



Community & Voluntary Transport at



The TAS Partnership Limited
Passenger Transport Specialists

Newsletter No.23 August 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 – CTA & Other Charities Call on New Chancellor to Tackle Fuel Cost Crisis

CTA press release: "A coalition of eleven charities is calling on the new Chancellor of the Exchequer to tackle the spiralling fuel costs crisis which is damaging the voluntary sector across the UK. The campaign is led by the Community Transport Association (CTA) – which represents over 1,200 local charities and community groups across the UK who provide accessible, inclusive transport services – and highlights the impact of record petrol and diesel prices on organisations and volunteers. The letter asks Nadhim Zahawi MP, newly appointed as Chancellor on Wednesday 6 July, to increase the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) – which is the maximum level at which volunteer drivers can be reimbursed without any impact on their tax obligations or benefit entitlements – to reflect inflation in his Autumn Budget this October. The AMAP rate of 45p per mile was last reviewed in 2012. Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the cost of motoring had already increased by 25% since then, according to research by the RAC.

CTA has now joined forces with ten charities from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – Communities 1st, Volunteer Now, the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Volunteer Scotland, the Scottish Volunteering Forum, the Royal Voluntary Service, Volunteering Matters, Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and the National Association for Voluntary and



Community Action (NAVCA) – to call for an immediate review of the AMAP rate. The coalition's letter states that the current AMAP rate 'no longer fully covers volunteer expenses' and is disincentivising volunteering at a time when, as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and face a cost of living crisis, it is needed more than ever to – for example, transport older and disabled people to GP, hospital and vaccination appointments. It asks the new Chancellor to 'safeguard the future of the charities and organisations who rely on volunteer drivers to deliver lifeline services'.

David Kelly, CTA's Director for Scotland, said: 'We congratulate Nadhim Zahawi MP on his appointment as Chancellor and look forward to working with him to tackle inflation, which is hitting all parts of the voluntary sector hard, especially the Community Transport sector. With fuel prices at record highs and the cost of living crisis worsening, it's increasingly difficult for local charities or community groups to make ends meet. Some amazing projects and essential services are under threat. If some Community Transport schemes can't continue, it'll mean fewer older and disabled people getting out and about for shopping, hospital appointments or visits to family and friends; fewer younger people and deprived households getting to school, college, university or work; and more transport poverty across the UK. We need Nadhim Zahawi to act in the Autumn Budget so that volunteers can continue to do what they love and the voluntary sector can truly thrive, not just survive until the next crisis.'

Maddy Desforges OBE, CEO of NAVCA, said: 'NAVCA members report people stopping volunteering due to the cost of living crisis. We call on the Chancellor to increase the AMAP rate to reflect additional costs and enable people from all backgrounds to volunteer – an important part of levelling up disadvantaged communities.' Noeleen Lynch, CTA's Director for Northern Ireland, said: 'We hear reports from our members every single day of drivers who can no longer afford to volunteer as the current AMAP rate no longer covers their expenses. The fuel costs crisis is having a serious knock-on impact on our members' ability to recruit and retain volunteers and to deliver essential services. Given the cost of living pressures we're facing, volunteering can be an added expense many cannot absorb. We strongly believe that volunteering should be affordable for everyone and that volunteers should not experience any out-of-pocket expenses.'



Jen Reston, Chair of the Scottish Volunteering Forum, said: 'Our members are reporting that volunteers are leaving their roles due to the cost of living crisis and soaring fuel costs. This is making volunteering unaffordable for people which is not acceptable. It then impacts on the ability to deliver services, meet commitments and support those in need of services. No volunteer should be out of pocket for volunteering. Volunteering cannot be an activity that can only be accessible for those who can afford it. This will further exacerbate inequalities in our communities. Volunteering has to be accessible for all and the mileage

rate reviewed and increased, to ensure that vital services can continue.'

Sarah Vibert, CEO for NCVO, said: 'Rising petrol costs are making it increasingly difficult for volunteers and charity staff to drive as part of their roles. This is having a negative impact on charities at a time when their support for communities is needed more than ever. That's why we're calling on the government to review the mileage rate to help with transport costs related to volunteering. This will ensure that charities get the crucial voluntary support they need. We also want to see the government working alongside charities to explore ways we can meet these rising costs so their vital work can continue.'

Judith Stone, Assistant Director of Volunteering at WCVA, said: 'At a time of great hardship for many, we are deeply concerned seeing outdated AMAP rates creating a barrier to volunteering. Volunteer drivers offer their time and skill for free, often creating a lifeline for the most vulnerable, especially in geographically isolated and rural communities. Rising fuel costs should be covered by a revised AMAP rate which ensures volunteers are not out of pocket.'

Alan Stevenson, CEO of Volunteer Scotland, said: 'Volunteer Scotland exists to ensure that more people can volunteer; enjoyably, safely and regularly. The cost of living crisis is adding significant financial pressure to individuals across Scotland, and creating unwelcome barriers for people who wish to volunteer. 12% of formal Scottish volunteers gave help to transport people or things in 2018. This is the equivalent of 140,763 Scottish adults giving 12.5 million hours of help with an economic value of £187.8 million. Increasing the AMAP rate will help ensure that more volunteers are able to continue using their own car to provide vital help in their local communities.'

UK - Paper Applications for Major Applications will No Longer be Accepted by The Traffic Commissioner from 1 August 2022

Office of the Traffic Commissioner:
 "We are writing to inform you that from 1 August 2022, we will no longer be accepting paper applications for new licences and for major changes to existing licences. Many applications made on paper forms are on old, outdated forms that we can't accept and this delays applications. Submitting a fully completed online application with all supporting evidence cuts down on extra work for you and for us. It means that our caseworkers can deal with your applications quickly and get you on the road and compliant faster. That lets us be more efficient and those that use the service can get online help as they make applications.



Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain

We are constantly looking to improve the VOL system. We've grown it and developed it so that compliant businesses can apply for a licence, make major changes to it, continue (renew) their licence and if they need to, surrender the licence online. Most applications (94%) are being made using this faster digital service. For these reasons, from 1 August 2022 you won't be able to submit major variations to your licence using paper GV81 forms. You must apply online. If you already have a VOL digital account, you must use your existing account to apply online. If you don't already have a VOL digital account, you must create one now to ensure you are ready to make future major changes to your licence online. You can create an account at www.vehicle-operator-licensing.service.gov.uk. Please be aware that paper applications will be returned unactioned after 1 August 2022. Our overall aim is to reduce application processing times. Once this is in place, we will look at further opportunities for moving other licensing services online. Thank you for your prompt attention on this matter. VOL Service Team."

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKOTC/bulletins/31d34e6>

GB - Most Significant Change to Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Accessibility Legislation in Twelve Years

DfT: "New laws will ensure the 13.7 million disabled people in England, Scotland and Wales receive the assistance they need and will not be charged over the odds when using taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs). The new Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022, which came into force on 28 June, is the most significant change to taxi accessibility legislation since the Equality Act was introduced 12 years ago. The 2022 Act amends the Equality Act 2010 to place duties on taxi drivers and PHV drivers and operators, so

any disabled person has specific rights and protections to be transported and receive assistance when using a taxi or PHV without being charged extra.



As part of the amendments, taxi and PHV drivers could face fines of up to £1,000 if they fail to provide reasonable mobility assistance to disabled passengers taking a pre-booked vehicle. This will also ensure that visually impaired passengers will be assisted by drivers to help them identify or find the vehicle. There will also be a duty for local authorities to publicly identify wheelchair-accessible vehicles in their fleets. The measures will apply to drivers in England, Scotland and Wales and will help to provide consistency of experience for affected passengers.

Wendy Morton, Accessibility Minister, said: 'It is fantastic that the updated legislation and guidance will help ensure that all disabled people receive

assistance when using taxis and PHVs. Disabled people account for around a fifth of the population and our Inclusive Transport Strategy is making travel more accessible for all.' The act was a Private Members' Bill introduced by Jeremy Wright QC MP. Another change will mean that even drivers granted exemption from assistance duties on account of medical needs must still accept the carriage of disabled passengers and will not be able to charge them more than others..."

