations and other community interest groups across the UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man that are working to improve the lives of people in their community. This year the Benefact Group will be donating more than £1 million to charities and organisations. To nominate a charity visit www.movementforgood.com." <https://www.okehampton-today.co.uk/news/transport-group-grant-547619>

Hertfordshire – The Green Oscars Countryside Awards Season

Great British Life: "Celebrating great rural and green projects in the county, CPRE Herts is calling for nominations to its annual awards. Do you know a deserving cause?" asks Liz Hamilton. Since the Campaign to Protect Rural England Hertfordshire Awards were introduced in 2013 we have received more than 160 nominations for projects and people working to enhance Hertfordshire's environment and support rural communities. We took a break in 2021 and have now refreshed our categories to reflect more closely the work we do in the county... Redbourn Care Group [was] an award recipient in 2016. Central to its activities are its volunteer drivers, who provide a vital community transport service locally, helping to alleviate loneliness and promote independent living. A highlight of the week is the pop-in event at the village hall, which many residents can access thanks to the group's transport..." <https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/lifestyle/sustainability/cpre-herts-rural-green-countryside-awards-8791050>

Getting Out and About

Car Journeys
Our volunteer drivers take residents to hospitals and other medical or wellbeing appointments. Our drivers are patient, kind and empathetic to those they are driving, helping them in and out of vehicles, sometimes assisting wheelchair users and waiting at hospitals.

A voluntary contribution towards costs (60p per mile plus parking charges) is requested, but we take individual circumstances into account.

If you need help to get to an appointment, simply call the RCG.



Minibus Journeys
We arrange regular minibus services so that residents without their own transport can participate in local social activities or join a regular supermarket shopping trip.

Contact the RCG office to find out more and join in.

New Zealand - Rising Fuel Costs Push Proposal for Manawat Community Transport Service

Stuff: "For those who can no longer drive or find it hard to cope with rising fuel prices to travel around town, a community transport service may be the answer. Some socially-active residents, along with Neighbourhood Support Manawatū, have proposed running a van to ferry people to and from Fielding during the week. The van, with capacity to also transport shopping and mobility aids, would be available on weekdays to carry around 22 people. It could be booked online or via phone call, and would pick passengers directly from their doorsteps. Neighbourhood Support Manawatū manager Aly Thompson said there is need of a service that picks people from their homes because they live so remotely in the region. 'Such service is important as people living in far off areas would have easy access to public transport and would not feel isolated.' Thompson launched a survey in 2021 to assess demand. 'For all these years, residents who can't drive or don't want to drive have been asking their neighbours to take them around for groceries and medical appointments. There is no public transport here at all,' said piti resident June Barratt.

For many, community transport is the best option. Vaune Mason, who lived as far as Oroua Valley Road near piti, said skyrocketing rents have driven people away from central locations and forced them to live in remote places. 'I know so many people in the community with low income. They live here because they can't afford to rent houses in towns. With rising fuel costs, it is so expensive to travel to towns.' Barratt said if they did it together, it would cut costs and emissions. According to the estimates made by the



trust, the service could be established for less than \$160,000, with an annual operating cost around \$150,000 excluding revenue from ticket sales. For more than 3 years, the need for a rural community transport service in Manawatū has been discussed by various groups. In June 2021, a steering committee was established to explore a rural community transport service, following earlier research by piti residents in 2019 and 2020. The trust has made a submission to the Horizons Regional Council's draft regional public transport plan 2022-32. The submissions will close on May 12."

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300583491/rising-fuel-costs-push-proposal-for-manawat-community-transport-service>

Australia - Seniors Demand Action on Community Transport Issue

Western Weekender: "A convoy of local seniors headed to pre-polling in Penrith this week to protest proposed changes in aged care funding, which could see the end to their community transport service. The community members use Active Care Network that provides transport for elderly people to access services with 11 vehicles ranging from cars to minibuses in the Penrith Local Government Area. Active Care Network CEO, Ben Jackson, said changes to funding could mean that the business can not operate or would have to charge its clients more. 'Our seniors are angry, angry that their services will change, will be more expensive or even cease to exist, under proposed changes in the current Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), which is block funded to deliver services to as many people as possible,' he said. 'This is compared to the new proposed Support at Home Program, which will see the community transport sector funding changed, putting community transport services at risk.'