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-significant-change-to-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-accessibility-legislation-in-12-years?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=afda559c-4a09-453b-af9e-7974cd21f4df&utm_content=daily

UK - UK Charity to Relaunch Catch the Bus Month in September 2022

Intelligent Transport: "UK charity Bus Users is calling on passengers, operators, local authorities, passenger groups and community transport providers to get on board for 'Catch the Bus Month' in September 2022. This will be the first year that the charity has hosted the campaign since Greener Journeys handed it over in 2020. While many people have now returned to schools, offices and social events, public transport passenger numbers have remained below pre-pandemic levels. Bus Users wants this campaign to celebrate the bus as a sustainable, inclusive and accessible form of transport that reduces congestion, improves air quality and provides access to better life opportunities.



Launching the campaign, Claire Walters, Chief Executive of Bus Users said: 'As life returns to normal we want people who used to travel by bus to get back on board. Research has consistently shown that buses are safe, despite what government messaging said during the pandemic. Most people would be surprised at what the bus has to offer now in terms of technology, comfort, affordability and accessibility. All buses should provide low-floor access and most now offer free Wifi, ticketing and real-time information apps, on-board audio-visual announcements and well-trained drivers who are on-hand throughout the journey to offer help and support.'

Claire Haigh, former Chief Executive of Greener Journeys who launched the original campaign in 2013 said: 'I am delighted that Bus Users is hosting Catch the Bus Month. As life returns to normal there is so much to celebrate about the bus. The bus is such a powerful tool for

bringing communities together and tackling loneliness, and switching from car to bus is one of the best ways we can reduce pollution and support our economy.”

<https://www.intelligenttransport.com/transport-news/136926/uk-charity-catch-bus-month-september-2022/>

Northern Ireland – O’Dowd Meets Rural Community Transport Partnerships



Ni.Gov.Uk: “Infrastructure Minister John O’Dowd has held his first meeting with a number of Rural Community Transport Partnerships to hear about the vital work they do and the challenges they face. Minister O’Dowd said: ‘Community transport organisations make a valuable contribution, particularly within rural communities, to ensure that some of the most vulnerable people are able to access essential local services, get to important medical appointments and to actively participate in society which is vital for reducing feelings of isolation. During the Covid pandemic they adapted their services from

passenger transport to the delivery of food and medical prescriptions and later ensured people without access to transport were able to get to their vaccination appointments.

‘I am pleased that my Department has been able to support them while they carry out this vital work. Most recently the Department provided funding of £1.3m to provide 13 new electric vehicles. When these are all fully operational they will not only assist the organisations in delivering their services but also help to reduce carbon emissions and support cleaner, greener travel. I appreciate that many community transport organisations are now facing difficulties in light of rising operational costs. The absence of an Executive and lack of an agreed budget for 2022-23 presents real challenges for the delivery of public services. However I am determined to protect services and my Department will continue to work closely with the community transport organisations and with my ministerial colleagues to address their concerns.’”

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/odowd-meets-rural-community-transport-partnerships>

Scotland – Deeside Charity on the Road to Success

Deeside Piper & Herald: “Staff and volunteers at Mid Deeside Community Trust were celebrating recently following a donation of £9,387 from the Morrison’s Foundation. The cash boost has enabled the charity to purchase a specially adapted minibus to provide a transport service to people with mobility difficulties in the local community. Laura Brown and Aysha Hutcheon, Community Champions from the Morrison’s store in Banchory presented the donation to the charity. Laura and Aysha were instrumental in helping the charity gain the support of the local community and guided the charity every step of the way through their successful bid for a grant from the Morrisons Foundation. Laura said: ‘We worked hard at rallying support within the local community, receiving recommendations from members of the public and the passengers who use this vital service. We also were thrilled to receive the



backing of our local MP Andrew Bowie who went above and beyond in providing a testimonial in support of the charity. We were absolutely delighted when the Morrison's Foundation donated £9,387 to enable the purchase of the new bus.'

Aysha added: 'I'm so proud to have been able to help such a wonderful charity in our community and meet some of the people that this donation will help. Speaking to some of the passengers today they mentioned how much a lifeline this bus and service is for them, being elderly and the majority living on their own without family and having mobility issues, this door to door service is an essential lifeline for these passengers to get out of the house, socialise and do their weekly shop. Supporting charities in local communities is at the heart of what the Morrison's Foundation is all about and both Laura and I are over the moon that we were able to help.'

Mid Deeside Community Trust's project to purchase and adapt the minibus was also supported by other local sponsors, including; Margaret Hall donation, The Robertson Trust, COOP Local Community Fund, Jenny Marsh donation, Bank of Scotland Reach Programme, Mr and Mrs Graham donation, Tesco bags of help and The Postcode Lottery. In addition to offering the community transport service, the charity also provides additional services throughout the local area such as CPR courses for first aid volunteers as well as maintaining Aboyne Woodlands which comprise of Lady Wood and The Bell Wood. The woodlands have a dedicated team of volunteers who assist with the maintenance of the area for the benefit of the whole community. For further information on how Mid Deeside Community Trust supports the local area or if you'd like more details on how to donate or become a member, please visit www.mid-deeside.org.uk."

<https://www.deesidepiper.co.uk/news/people/local-charity-on-the-road-to-success-3731874>

Scotland - Needs of Rural Communities Must be Considered More as Fuel Price Crisis Continues

Press & Journal: "A director of a Scottish rural charity has warned the fuel price crisis is hitting rural communities differently from urban ones. Jenny Milne, founder and director of the Scottish Rural and Islands Transport Community (SRITC), said that rural and urban needs are different. She believes more needs to be done to support rural communities, with distances between facilities far greater – and a more common need for volunteers to assist with transport for isolated elderly people. The former university lecturer said: 'We need to acknowledge that things are different from rural and island perspectives rather than urban because that's often not acknowledged, or taken on board. I think it was six out of 10 of the areas in Scotland, that are classed as rural, are now spending 20% on transportation.' The price of fuel has now reached record-breaking levels, with prices in Aberdeen this week nearing £2 per litre – following the trend of the more remote stations earlier this year.



SRITC was founded in 2017 as a social enterprise to build a community that works to address the many transport challenges facing rural and island communities. Mrs Milne told BBC Good Morning Scotland: 'A lot of people can't even get to petrol stations, because it's not two miles away, it could be 10, 15, 20 miles away. And the uncertainty of actually having fuel at that station to be able to fill up with is horrific. Volunteers are a key component of community transport systems, of car schemes, or even getting transport for food

banks. We've had challenges with volunteers a lot because when you're getting reimbursed by 45p a mile, that's well out of date. If you're lucky to get reimbursed for that fuel. Like car

sharing, there's a lot of informal car sharing that takes place, where somebody helps the neighbour out, we need to be able to help reward these people and to be able to make people comfortable to ask for help. Active travel is strongly promoted by various organisations and government within Scotland, but it's very unsafe quite often in rural areas. You've got big roads, 60 miles an hour or 100 miles an hour motorbikes and big lorries going past you, that's not going to be a realistic option to somebody. There needs to be no quick light switch to be flipped on this. But there needs to be steps taken."

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands-islands/4398600/rural-fuel-crisis/>

Scotland - Views Sought on Orkney Flexible Bus Services

Orcadian: "Would you like to see more flexible on demand bus services operating in Orkney? This is the question being posed by Orkney Islands Council's transportation service, as it launches a consultation on the matter. Flexible on demand bus services or demand responsive transport (DRT) services typically operate in local areas where there are few or no conventional bus services. The exact route and stopping points are usually flexible. Journeys are booked and arranged in advance. Some on demand services are only for specific groups of people in the community, such as elderly and disabled. The purpose of the review is to consider ways to potentially expand existing services so that they are available to the wider community and identify where gaps may exist in specific areas.



Respondents are being asked their views on whether they'd consider using a flexible on demand service in their area and how it may help them to access key services or reduce car use and travel more sustainably. The survey is available online at

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/busflexi/>.

Paper copies are also available on request from the Transportation Service. A separate paper survey has been made available to existing users of the Dial a Bus Service, Hamnavoe Carers and Marengo Bus. The outcome of the surveys will form part of a

report to the development and infrastructure committee regarding the Community Transport funding for 2023/24 financial year and beyond. Both surveys will run until Sunday, August 7. Should you need assistance to complete the survey, you can contact the transportation service on 01856 873535 or email transport@orkney.gov.uk."

<https://www.orcadian.co.uk/views-sought-on-flexible-bus-services/>

CTA Scotland - Plugged-In Communities Fund 2022/23: Update

CTA Scotland, David Kelly: "Back in January, with the optimism of a new year just beginning, I blogged about the next steps for the Plugged-In Communities Grant Fund and our hopes for the future of funding for the decarbonisation of our sector. With the Fund's pilot round so heavily oversubscribed, we were calling for the Scottish Government to deliver a second round of funding in 2022/23 to help more Community Transport operators purchase zero-emissions vehicles after three CTA members were successful in securing funding for new electric minibuses – Mull and Iona Community Trust, South Ayrshire Community Transport and Tagsa Uibhst. So all of us in Team Scotland were delighted when Jenny Gilruth MSP, who was also appointed as the new Minister for Transport in the first month of 2022, announced £1.5m of grant funding for a second round.

The Fund will again be administered by the Energy Saving Trust (EST), which is taking registrations of interest now via pluggedinhouseholds@est.org.uk. The Fund will be open to



applications for six weeks in July 2022. Successful applicants will be offered 100% of costs for up to three electric or hydrogen vehicles. As she confirmed the funding, Ms Gilruth said: 'Whether it's electric miles or petrol miles, we know we need to reduce car kilometres by 20% across the board to meet our climate targets. Coupled with continued support for zero emission car clubs, I'm pleased we're expanding support for community transport schemes. This will help eliminate the need for individual car ownership and ensure it's not just

the wealthiest in society who can benefit from modern EVs. Over the past decade, sales of electric vehicles have grown in Scotland in line with our investment and incentivisation for early adopters. With zero emission vehicles becoming more common than at any other point, our support needs to evolve in order to help those that need it most. In doing so, we're aligning our funding streams to support a just transition to net zero, whilst delivering on our commitment to reduce overall car kilometres travelled by 20% by 2030.' The second round of the Plugged-In Communities Grant Fund therefore represents a strong endorsement by the Scottish Government of the Community Transport sector and its role in reducing carbon emissions, accelerating modal shift and ending Scotland's contribution to climate change..."

<https://ctauk.org/scotlands-plugged-in-communities-fund-2022-23-update/>

UK - New Active Travel and Research Grant Programmes to Help Fill Gaps in Existing Transport Services for Disabled People

Assistive Technology Today: "The Motability charity is launching six new grant programmes, committing £50 million in funding over the next three financial years to organisations across the UK that can help fill gaps in existing transport services for disabled people. The first two programmes, 'Community Transport' and 'Wheelchair Sector grants', launched in April, and Motability is actively encouraging organisations to apply for funding.

Motability is also launching two new programmes – Active Travel Grants and Research Grants. These are two key areas where Motability's insight through engagement has shown that providing grant funding to other charities and organisations will have a great impact. This could be through identifying and understanding problems and finding potential solutions, or by helping disabled people to make more of the journeys they want to, while Motability continues its research and innovation work into longer-term solutions to make all transport accessible.

Barry Le Grys, Chief Executive of Motability, said: 'We are thrilled to be launching these two new grant programmes. Motability has historically been known for providing grants to Scheme customers, and whilst that is still an important part of our work, we are incredibly excited to be using our charitable funds to help even more disabled people. So many fantastic charities and organisations are already doing so much to help disabled people access the transport they need, and through our new grant programmes we want to enable them to empower many more people. We strongly encourage any organisation that may be eligible for funding to have a look and apply.'

Motability's new Active Travel Grant Programme will help charities and organisations to improve and expand access to quality and affordable active travel equipment and journeys. This aims to ensure disabled people have the same opportunities to make decisions about how they travel, their impact on the environment, and to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits that active travel can provide. Motability defines active travel as all modes of travel that allow people to get around under their own steam – whether by walking, cycling, push scooters, or use of wheelchairs and other mobility aids. Active travel includes travel for commuting or leisure but does not include competitive and social sport.



Some of the areas Motability will focus on include:

-) Providing funding to ensure the voices and needs of disabled people inform and influence design requirements and that the information is communicated to the industry and Government to raise awareness.
-) Providing funding for charitable programmes that introduce disabled people to different active travel products and services.
-) Supporting existing programmes that have a clear focus on increasing travel confidence and safety for disabled people and enable them to use active travel products and services with confidence.
-) Providing funding to schemes, programmes and initiatives that are already successful in supporting Active Travel and provide best practice solutions but need further support to remain operational or increase the service they provide in order to help more disabled people.
-) Providing funding to programmes, charities or organisations to help fund more high-quality and affordable active travel equipment for disabled people.

Charities and organisations can apply for grants from £100,000 to £4 million at any point over the next three years.

Research Grant Programme - Motability's new grant programme is set to help charities and organisations to develop, expand and improve transport related research for disabled people, and to produce free, accessible data and findings by everyone with an interest in making transport more inclusive. The barriers disabled people face can only be removed by working with disabled people to increase understanding of the transport challenges and barriers, Motability says.

Some of the areas Motability will focus on include: Grant funding for research into barriers and challenges faced by disabled people when accessing or using transport, grant funding for transport related research that identifies good practice and evaluates solutions, and grant funding to conduct research to inform and improve new or existing transport related programmes and product design. Charities and organisations can apply for grants from £50,000 to £1 million at any point over the next three years. The programmes launched on 8 June 2022. For more information on how charities and organisations can apply for funding visit the Motability website <https://www.motability.org.uk/charitable-grants/grants-to-charities-and-organisations/active-travel-grant-programme>. <https://attoday.co.uk/new-active-travel-and-research-grant-programmes-to-help-fill-gaps-in-existing-transport-services-for-disabled-people/>

UK - CTA's Response to DFT's Consultation Regarding the Ending of Sales of Non-zero Emission Minibuses

CTA: "CTA recently responded to DFT's consultation regarding the ending of sales of non-zero emission minibuses, CTA welcomed the opportunity to provide evidence on the challenges in moving to a zero-emission fleet for the community transport sector, sharing our guidance on what an appropriate end of sales date might be, and add comment on the extent of government intervention necessary to accelerate the transition for our sector. To read the full response please follow the link here <https://cta.uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/zero-emission-buses.pdf>.

Overview of our response - CTA is of the opinion that a just transition to net zero for the community transport sector to be achieved there needs to be a clear and consistent UK wide Community Transport decarbonisation strategy, which supports not-for-profit organisations transition by giving long term assurance over capital investment for decarbonisation, as well as planning based on the needs of the sector. Decarbonisation for the CT sector is complex and challenging given the lack of suitable zero emission vehicles on the market which meet the needs of the service users and the cost of replacing traditional internal-combustion engine (ICE) vehicles with zero emission vehicles. There is also the lack of suitable infrastructure which meets the needs of the community transport sector though we appreciate this opportunity to consult on the phasing out of ICE minibuses the sector is concerned it will be left behind if a strategy for decarbonisation is not put in place...

DFT's consultation regarding the ending of sales of non-zero emission mini buses.

-a response from CTA



Within the response it was also covered off, what would be a realistic end date for non-zero emission vehicles, what would need to be true or in place to make the phase out of non-zero emission minibuses happen and a commentary on what the government could do to accelerate the transition to low emission vehicles. In conclusion we stated that CTA would call on the government to give serious consideration to the points raised

throughout this consultation without losing sight of who the Community Transport sector serves. It is delivering services which connect communities, delivers services for the most vulnerable of society including our elderly and those with disabilities and is presently adding immense value in terms of modal shift and decarbonisation by virtue of reducing the need for individual single vehicle journeys. The sector is operated by a dedicated network of staff, many of whom are voluntary who provide an invaluable service they are proud of, they play an important and often unseen role, and they need our support. The community transport sector needs support from the central government departments in the UK, across the devolved nations, in city decarbonisation planning and across local governments. If the government wishes for the sector to phase out sooner there would need to be extensive investment in infrastructure and the development of technology which meets the needs of the sector. CTA is keen to work with the government on the planning and delivery of the decarbonisation of the community transport sector and we feel we are best placed to be able to help facilitate that with governmental support."