Werrington County resident Anne Elliott uses the service weekly and said she would not be able to use it as often if the price increases. 'I have never been able to get a taxi to my home and to catch the train or bus, there is a lot of walking and sometimes you spend two hours trying to get somewhere,' Ms Elliott said. 'We pay for some of our trip, but it is great because you just call up and can be social and safely go wherever you need to whether it is for shopping, medical appointments, the bank or even Bunnings.' Lindsay MP Melissa McIntosh said she would look into how she could help. 'If I am

re-elected, there is an open invitation for them to see me so we can discuss this,' she said. 'I will always fight for our community, particularly for our ageing community and I will support them any way I can.'

Labor Candidate Trevor Ross was not present to meet the residents on Wednesday at pre-polling, but said supporting elder Australians was a vital issue. 'We should be making it easier for people to stay independent and active in the community, not harder,' he said. 'If I was privileged enough to be elected as part of an Albanese Labor Government, I would want to meet with stakeholders as soon as possible to talk about solutions.'

<https://westernweekender.com.au/2022/05/seniors-demand-action-on-community-transport-issue/>

Chesterfield - Charity's Transport Service for Cancer Patients Celebrates One Year Since Launch

Chesterfield.co.uk: "Weston Park Cancer Charity and several partners have celebrated a year since the launch of a Chesterfield transport service, which provides vital free travel for people living in Chesterfield who need cancer treatment at Sheffield hospitals. In the year since the service launched, it has covered more than 14,000 miles, making more than 500

round trips to provide essential access to treatment – which may otherwise have been difficult for people in need of treatment and care which could change or save their lives. A team of volunteer drivers has dedicated more than 4,000 volunteer hours over the last 12 months, with patients saving more than £33,000 on taxi fares and transport costs collectively, based on a £30 taxi fare each way between Chesterfield and Weston Park. Most importantly, though, the transport aims to relieve the stresses and strains which travel to and from Weston Park can bring. Figures suggest that around 20 per cent of patients at Weston Park Cancer Centre reside in Chesterfield, the equivalent of more than 3,000 patients at any one time and more than 1,300 each year.

The transport service launch in 2021 followed Weston Park Cancer Charity's takeover of Chesterfield cancer charity, Nenna Kind, in 2020. It marked a 'major step forward' for Weston Park Cancer Charity in its 'commitment to care in every sense' for cancer patients and their families in Chesterfield. Graham, from Chesterfield, who travelled on the service 23 times during his treatment for prostate cancer, said: "What helps is that the drivers all have so many stories and anecdotes and some have been in similar situations. 'You got back onto the bus to come home and sometimes you can have banter on the way back – but the drivers always seem to know whether you want to talk or not. Some days I came on and I don't think any of the drivers would have minded if I'd have had a nap – it was wonderful. It got to the point that the bus journey was the best part of going to the hospital because you knew you were going to be talking and having a laugh all the way. The drivers become your friends.'

Chris, who lives in Matlock also travelled on the Weston Park bus for 21 days during his radiotherapy treatment, said: 'I'd never been to Weston Park before my treatment started, I didn't understand the layout of the place or the parking, and I thought "I'm going to be really wound up if I drive there". And then one of the Macmillan nurses mentioned to me about this service, I got in touch with Matt (Hadley, Weston Park Cancer Charity's Transport Manager), he talked me through it all. And I've got to say the service is absolutely unbelievable. They've thought of everything. You feel at ease the drivers completely take your mind off everything – they're so friendly, they're so knowledgeable and they're always happy to have a chat.'



The success and importance of the charity's Chesterfield transport, which is operated in partnership with Community Chesterfield, Derbyshire Voluntary Action, the University of Derby, Chesterfield Royal Hospital and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, led to the launch of its Barnsley transport service in December 2021. Emma Clarke, Weston Park Cancer Charity CEO, who oversaw the launch of the Chesterfield service along with Transport Manager, Matt Hadley, said: 'We're so thrilled to see and hear the impact which our transport has had since it launched a year ago in Chesterfield. We never want transport to prevent anyone accessing the treatment which could change, or even save, their life. That's why our free, safe transport runs each day from St Helena Campus in Chesterfield, and Oakwell Stadium in Barnsley respectively. If you or anyone you know could benefit from our free transport, please don't hesitate to get in touch as we are here to support you as we face cancer together – together at every step.'