<https://cta.uk.org/ctas-response-to-dfts-consultation-regarding-the-ending-of-sales-of-non-zero-emission-minibuses/>

CTA England – England Spotlight Newsletter Launched

The CTA England team has launched a regular e-newsletter called England Spotlight: "The aim of this newsletter will be to share with you important updates, the work of CTA in England and to promote good practice across the sector. This first newsletter has a focus on providing

an update on the work of the England Team at CTA. We want this information to reach as many people as possible so please do encourage anyone with an interest in Community Transport to sign up... Future Spotlights - We want this newsletter to be useful for you, please share with us topics you would like to see in the future (link here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=V4hTJhK6iU6OZPTKh6UQpUH_DwwLa4RIhK4TXoAGxOZURUO5VTdCSEhBTK0yUENRNDg2WDFVOTBFMS4u). Remember to share the sign up with anyone in your organisation or any local partners you think would be interested in receiving the England Spotlight." Sign up link here: <https://ctauk.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9bde7c95796a4957e726cee8e&id=3dfe3ec734>



Oxfordshire - Witney and Carterton and Wychwood Minibus Services Need Funds to Keep Going



Oxford Mail: "West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT), which operates minibus services serving estates in Witney and Carterton and link the Wychwoods to Witney, are holding a fundraising week from June 4-11. WOCT chair Margaret Burden said: 'We would not be able to operate without a number of grants from town and parish councils and the county council as well as donations from other organisations and our passengers.' All six of the services operated by WOCT are 16 seater

minibuses which are more economical to operate than the traditional buses and are able to drive down small roads in estates to pick people up closer to their homes. The buses are a lifeline for passengers who do not have a car as well as providing a social hub. As well as collecting tins on the buses there will be a stall outside Waterstone's in Witney from 9am to 1pm on Saturday June 11."

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/20195553.witney-carterton-wychwood-minibus-services-need-funds-keep-going/>

Cheshire - Toft Taverners Donates to Knutsford Community Transport Association

Knutsford Guardian: "Members of Toft Taverners have donated funds to help 'secure the future' of a vital community service transporting the elderly and the vulnerable. For more than half a century, Toft Taverners - the charitable arm of Toft Cricket Club - has been raising money to send a group of Knutsford's senior residents on an annual day out to Lytham St Annes. But they haven't stopped there.

Taverners chairman Paul Raffo said: 'As well as the Lytham trip we have been able to raise monies for other community causes. So, we are delighted to provide £1,000 to help Knutsford Community Transport Association (KCTA) who do such great work in transporting local people. The Taverners are fortunate to have the generous support of

business and clubs who donate money to our community causes as part of their charity cricket games, so a big thanks to them too.'

John Mills explained: 'The fixed costs of keeping the minibus on the road are more than £2,200 a year. A Government support grant in 2020 helped meet these costs in the early part of the Covid lockdown, but over the last year KCTA have had to draw on their limited reserves, with generous support from Knutsford Town Council, the Knutsford and District Lions club, Waitrose and individuals. This grant from the Taverners secures the future of the minibus while use returns to pre-Covid levels.'

<https://www.knutsfordguardian.co.uk/news/20243985.toft-taverners-donates-knutsford-community-transport-association/>



Cheshire - Thieves Steal Fuel from Charity Hospital Bus in Burtonwood



Warrington Guardian: "Cruel thieves have stolen a full tank of fuel from a charity bus. The theft occurred on Monday night or the early hours of Tuesday in the Burtonwood and Winwick area. The bus is operated by the Burtonwood and Winwick Community Bus service and is used to take residents to hospital appointments. In the act of stealing the fuel, thieves damaged the fuel tank, which had to be repaired using charity funds. Posting on social media, the charity said: 'On Monday night or Tuesday morning, a full tank of fuel was stolen from one of

our community buses. 'The tank was damaged and had to be repaired. This has caused operational difficulties as this bus was needed for hospital work, and it has cost the charity a lot of money. It has been reported to the police. If you saw anything, please let the police know.'

<https://www.warringtonguardian.co.uk/news/20249697.thieves-steal-fuel-charity-hospital-bus-burtonwood/>

Greater London - The Ultra Low Emission Zone & Community Transport by Merton CT

Merton CT Blog: "Set up in April 2019, the Ultra Low Emission Zone is an area in London where people who drive vehicles that cause the most pollution are charged an extra fee. It was recently announced that the zone will be expanded to cover the whole of Greater London in 2023 – which means that Merton Community Transport's minibuses are now going to be affected. So, what is the Ultra Low Emission Zone, or ULEZ, and why is it being implemented?

What does the ULEZ do? The ULEZ was introduced to help clean up London's air, and operates all day every day, with the singular exception of Christmas. It requires drivers of vehicles that don't meet emissions standards to pay a daily charge of £12.50 to drive within it. As well as including older and heavier minibuses, it also means that cars, motorcycles and vans that don't meet these standards are subject to the fee. In the first four months following its introduction, it caused a 20% reduction in pollution within Central London and resulted in a drop in the number of the worst polluting vehicles, from 36,500 down to 23,000.

When was it introduced? Although some sort of Low Emission Zone has been operating in London since February 2008, the current ULEZ wasn't introduced in its current form until 11 years later, in 2019. It's the successor to the T-Charge which was brought into effect in 2017, after the city was put on high pollution alert for the first time ever. The ULEZ was expanded in October 2021 to the area within the North and South Circular Roads, covering 3.8 million

people. In March 2022, it was announced that it will be expanded once again in 2023, to cover the rest of Greater London including Merton and its surrounding boroughs.

How will it affect MCT? While it will make driving older and heavier minibuses more expensive, the expansion of the ULEZ will not prevent MCT from offering convenient and affordable transport solutions. Depending on its implementation, however, it might affect the range of services we can offer. Currently, not-for-profit community transport services like MCT can register for a temporary 100% discount of the ULEZ charge until 29 October 2023. However, we don't yet know whether this will be extended for the newer areas outside the North and South Circular Roads when the ULEZ fee expands there. As it stands, day trips might become too expensive to run and upgrading enough of our fleet to meet standards may be difficult. Of course, we'll be happy to be surrounded by cleaner air and less polluting vehicles nonetheless. We'll do what we can to make sure ULEZ coming into effect will have a minimal impact on our services and it remains to be seen what the reality will be."

<https://mct.uk.com/2022/05/20/the-ultra-low-emission-zone-community-transport/>



Greater London - PlusBus for Health – Community Transport and GPs Transform Patient Attendance in Ealing

Ealing CT: "ECT Charity (Ealing Community Transport) is working in partnership with North West London CCG to provide assisted transport which is free for patients to GP appointments at 72 practices in the Ealing area. PlusBus for Health has helped 7,952 patients get to their appointments over the last year. ECT identified that access to transport is one of the biggest barriers to regular engagement with healthcare for lonely and isolated individuals. The PlusBus for Health service aims to reduce the number of GP house calls and missed appointments.

GPs are in control of the bookings and can book a PlusBus journey for patients who can't safely get to the GP practice on their own, have limited access to support from family or friends, or who need help due to lack of mobility or disability, or other health problems. Without Plus Bus for Health, 70% of in-surgery appointments for this cohort would have been home visits. This new service has meant 2,240 home visits were avoided (that's 70% of the 3,200 surgery appointments) saving £78,400. Plus 10% of missed appointments were avoided, delivering a saving of £14,080, in total a saving of £92,480 a year.



PlusBus for Health (PBH) is commissioned by North West London CCG and is free to GP practices and their patients. It's a simple system, the GP controls the booking of PBH ensuring it's reserved for those that are in most need. As GPs book the transport, the patient's mind-set shifts and they are more likely to attend appointments. The service is designed to enable GPs to optimise patient healthcare with direct savings to the NHS while building independence and increased well-being amongst our ageing population.

Fayyaz Dar, general manager at Ealing ECT says: 'PlusBus for Health reaches the most vulnerable patients because the proactive decision making is out of their hands. It serves patients with dementia who may need extra support. It also serves lonely and isolated patients who worry about the practicalities of leaving their home and "being a burden".'

Research presented to the Primary Care Commission Committee showed PBH can:

-) reduce the rates of missed appointments;
-) benefit the loneliest and most isolated older people in the community;
-) patients attend more surgery appointments using the PBH service;
-) improve the quality and health care that patients receive;
-) reduce the amount of home visits and
-) have a positive impact on health and well-being

It's easy to sign up - surgeries can ring 020 8813 3214 to find out more about the service, or can email plusbushealth@nhs.net to make a booking.

'It's particularly relevant for older and vulnerable communities or those needing support due to mobility or mental health', added Sam Shaw (ECT Communications Lead). 'The service isn't yet at capacity and we are keen to welcome on board more GP Practices in the area...This service is changing lives and making appointments possible for a number of people and is a great example of community transport supporting and working with the NHS for the local community.'