Weston Park Cancer Charity's transport service operates twice daily at 9.30am and 1.30pm between the University of Derby's St Helena Campus in Chesterfield, and Sheffield hospitals.

For more information on Weston Park Cancer Charity's transport services from Barnsley and Chesterfield, or to book a seat, call 0114 553 3330 or email transport@wpcancercharity.org.uk. Derbyshire Voluntary Action, Community Chesterfield, University of Derby and Chesterfield Royal Hospital support the marketing and economic growth of the town through Chesterfield Champions, a network of over 200 organisations across Chesterfield and North Derbyshire." <https://www.chesterfield.co.uk/2022/05/charitys-transport-service-for-chesterfield-cancer-patients-celebrates-one-year-since-launch/>

Derbyshire – Tackling Loneliness with Transport with Hayfield Sustainable Transport Ltd

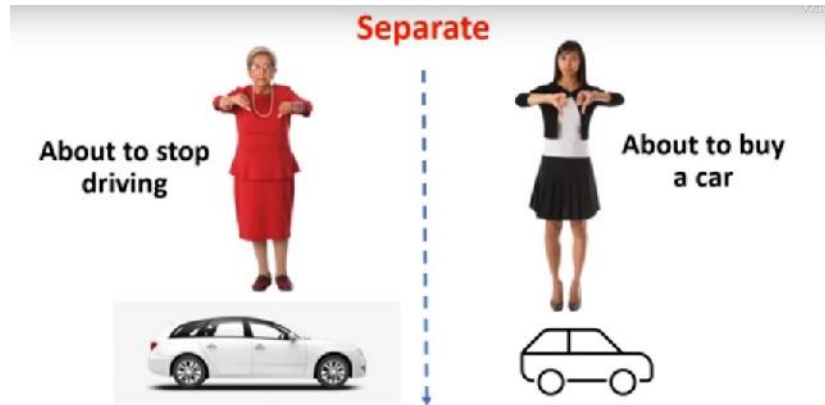
Aviva Community Fund: "Hi, I'm Roland Strube and I manage a community transport operator called Hayfield Sustainable Transport Ltd (HSTL). We are tackling loneliness by combining the transport needs of younger and older members of the community who have compatible need for a car. In locations where public transport is poor and dependence on cars is high, people who don't have access to a car can be socially isolated and suffer from loneliness. This applies just as much to young people as it does to older people. At the point when a young driver needs to buy a car and an older driver is about to stop driving, there is potential for them to combine their use of one car instead of owning two. When the older person stops driving they are able to travel as a lift share passenger with any of the young drivers involved in the scheme. People are then able to access the friends, family and services they need more easily and more affordably. The inter-generational links formed in this process also help people to feel more connected and involved in their community.

Our online platform, Car Compatible (<https://www.carcompatible.com/>) is currently used by couriers, who need a car on work days, joining up with commuters, who convert to cycling and use a car in the evenings and at weekends. The funds raised by this crowdfunding campaign will be used to build a version of Car Compatible that combines younger and older drivers, with the objective of alleviating loneliness. The first job of Car Compatible works a bit like a dating app; users put details of their need for a car on the website's map. Local people whose car need is compatible can then find each other. By establishing their compatibility they will be confident that the shared car will be available when they need it.

Each car gets an online schedule, a trip logger and and the car's owner opens a new bank account that is dedicated to the car, e.g. Monzo. A pay-as-you-go (PAYG) rate is used that aims to cover the total cost of the car. At the end of each month there will either be a shortfall or surplus and this is distributed to the drivers according to the number of 'historic' miles

they have driven the car from the very start of the arrangement. As only two or three drivers are involved with any one vehicle they can be added as additional drivers on the car's existing insurance. The difference in insurance risk and cost of the two drivers is managed by adjusting the PAYG rate for each driver."