See also: <https://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/clinical-areas/elderly-care/ccg-hopes-to-save-90k-a-year-by-transporting-patients-to-gp-appointments/>, <https://managementinpractice.com/news/free-patient-transport-to-gp-practices-reduces-home-visits-and-missed-appointments/> and <https://ectcharity.co.uk/news/story/ect-and-ealing-gps-work-together-to-help-patients>

Greater London - ECT and Age UK Bring Ealing Residents Together to Celebrate

ECT Charity website: "Ealing Community Transport (ECT) and Age UK got together to make the Queen's Jubilee happen for older people in Ealing. Members of Age UK's centre in Greenford had the chance to take part in a community high tea thanks to ECT, whose green minibuses provided the transport to pick them up from their homes. In total 160 miles were travelled to make this happen. Fayyaz A. Dar, General Manager at ECT says; 'The Jubilee is a time for community but we know through our work that many struggle to stay connected to the communities they've been living in their whole lives. We can change that and we're thrilled to be able to help Age UK members be part of something really special for the Jubilee.'



The event, part of the Combating Isolation and Loneliness Project saw over 100 people take part, this included people with varying mobility issues ranging from 'free walkers' to individuals on mobility scooters. June plays host to National Loneliness Week. 1.4 million older people in the UK are often lonely. Helping older people reclaim their lives and hold on to

their independence is both physically and mentally vital when challenging and combatting loneliness. It is with the support of local organisations on the ground that communities can help one another. Ealing Community Transport has been bussing the community for 30 years and works regularly with Age UK helping their members get from A to B, as well as taking part in frequent day trips. With a fleet of 65 vehicles and 68 drivers the charity makes staying independent and feeling connected possible for many vulnerable and older people living in the borough. To find out how Ealing Community Transport can help you or your relative get moving email us: info@ectcharity.co.uk."

<https://ectcharity.co.uk/news/story/ect-and-age-uk-bring-ealing-residents-together-to-celebrate>

Greater London – Dial-a-Ride Provides a Lifeline for Older and Disabled Londoners, but Significant Improvements are Needed



London Post: "Research published today by campaigning charities Age UK London (AUKL) and Transport for All (TfA), has highlighted a number of improvements needed to enhance the Dial-a-Ride service. The research has shown that the door-to-door service has a vital role in enriching the quality of life of its users and reduces social isolation and loneliness. However, the lack of flexibility in the way the service is run is limiting the potential it has to truly transform lives and reach those Londoners that would benefit the most. The free, bookable bus service for disabled Londoners of all ages allows them to shop, meet with friends and

family, and attend health, wellbeing and social groups and classes. The service can make the difference between being stuck at home and living the lives that people want to live. Yet many of the users find the booking service causes stress and frustration with one saying: 'They tend to disappoint and it raises my anxiety which is not very good for my health.'

While celebrating the huge difference Dial-a-Ride makes to the lives of those using the service, the two organisations are making recommendations to enhance the experience of users. These include changes to the booking system, in particular to avoid situations where users give up on calls to the telephone booking line, due to long waiting times. They are also calling for longer operating hours, fewer restrictions on the length of journeys and much better communication, particularly when it relates to service changes. Commenting on the fact that the service finishes at 10pm, one of the interviewees, quipped: 'I forgot I'm disabled and I'm not allowed to have a social life after 10 o'clock.' Speaking of frustrations with the telephone booking line another interviewee, said: 'They keep telling you that your call is important to them and they will get back to you. You're sitting there glued to the phone waiting and waiting.'

Caroline Stickland, CEO at Transport for All, said: 'The Dial-a-Ride service is life-changing for its users. It provides a lifeline for many people and we've heard time and time again from our interviewees that without the bus they would not go out – to shop, meet friends and family or to go to social events. But, there are many flaws in the service that let it down and can easily be improved.' Despite this, the overwhelming majority of interviewees were very happy with the Dial-a-Ride drivers who are much liked by users and who described them as helpful, courteous and often willing to go the extra mile. Abigail Wood, CEO, Age UK London, said: 'When Dial-a-Ride works well, it changes lives for the better, but when it does not, it can be a cause of stress and frustration to Londoners who are already facing challenges. Our report highlights aspects of the service which can be improved and must be addressed by TfL, especially as numbers of passengers increase post-pandemic.' Users are slowly returning to

the service following the pandemic, between April 2021 and March 2022 the number of weekly trips started to increase to between 5,000 and 10,000 trips per week. This is a vast drop since pre-pandemic when there were up to 20,000 trips per week."

<https://london-post.co.uk/dial-a-ride-provides-a-lifeline-for-older-and-disabled-londoners-but-significant-improvements-are-needed/>

Hampshire - Budget Cuts to Community Transport Service and Concessionary Travel Scheme Planned

New Milton Advertiser & Lymington Times: "Plans to slash the budget for community transport services and concessionary travel by up to £800,000 have been revealed by Hampshire County Council. As it struggles to meet an £80m shortfall by April 2023, the authority is looking at passing costs on to customers rather than reducing services. Options include no longer supporting elements of the concessionary travel scheme, for example by withdrawing taxi vouchers as an alternative to a disabled person's bus pass. Other changes could include introducing fees for Taxishare services, increasing the charge for replacing lost or damaged bus passes and making operational changes to services including Dial-a-Ride, Call & Go, Taxishare and Minibus Group Hire.



Additionally, the council said around £150,000 could be saved through changes to back-office functions which would not have an impact on service delivery. A public consultation has been launched, which will run until 24th July. Cllr Edward Heron, HCC's cabinet member for transport, said: 'I'd like to reassure service users especially that no decisions have been made. We will endeavour to minimise the impact on passengers from any changes that may be agreed at a later date; however, it is essential that we find ways to do things differently and with reduced costs. Therefore, it is really important that people take this opportunity to tell

us what they think of the proposed changes. Their views, along with other factors, will help to inform any recommendations for changes.'

HCC's Bus Service Improvement Plan, aimed at encouraging people to travel sustainably, was not awarded government funding and so cannot be delivered as initially envisaged. But the council said it remains committed to the plan and still intends to develop bus services that provide affordable, attractive, easy and safe alternatives to car travel. If changes are introduced later in the year, the council stressed that it will work in partnership with bus operators to 'secure a network of bus services for residents across Hampshire within the resources available'. We would continue to target resources at those areas and people who need it most, whilst at the same time providing the best value for money,' said a spokesperson. To view the proposals, go to

www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/passenger-transport. To complete an online response form, visit hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/PT2022.

To request a paper copy of the information pack and response form call 01962 846730."

<https://www.advertiserandtimes.co.uk/news/plan-to-slash-800-000-in-community-transport-services-and-c-9259411/>

Hampshire - Unity Transport Team Joins Forces with Thruxton Circuit to Offer Minibus and Scooter Service at Historic Event

Andover Advertiser: "An Andover charity teamed up with a nearby race circuit to help members of the public enjoy a recent event – while raising awareness and funds for its community transport service. Unity Transport and Mobility teamed up with the Historic Thruxton event last weekend, to offer scooter hire over the weekend. As well as this, on the Sunday (June 12), the charity's transport team volunteer drivers took to the track during the Church Break, offering the public the chance to see the whole track from the comfort of the

minibus. They were also entertained by the in-bus live commentary from one of the staff, who had taken time to read up on the history of the track, learn the names of the corners and incorporate interesting snippets of information about famous drivers.

The partnership has allowed Unity Transport to raise awareness of the importance of community transport, but also the need to recruit more volunteer drivers to support local communities with the valuable service. Any funds raised go straight back to help support the service so that it can continue to reach the more rural communities that it serves. Stuart McAuliffe, transport manager for Unity, said: 'We were absolutely delighted to have been given the opportunity to once again run trips around the Thruxton circuit. This not only raised additional funds for our community transport but also provided a wonderful opportunity for our volunteer drivers to drive around the circuit. They have all worked so hard for us over the last couple of years and seeing them enjoy the day and having so much fun whilst taking members of the public for their trips was great to see.'



The scooter hire has been successful over previous years at not only the Historic, but British Touring Cars events. It is a valuable service allowing the less able to attend where they may not otherwise be able to attend or stay the whole day. Each day was supported not only by staff from both services, but by Unity registered volunteers, giving them a chance to get involved in something a little bit different, and enjoy the thrills of the Thruxton event. Terry Bishop, CEO of Unity, added: 'We are very lucky to have built up a good relationship with Thruxton over the years, in allowing us to attend these events. As a charity, it is a way of raising awareness and extra funds to support our services in the community. Our thanks must go to Thruxton, and Lorne Mitchener the events manager who makes it happen for us every year.'

<https://www.andoveradvertiser.co.uk/news/20212581.unity-transport-team-joins-forces-thruxton-circuit-offer-minibus-scooter-service-historic-event/>

Bedfordshire – Fuel Price Crisis: Biggleswade Businesses Fight Back as Crisis Bites - and One Garage Predicts Prices Could Rise to £3 a Litre

Biggleswade Today: "The RAC states that the average petrol price is now 186.59p per litre, with diesel at 192.48p, while the average car owner in Central Bedfordshire could face an annual rise of over £250. The change is being blamed partly on the price increase of crude oil (used in petrol and diesel) as suppliers have struggled to keep up with demand post-lockdown, while the war in Ukraine is a factor. As countries ban or phase out Russian oil, demand from other producers has increased and prices have risen. Terry Woods, general secretary of voluntary community bus service, the Ivel Sprinter, said: 'At the moment we've sort of swallowed it. A couple of months ago our prices rose, and obviously we get a certain amount from the local authority, but it has decreased our profit. We try to keep prices as low as we can for as long as we can, but price increase is dictated by increase in cost - not just in fuel, but insurance, maintenance. If fuel went up too



much, we may end up subsidising [the company] with back up money we've put to one side. We'd look at it carefully'...

Ray Morrissey, of Talk of the Town Community Transport Group, Sandy, said: 'Fuel, naturally, is a major proportion of our operating costs, so the current prices are going to have a significant affect. However, it is difficult to evaluate the effect of the increases in actual cash terms; we are still feeling the effects of the pandemic. Actual usage has not yet returned to pre-Covid levels so operating revenue is down anyway. It is difficult to gauge when prices are going to stabilise. Our aim is to provide a community service and we'll continue to do so as long as we can afford to do so.' The Ivel Sprinter is appealing for volunteer drivers: 01767261047."

<https://www.biggleswadetoday.co.uk/business/consumer/cost-of-living/fuel-price-crisis-biggleswade-businesses-fight-back-as-crisis-bites-and-one-garage-predicts-prices-could-rise-to-ps3-a-litre-3733696>

Suffolk – In Praise of the Longest Serving CT Driver in the County – or Maybe the UK?



GoStart Community Transport, John Phillips: "I am fairly certain that many CT operators have seen or even been besieged with copies of very positive cards and letters of thanks – well here is yet another one, only this time there is a big difference..."

Letter from service user: 'The staff in the office and the drivers have always been so helpful and kind...John Chapman was amazing. For various reasons the date and time [of a medical appointment] had to be changed twice but your admin staff were so reassuring and kind. The help we received from John was outstanding...I would never have managed...without his kindness and help.'

Thank you so much for a marvellous service that makes a stressful situation so much easier...'

John Chapman (aka JC) may well be the longest established minibus driver providing for the community in Suffolk. JC was very active as a fund raiser, a strong CT advocate and a community driver. Regrettably he would not be able to do this today as he was only eighteen when he started. John and a small group of friends based at a church in Halstead, just over the foreign border in Essex, were making and selling garden sheds. Sales pitches were often found on street corners on the Lexden Road. The money they raised was used to purchase a Commer van conversion as a minibus. This vehicle was used to take elderly people who were isolated and lonely for days out at very low cost – this was in 1967! Has the DfT suddenly caught on or is it now a case of developing square wheels?



A couple of salient points:

-) Community drivers do not have to be retired, a very common misnomer!
-) Concerns and complaints about a lack of funding drag on and on and on!
-) A bit of get up and go with imagination has helped before and could help again!
-) Is the "Great New Big Money Scheme by DfT" for loneliness really a new idea?
-) And is JC the longest serving driver for community transport in Suffolk or even right across the country?"

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

Suffolk - Vital New Community Bus Service Launches to Help Isolated Get out and about

Eastern Daily Press: "A new community transport service has been launched to help isolated people living in the villages north of Lowestoft to get out and about more easily. Operated by BACT, and funded by East Suffolk Community Partnerships, Buzzabout is a new bookable bus service for residents in Gunton East, Somerleyton, Lound, Blundeston and St Olaves. Using a 16-seat minibus, Buzzabout can be booked to pick people up at existing bus stops, from their home or anywhere else they need to take them wherever they want to go. The fully accessible service, including for wheelchair users, the Buzzabout service operates on Mondays and Thursdays between 8.30am and 4.30pm and can be booked by calling BACT on 01986 896896, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.



With a Transport and Travel group set up by East Suffolk's Community Partnerships to identify parts of the district lacking in rural transport, a recent survey found that 23 per cent of residents in the villages to the north of Lowestoft do not have access to a car or traditional public transport, leaving them feeling isolated and dependent on other people. Buzzabout has been launched as a direct response to this, to help people of all ages access shops, services and social activities more

easily. Norman Brooks, East Suffolk Council's cabinet member for transport, said: 'Introducing new on-demand transport options for those living in rural communities where there is limited public transport is one way in which we are tackling social isolation, which can have a real impact on people's mental and physical health.' Buzzabout fares are discounted until July 2023 with a return trip from Lound to Lowestoft just £4.

Paul Ashdown, chairman of the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership which has contributed to the development of the service, said: 'This service is for those in rural areas to get into surrounding villages and the town, but also encourages those in Lowestoft to use the service to visit family, friends and attend events or functions in the rural communities.' The new service launched on Sunday, July 3 at the 25th anniversary celebrations for Bungay-based BACT. BACT manager Debbie Blowers said: 'We are delighted to have received the funding from the East Suffolk Community Partnerships to run this vital service in the rural areas north of Lowestoft where bus services have been reduced and left passengers without easily accessible transport options.'

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/traffic/vital-bus-service-launches-north-lowestoft-9120526>

Suffolk - Volunteer Group Honoured with Queen's Award

Beccles & Bungay Journal: "A Suffolk charity has been honoured by the Queen after its tireless efforts in 2022. Halesworth Volunteers has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK. Emma Healey, director of Halesworth Volunteers, said: 'We are still here to make lives better in whatever way we can. This amazing award recognises our much-loved Community Car Service that has operated for nearly 40 years getting people who cannot travel independently to their important social and medical appointments. New projects like the Halesworth Community Larder that developed during the Pandemic show how we can meet new challenges and reach out to people who have not used our services before. Everything we do is powered by the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. This is very much their award.'

Halesworth Volunteers is the new name for Halesworth Volunteer Centre, a charity that has been supporting people in Halesworth and the surrounding rural villages for nearly 40 years. In 2019 the team of volunteer car drivers for Halesworth Volunteers were doing an average of 900 journeys a month...Working with Halesworth Area Community Transport bus, Pear Tree Centre, and Dementia Carers Fund, Halesworth Volunteers became a crucial support hub for the community response to Covid-19. In one week in May 2020, volunteers delivered 90 homes their shopping and over 100



prescriptions and medication, as well as being a friendly voice at the end of the phone to over 70 isolating and isolated people. Karen Austin, chair of Halesworth Volunteers, said: 'We cannot describe how honoured we are by this award, and in the Jubilee year too. It is fantastic to be stepping out with a new name and with the national recognition that this award brings. It is testament to our fantastic volunteers and staff and the way that all the local groups in Halesworth and beyond worked together during the Covid-19 pandemic.'

<https://www.becclesandbungayjournal.co.uk/news/halesworth-volunteers-honoured-with-queens-award-9027812>

Norfolk - Dersingham Volunteer Receives Praise from Hillington Hospice



Lynn News: "A man from Dersingham has received praise from the hospice he volunteers for as a driver. Robin Lake, aged 79 has been a volunteer at the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House, Hillington, for three years and the charity recently held an event at Knight's Hill to thank their volunteers during National Volunteering Week. Stuart Davis, driver at the Norfolk Hospice, said: 'Robin Lake is a well-liked and respected member of The Norfolk Hospice's volunteer driver team. During his three years as a volunteer he has become a firm favourite with staff and patients alike and is always immaculately dressed. He has a sunny, friendly and approachable

disposition. Always respectful and polite, he puts patients and bereaved clients at ease during a very difficult time in their lives. He has received many well deserved compliments and letters of thanks from grateful clients and patients. Robin is not only a driver but also goes out of his way to assist with fundraising and anything else that is required of him. He is always happy to take on new challenges and gives his time freely and generously. Robin is truly a pleasure to work with and a credit to the Norfolk Hospice'."