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/tackling-loneliness-with-transport>



West Midlands - National Express Expands Ring and Ride service



Intelligent Transport: “In order to improve access to transport – as well as to tackle social isolation and improve mental health – National Express has expanded its Ring and Ride door-to-door minibus service in the West Midlands. National Express has announced that the West Midlands Ring and Ride door-to-door minibus service is now available to use in the evenings following an expansion of the service. Evening services have been re-introduced to give the 11,500 registered Ring and Ride customers the opportunity to travel until

23:00, Monday to Saturday. The later hours have been matched with an increase in the number of vehicles available throughout the day, as the service expands to meet growing demand for people to go out and about following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions.

Ring and Ride is available to anybody who cannot, or finds it difficult, to use regular public transport services due to mobility constraints or social isolation. The service is operated by National Express Transport Solutions, under contract from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), and can be used for visiting friends and family, a day or evening out, shopping or even going to and from work. While demand for the service was down during the pandemic, some of the buses and drivers were redeployed as a free shuttle service from key transport hubs to support hospital and health service workers.

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands, said: ‘Ring and Ride provides a valuable service for many of our residents who would otherwise be stuck at home, empowering them to enjoy things that many of us take for granted, such as a trip to the shops or a meal out. By giving easy access to more places, Ring and Ride can be critical in tackling social isolation and improving mental health. So, I am therefore thrilled that we are able to extend the scheme, bringing on-board more buses and running the service for longer hours.’ The re-introduction of evening service follows the approval of the West Midlands Combined Authority’s (WMCA) annual budget, which included £6.7 million funding towards the accessible transport service.

Councillor Ian Ward, WMCA Portfolio Holder for Transport and Leader of Birmingham City Council, said: ‘Ring and Ride provides a lifeline for many people across the region and, as we emerge from the pandemic, it’s good to see that more people are using this service to get out and about. That’s why the councils of the WMCA were delighted to support this increase in buses and opening hours. Now, thanks to this continued funding, Ring and Ride users can enjoy an evening out, too.’ Sarah Gager, Regional Managing Director for the Midlands at National Express Transport Solutions, said: ‘Accessible transport plays a vital role in tackling social isolation and loneliness, and we are committed to delivering the safest, most reliable and inclusive transport services for our communities. We are delighted to be working with TfWM to reintroduce the evening Ring and Ride services this week. By enhancing the service, we can ensure that everybody is able to access local facilities and activities in their area.’”
<https://www.intelligenttransport.com/transport-news/134073/national-express-expansion-ring-and-ride/>

CTA - MaaS Code of Practice Response

CTA: “Technology is changing transport. From Google Maps and contactless payments to mobile ticketing and ride hailing apps, the way many of us move around has been transformed by new digital and personalised products and services over the last decade. Demand responsive transport services tailored to individual needs are no longer the sole preserve of the Community Transport sector, but are now advanced and mainstreamed by public and commercial operators utilising these new technologies. These changes are creating exciting

new opportunities for something called 'Mobility as a Service', also known as MaaS, which is likely to impact the future of the Community Transport sector.

MaaS is defined by the Department for Transport (DfT) as 'the integration of various modes of transport along with information and payment functions into a single mobility service'. Its purpose is to deliver seamless online journey planning and integrated digital ticketing across different modes and operators – from bus and rail to active travel projects and community car clubs – with ease and convenience. Perhaps the most successful example of MaaS in action is Rejseplanen in Denmark. Rejseplanen is an online platform which allows nearly 6 million Danes to plan everyday journeys and buy digital tickets for buses, ferries, metro, trains, city bikes, domestic flights and ridesharing. Its app and webpage are more frequently used than Google Maps in Denmark.

There are also some great examples of innovation with MaaS in the UK, such as the Go NHS Tayside pilot project funded by the Scottish Government. Go NHS Tayside has been rolled out across central Scotland for all NHS patients, visitors and staff to access NHS sites. It assists with journey planning and allow users to book tickets with operators, including Community Transport schemes. Two CTA members – Upper Tay Transport in Aberfeldy and Elder Voice in Blairgowrie – are already integrated and delivering trips.

MaaS clearly has the potential to create a more accessible, inclusive and sustainable transport system in the UK. It could better integrate Community Transport with public transport networks, as well as empower people to make more sustainable journeys by engaging with community-led schemes. It could be a way for the Community Transport sector to increase its profile with a new audience, secure new passengers and users and modernise its offer.