<https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/volunteer-receives-praise-from-hospice-9258836/>

Worcestershire - Grab a Ticket to Ride and Help Move Your Community Transport Idea into Top Gear

Evesham Observer: "Forward thinking groups and individuals interested in creating new community transport schemes in Wychavon are being invited to grab a 'Ticket to Ride' and help turn their ideas into reality. The £150,000 Ticket to Ride fund is designed to support community-led projects which improve access to services, connect communities, reduce social isolation, encourage more active forms of travel or just cut carbon emissions. Projects can bid for up to 50 per cent of their costs – up to a maximum of £50,000 – from the fund, which is part of Crowdfund Worcestershire, a partnership between Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils.



The launch event for potential project creators and funders is taking place at Whittington Community Hall on Tuesday, June 28 from 10am to 11am. Visit www.crowdfundworcs.eventbrite.com to register. Free online workshops are also taking place on July 6 and July 14. Any interested residents and groups are encouraged to register online. The deadline to submit an idea for the next round of funding is September 28. Coun Rob Adams, executive board member for Stronger Communities, Culture and Sport, said: 'Residents and community groups understand the transport needs of their local area better than anyone so we're excited to see what ideas they have and how we can support them. If you're interested in finding out more, or developing an idea further, please attend the launch event and take part in the online workshops. Together we can make transport greener, fairer and more inclusive for all.' Visit www.spacehive.com/profile/wychavondistrictcouncil for more." <https://www.eveshamobserver.co.uk/news/grab-a-ticket-to-ride-and-help-move-your-community-transport-idea-into-top-gear/> Also: <https://www.malvernobserver.co.uk/news/groups-in-malvern-can-grab-ticket-to-ride-grants-to-start-new-community-transport-schemes-39372/>

Greater Manchester - Rochdale Volunteer Drivers Service Picks up Another Award



In Your Area: "HMR Circle's volunteer drivers service has landed another trophy, scooping the group prize at the Rotary Middleton Community Star Awards. The volunteer drivers help older residents get to their hospital or doctor's appointments and even deliver meals, craft packs and shopping to people in their homes. During the Covid pandemic the service was also crucial in helping those residents who were shielding. Subsequently the service won the Community Transport Association Volunteer Car Scheme of the Year for its outstanding response to the pandemic.

This latest prize also recognised the service for all the work they did across Rochdale borough during this period. Circle director Mark Wynn said: 'We won the group award, basically for all our work during the pandemic. They used the phrase that we went 'over and above' to support people. During the pandemic the service was also crucial in helping those residents who were shielding. It was quite a big event. We've been fortunate that we have picked up a couple of awards. It is a cracking service; it does go above and beyond. The volunteers that provide the

service for us are amazing - literally nothing is too much trouble. We're always looking for new volunteers and looking to grow the service.' To contact HMR Circle call 0800 112 3440." <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/rochdale-volunteer-drivers-service-picks-up-another-award/>

Lincolnshire - Struggling Grimsby Dial-a-Ride Targeted by Vandals

Grimsby Telegraph: "A struggling Grimsby charity has been forced to temporarily halt its operations after it was targeted in a mindless act of vandalism. Dial A Ride, which helps those with mobility and transport issues to do daily tasks such as shopping, was targeted on Thursday June 9, when a window was smashed on one of its vans, parked outside a house in Pelham Road. Already struggling following the Coronavirus pandemic, volunteers at the charity have been left frustrated and upset by the latest turn of events. Coordinator Ken Peacock is hoping this incident won't stop them from delivering their vital service.

He said: 'One of our 80 year old drivers, Frank Bemrose, had parked the van on his drive as he always does, but woke up to find it had been broken into. However, nothing was stolen or taken despite there being a SatNav in it. It just seems to be an act of pure mindless vandalism that has cost us money we simply can't afford. We're already running at a four or five driver a day deficit as it is, this is the last thing we needed. I find it disgusting to know a small minded person could do such a thing, especially to a vehicle that is such a benefit to the community.



'This vehicle has done a lot of mileage and hours and we are already scraping through as it is after the pandemic. To have this happen is both horrifying and a shock. It was something we never expected to happen and when I was told I thought it was a joke at first. With us being behind previous levels we're suffering financially as well so we can ill afford to spend money on things like this. It's just added to a number of things that we didn't need or want to happen. We understand these things happen daily, but for it to happen to a charity vehicle that does so much for the community when we haven't even recovered from the pandemic is awful.'" <https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/grimsby-news/struggling-grimsby-charity-targeted-vandals-7197312>

Nottinghamshire - Wedding Season at Ravenshead CT!

Facebook 23 March: "What a perfect day for a wedding and how lovely it was to have both Bride & Groom on board our Ada Lovelace [minibus] (separately of course) to take them to Hazel Gap Barn, their chosen wedding venue. You all look amazing and a big 'thank you' to volunteer driver Ian Clegg for 'dressing' our Yellow Lady in her ribbons and bows and giving up your time to drive. Everyone at RCT sends their congratulations and best wishes to Jodie & Tom for a great life together."



Facebook 31 May: "We love having a bride on board! Thank you Mike Salmon for this fabulous photo of the bridal party about to get on our Ada Lovelace to travel to the lovely Hodsock Priory in North Nottinghamshire. The sun was shining and you all look amazing. We hope you had a great day and we wish the bride and groom every happiness for the future."

Facebook 20 June: "Well, after two previous attempts at booking all three of our Ladies for her wedding - postponed due to the Covid pandemic - it was lovely to finally be able to get her to the venue on time! Christie you look amazing and we all hope you had the best day celebrating at Hazel Gap Barn. Thanks must go to volunteers David Cooper, John Manchester & Peter Russell for giving up your time on Saturday to transport the bridal party & other family and friends to Budby and more importantly get you 'home' safely late that night after you had finished partying!

Congratulations to you and Andrew from us all at RCT."

<https://www.facebook.com/Ravenshead-Community-Transport-433248663402070/>



Northamptonshire - New 'Lifeline' Community Bus Service Piloted in Northamptonshire to 'Reconnect' Villages

Northampton Chronicle: "A new 'lifeline' community bus service is being piloted in Northamptonshire to help 'reconnect' villages. Liberal Democrat councillor for the Brixworth Ward, Jonathan Harris, has spent five months working with CommMiniBus to explore ways of reconnecting villages with some form of public transport. Cllr Harris worked to find a solution to the lack of any public transport in the village of Scaldwell, and through CommMiniBus, the village now has an 'on demand' Friday service between Kettering and Weston Favell. The conversations broadened and now there is a fortnightly shopping service - the 'Shopper Hopper' - that picks up in Cottesbrooke, Haselbech and Cold Ashby. Cllr Harris said: 'We took the opportunity to include other villages, such as Naseby, Thornby, Creaton and Brixworth as it made sense to do so. Spratton is also now included as people there had heard about the service and asked if we could include them. This is very much a joint effort and our ambition is to keep this service working all year round if we can, and eventually look to see if we can widen it within the ward.'



Every other Tuesday during May and June the minibus service picked up passengers and headed to supermarkets, such as the new Aldi at Overstone Leys or Weston Favell, and drops back into Brixworth for a stop to enable access to various shops as well as the library. This service will continue during July and August. There will also be shopping trips to Rushden Lakes - a destination requested by the users themselves. Anna Hughes a regular user and one of the co-ordinators from Creaton said: 'We really want this to feel like a community so we get passengers involved and try and shape trips as best as we can to fit in with

CommMiniBus's overall schedule. People have told us that it is more than a bus service, it's a lifeline to the outside world and are very excited that so much effort and energy has been put into re-establishing this connection for them and supporting their independence.' If anyone wants to use the service, they are asked to contact the team on Facebook. Search 'Brixworth Liberal Democrat Focus Team'."