The DfT has decided (for now) against creating a new regulatory framework for this fast-growing, emerging sector. It has instead committed to develop a 'voluntary approach through a code of practice' which, it believes, 'will enable us to support MaaS as it grows without introducing regulations at a time that could stifle innovation'. However, it has not ruled out regulation in the future if necessary.

We've responded to the DfT's consultation on a code of practice for MaaS on behalf of the Community Transport sector across the UK. We need to make sure that the code of practice is relevant for Community Transport operators and users and addresses some of concerns around accessibility and inclusion. We believe that the Community Transport sector is an essential partner to deliver 'MaaS for All'.



Our submission...makes several key points:

-) Code of Practice should ensure Community Transport is integrated into MaaS platforms as far as possible to:
 - o Expand geographical coverage, including for rural, remote, island and isolated communities without public transport provision
 - o Ensure accessibility, especially for older and disabled people who may struggle to access public or private transport
-) Tackling transport poverty to help everyone to access amenities, education, employment, health & social care and other public services
-) Increase consumer choice between operators and modes in journey planning
-) Encourage climate action by facilitating modal shift and behaviour change.

Some challenges exist to fully integrating Community Transport into MaaS due to regulatory environment, lack of technological capacity and long-term under-investment – but can be overcome with:

-) Initial focus on journey planning integration for Community Transport schemes, as achieved by Go NHS Tayside MaaS pilot
-) Aligning MaaS projects with capacity building programmes for sector Code of Practice should reflect affordability for users and passengers as key priority
-) DfT should invest in MaaS innovation projects across the UK, learning from the success of the pilots funded by the Scottish Government's £2m MaaS Investment Fund to test concept and reduce carbon emissions.

To find out more, read our full response <https://ctauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/MaaS-Code-of-Practice-CTA-RESPONSE-FINAL.pdf> or email me at david.kelly@ctauk.org.
<https://ctauk.org/maas-code-of-practice-ctas-response/>

Liverpool – Archive Film: Liverpool Community Transport Scheme 1973



Merseyside Films have uploaded this historical item onto YouTube which is described as follows: "The Liverpool Community Transport scheme was changing the lives of Scottie Road residents." It could be mistaken by latterday viewers as an attempt to set a world record for the largest number of children can you fit onto a double-deck bus! Health & Safety officers look away now.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MxwGa_aiTO

Ealing - Service Providing Lifts to GP Appointments is Underused

ActonW3: "Ealing Community Transport (ECT) are keen to encourage more people to use a service which provides free transport to GP services in the borough. It says the PlusBus for Health is under-used at the moment despite it being available free to eligible patients and staffed by trained, regular drivers using accessible vehicles who can take people door-to-door.



The services is available to patients in the London Borough of Ealing who are unable to use public transport or have mobility difficulties for getting to their GP appointment. You can talk to your local surgery to book a medical appointment and organise the transport at the same time or call 020 8813 3214. Transport should be booked 7 days in advance. Transport is provided for any appointment at a surgery in the borough between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday (subject to availability). To find out more about this service see www.ectcharity.co.uk.

<http://www.actonw3.com/default.asp?section=community&link=http://neighbournet.com/server/common/eaect002.htm>

Bristol / South Gloucestershire - Man, 26, Charged with Minibus Arson Attacks

Gazette Series: "A 26-year-old man has been charged with twenty-four counts of arson following a spate of fires across South Gloucestershire earlier this month. Vehicles in the Bradley Stoke, Little Stoke, Patchway and Stoke Gifford including a number parked in Rolls Royce carpark in Filton were destroyed after being set on fire between 1am and 4.40am on Sunday, April 3. Daniel Cron, 26, of Filton, appeared at Bristol Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with the arson attacks.



He was released on conditional bail ahead of a hearing at Bristol Crown Court on Wednesday, 25 May. Two teenage boys were initially arrested on suspicion of arson following the fires which included a fleet of minibuses owned by charity, Four Towns and Vale Link Community Transport - who serves Almondsbury and Thornbury among other areas. A spokesperson for Avon and Somerset police confirmed they have since been released with no further action taken against them."

<https://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/20101930.man-26-charged-rolls-royce-arson-attacks/>

Berkshire - Community Service Jubilee Bus Launches in Thatcham

Newbury Today: "A community transport group has launched its new 'Jubilee Bus' in Thatcham. The service, run by Volunteer Centre West Berkshire, will begin operating in the coming weeks across both Newbury and Thatcham. The bus has been adapted to be "fully accessible" for the new book-a-ride service. The launch took place on March 22 at the Thatcham Town Council offices at 9am and took a short ride to Woolhampton. The new service will provide an opportunity for those who are unable to use public transport to access local town centres for shopping, attend appointments and meet friends.

In attendance was chairman of West Berkshire Council Clive Hooker and the mayor of Thatcham John Boyd, as well as Thatcham town councillors Richard Foster (Lib Dem, Thatcham Colthrop and Crookham) and Owen Jeffery (Lib Dem, Thatcham Central). Director of Volunteer Centre West Berkshire Garry Poulson said: 'We have a great partnership with West Berkshire Council's community transport department. They fully appreciate the enormous value of supporting community transport groups in the district. We are very grateful to West Berkshire Council for the investment that it has made in the service that will support older, less able people to go about their business in the two towns.' Volunteer Centre West Berkshire has provided a 'Handybus' service for residents since 1986. It said that, prior to the pandemic, almost 60,000 journeys were made using these services.



The bus was funded through the council's capital grant fund, which the council said is available for all local community transport operators to bid for. West Berkshire Council executive member for planning, transport and countryside, Richard Somner (Con, Tilehurst South and Holybrook) said: 'The council continues to support community transport schemes and has allocated £55,000 in funding this year to help local providers deliver services, as well as making grants

totalling £50,000 available for capital projects each year. Community transport continues to be available across the district, and remains a valued service by those who use it. We believe it promotes a sense of community in an environmentally friendly way and also builds on incredibly valuable services that all local community transport groups provide for residents across West Berkshire.'

<https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/a-jubilee-bus-launches-in-thatcham-9253132/>

Wales – People in Wales Facing Transport Poverty Reality, Says Sustrans Report

Sustrans: "'Making the Connection', a new report published by Sustrans Cymru, has found that people across all parts of Wales are suffering the effects of transport poverty. That's why Sustrans believes that, in an ongoing cost of living crisis, urgent action is needed to aid those most in need of support and frozen out of transport options. Making the Connection outlines the stark reality of unaffordable and unreliable transport options for many people in Wales. Many people, as a result, are unable to access the transport they need to live happy and healthier lives. In most areas of Wales, 40-50% of households are spending more than 10% of their income on the costs of running a car (whether they have one or not). It is predominantly the more rural areas of Wales that are least able to access the services necessary for day-to-day life. We know that poor access to services compounds other forms of deprivation in our communities.



Sustainable, reliable, and affordable transport options that are accessible for all can help communities across Wales to thrive.

Christine Boston, Director of Sustrans Cymru, said: 'Making the Connection is a really timely and important insight into the all-too-real effects of rising costs of accessing transport in Wales, particularly against the current context of the cost of living crisis we're all experiencing. We know that transport poverty contributes to a vicious cycle where people can't access quality education or much needed services, which ultimately makes it more difficult to lift themselves out of poverty in the future. Here at Sustrans, we want to see a Wales where absolutely everyone has the freedom and ability to travel affordably, sustainably and safely. Not enough has changed since Sustrans Cymru published its initial report ten years ago - there needs to be decisive action taken now, or we risk things getting even worse for those most affected by transport poverty.'

In the past decade, fuel prices have risen by less than 10% while rail, coach and bus ticket prices have increased by between 33% and 55.7%. Bus fares increased by 3.5% from 2019 to 2020 alone, and a 3.8% increase in rail fares has been announced for 2022. Higher fares have a greater impact on people who rely on public transport as well as people on lower incomes. For the 23% of people in Wales who do not have access to a car, public transport services are relied upon to access basic and essential services. Since 2010, bus vehicle numbers have decreased by 17.8%, meaning that 12% of people in Wales are now without any public transport links in their local area.

Sustrans' report highlights that the impact of transport poverty affects some demographic groups disproportionately - alongside income and locality, those most affected are:

-) Women
-) Ethnic minority groups
-) Disabled people
-) Older people
-) Children and young people

The Making the Connection report also confirms that people living in rural parts of Wales or in areas with high levels of deprivation are the worst affected by transport poverty. Where services do exist, they are not guaranteed to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Irregular public transport services have bigger impacts on those living in rural areas of Wales, where public transport plays a key role in enabling access to vital services, employment, training, and recreational opportunities.

Half of rail stations in Wales, according to the report, are not fully accessible to disabled people, while 34% have no access in place for wheelchair users. Whilst all households in Wales are feeling the effects of the developing cost of living crisis, it will certainly have a disproportionate impact on lower-income households. As a result, many people in Wales will have to make some serious decisions about how, when, and where they travel. Sustrans' report also outlines the impact transport poverty has on people's employment opportunities, as well as the education opportunities for children and young people.

Urgent action is required to address the widespread issue of transport poverty in Wales. At Sustrans, we want everyone to have the freedom to access the services they need, in the communities they live. We are calling on the Welsh Government to develop a clear plan of action for addressing transport poverty, which is targeted at those most in need of support.

This should come alongside:

-) Diversifying the transport sector
-) Embedding 20-minute neighbourhoods across Wales
-) Increasing access to public transport and active travel, particularly in economically disadvantaged communities

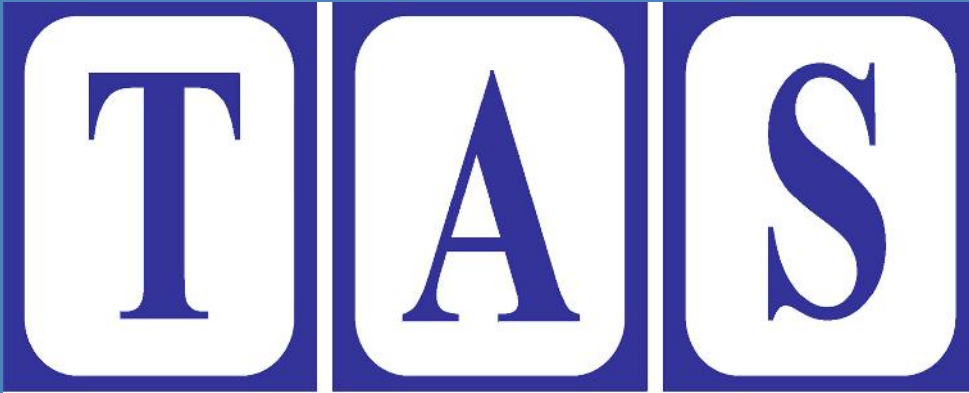
Working together, we can achieve a transport system that works for all and alleviates, rather than exacerbates, inequality. We believe that transport can play a vital role in creating a Wales of truly connected and equal communities." <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/news/2022/may/people-in-wales-facing-transport-poverty-reality-says-sustrans-report>

Wales – Maiden Voyage for Sheila in Rhayader

Brecon-Radnor.co.uk: "Rhayader's exciting latest addition to community transport was launched on Thursday last week. 'Cycling Without Age Rhayader' was officially launched by the town's mayor, Cllr Lee Price, when she was the first to sit in Sheila - the town's new triobike. The scheme was introduced by Pippa Boss, CO of The Arches: Rhayader and District Community Support. Pippa said: 'The idea is to get people out. It's not about getting somewhere but the journey. To get out and feel the wind in their hair again, start



building new relationships and getting fresh air, little things like this that people can't always do. Purchasing Sheila has been made possible by the support of players of the national lottery through the Community Fund, so a big thank you to them.' Pippa then introduced the three volunteer pilots - Adam, Al and Steve - and Sheila was open for passengers. The first to have a ride was Glora and her daughter Serena. Glora said: 'I've been longing to have a go since I first knew about the bike. It was so comfortable and I really enjoyed the ride. I can't wait to go on another one.' Next up were Betty and Doreen, who said: 'It was such fun. We had a good chat and the young man driving us was so nice. I'll definitely be going on a longer ride next time!' Sheila and her pilots were kept busy for the morning and are looking forward to taking passenger on rides around Rhayader and the Elan Valley. Trips will be planned according to what passengers want. Relatives, friends and carers are more than welcome to come along too. First rides are free – to find out more or to book a ride contact The Arches on 01597 810921 or email pippa@rdcs.org.uk." <https://www.brecon-radnor.co.uk/news/maiden-voyage-for-sheila-547949>



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