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/people/new-lifeline-community-bus-service-piloted-in-northamptonshire-to-reconnect-villages-3748429>

Devon – Over £1,000 for Okehampton Transport Group

Okehampton Today: "The Okehampton District Community Transport Group (ODCTG) has been granted a total of £1,500 to help keep the service running during the cost of living crisis. The transport group announced its delight that it had received a £500 grant from the Magic Little Grant, part of the Postcode Lottery, and £1,000 from Movement for Good, a funding scheme that supports community interest groups. Sue Wonnacott, manager of the ODCTG, said that the group had once received money from the Postcode Lottery and when she discovered that it was eligible to apply again she did so without any certainty that it would succeed.

She said: 'I am always surprised when we get a grant. It takes time and effort and it's difficult - nine times out of ten, you are unsuccessful. It's nice when you get something. We do have funding from Devon County Council for our Ring and Ride service but it's not a given. They can only give you a definite answer a year in advance.' The group said the money from the Magic Little Grant will be used to subsidise its bus fares to keep the service running which it hopes will prevent social isolation and promote health and wellbeing among those unable to use traditional public transport.

Last month the ODCTG asked supporters to nominate the charity for the Movement for Good donation scheme draw which saw the charity up for a grant of £1,000. It announced this week that it was successful. 'We have also just received £1,000 from Movement for Good which will go towards subsidising fares so we can keep our costs down. I expect the money soon, I've just got a bit of paperwork to fill out,' said Ms Wonnacott. Despite fuel and maintenance costs continuing to rise, the transport group has continued to keep its prices as low as possible and it is hoped that the extra funding will allow the service to maintain affordable fares.

However, the charity has found it necessary to rise prices slightly in order to cover the increasing cost of drivers' fuel. Last week, it announced that local journeys within Okehampton would rise from £4 to £5 for the return journey, while longer journeys would increase from 50p to 55p per mile plus a £3 booking fee. Wheelchair accessible vehicle charges and bus fares will not increase as the charity said it was 'keen to continue to subsidise these to help keep independence, improve health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation.' The new prices are set to come into operation from July 1.



The ODCTG is a community-led charity, supported by Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council which provides transport to those in the Okehampton area who live in rurally isolated locations or those otherwise unable to use traditional public transport. It provides a Ring and Ride bus service, individual car transport and organises regular Saturday and mid-week community trips to a range of locations across Devon which have included Exmouth, Paignton Zoo, Exeter and Sidmouth in the past."

<https://www.okehampton-today.co.uk/news/over-ps1000-for-transport-group-551841>

Devon - Exeter legend Big Norm finally gets his send-off



Devon Live: "It is almost two years to the day since legendary Exeter musician Andrew Thorpe, better known as Big Norm, sadly passed away. The 64-year-old, who was well-known for being the lead guitarist in '80s cover band Kiss This, was denied a proper funeral that all his family and friends could attend due to Covid restrictions. He passed away after a brief spell in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital on July 22, 2020, and since then the dream has always been to celebrate the contribution he made to the local music scene by hosting a tribute gig called

Norm-Fest in his memory. Now that all Coronavirus regulations have been lifted, it is due to take place this Saturday, July 9, at Exeter Phoenix from 7pm to 11pm. The line-up includes Carnaby Street, The Bail Jumpers and, of course, Kiss This. All proceeds from the night will go to Exeter Community Transport Association, a local charity close to Norm's heart as it is managed by fellow musician Mike Ellis, lead singer of The Bail Jumpers..."

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/exeter-legend-big-norm-finally-7300585>

Devon – Keeping the Wheels Turning at the Show

Totnes Today: "'Ideal'... that was the verdict of wheelchair user Lindsay Phillips at the Devon County Show. He was referring to the work of the team from Newton Abbot

Community Transport Association who were providing mobility solutions for show goers. When the Mid-Devon Advertiser called at their marquee at the show's Green Gate, Richard Stevens was being sorted with an electric scooter. A person living with Parkinson's, Richard added: 'This is perfect so my wife and I can enjoy the show together.'

Kay Yendell, Newton Abbot Community Transport manager, said they had been helping about 50 people a day with mobility problems. 'But it is not just the people we are helping,' she said. 'It means they can enjoy the day out with their families.'

Teignmouth and Dawlish Shopmobility have been joining the Newton Abbot team in providing this valuable service. To find out more visit www.newtonabbotcta.org."

<https://www.totnes-today.co.uk/news/keeping-the-wheels-turning-at-the-show-553507>



Devon - Meeting to Decide Future of Holsworthy Rural Community Transport

Holsworthy Today: "A meeting is planned for 7.45pm on July 27 at Holsworthy Memorial Hall, to decide the future of the Holsworthy Rural Community Transport Ltd (HRCT). The meeting will be chaired by local MP for Torridge and West Devon, Sir Geoffrey Cox QC, who has already pledged his support. HRCT provides an invaluable service to those who are isolated and without reliable transport in Holsworthy and its rural parishes. The group operate the

'Ring & Ride' buses throughout the Holsworthy and Bude district, enabling people to have social outings, or simply go shopping. The volunteer 'Cars for Care' service enables residents to attend hospital and other medical and health related appointments. They also offer an affordable minibus hire option for community groups and clubs for outings and fixtures, who would otherwise have to use cars, as there are no other commercial options available. In these ways, they support hundreds of local people every year. However, over recent years costs have spiked and the group is facing closure if additional funding cannot be found.



On behalf of the group Chairman of the trustees Martin Prentice said: 'We need your help. In recent years, the HRCT trustees have been very successful in securing the necessary financial support to run our services. These include payments from Devon County Council for school run contracts, and a very modest grant from Torrington District Council (now zero). By far the largest direct support has come from the Big Lottery from which we have been successful in securing major grants on three occasions over the past 13 years. However, although we are

exploring every alternative option, it is most unlikely that we will succeed for a fourth time and HRCT is now facing having to cease operations and go out of existence next year unless the shortfall can be made up. For this reason, we have decided to hold a meeting to consult the community, its elected representatives of our town and parishes, district and county councils, representatives of community organisations and others, to discuss solutions and establish whether HRCT can be saved. At that meeting, the trustees will present a detailed picture of the financial situation. We know there is a willingness on the part of many individuals to help, but a viable basis for continued operations, with vehicles and staff to maintain, will require a commitment to sustain HRCT for at least three years.'

They hope that if sufficient contributors and sponsors can be found, HRCT could continue beyond 2023. Moreover, the evidence of the community's support could be very helpful in securing additional grants so they hope to welcome as many people to the meeting as possible. Mr Prentice added: 'The trustees felt it only right to consult the community and to establish if there is a will to preserve our HRCT before taking the sad, but inevitable step, unless a way forward can be found, of bringing our services to an end in 2023, as so many other Community Transport Associations (CTA) have already done.'

<https://www.holsworthy-today.co.uk/news/meeting-to-decide-future-of-rural-transport-group-554757>

Northumberland - Coquetdale Charity Receives £24,000 Grant Boost

Northumberland Gazette: "Upper Coquetdale Community Transport has received a major donation from Tarmac. The £24,000 grant from the firm, which operates the Harden Quarry at Biddleston, will provide three years' support for the charity. Based in Rothbury, Upper Coquetdale Community Transport (UCCT) uses its minibus and hybrid car to help elderly people, local clubs and schools get around the Coquet valley and beyond. From



assisting people with shopping to getting them to medical appointments, it has become a much-valued part of the community.

Like many charities, UCCT depends heavily on grant funding. 'This is very helpful and generous,' said John Lazarus, chairman of trustees. 'It means our volunteer drivers can continue to offer people the flexible transport they need in what are very difficult times.' Gareth Williams of Tarmac, who presented the cheque, added: 'Tarmac always does things to help communities in the places it operates. At Harden Quarry we saw the valuable service provided by UCCT and felt that it was something we could really support.'" <https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/people/coquetdale-charity-receives-ps24000-grant-boost-3746861>

Shropshire - Qube Charity in Oswestry Celebrates 30 years Anniversary

Border Counties Advertiser: "One of Oswestry's best-known charities is to host an exhibition telling its story as it marks its 30th anniversary. Qube was set up in 1992, with the original name Helpmates, launching a Dial-a-Ride service and Volunteer Bureau, and slowly expanded with creative ideas to help care homes, provide wellbeing support, and create volunteering opportunities. Its current premises was opened in 2002 by Cold Feet star James Nesbitt, and images of that event are part of the commemoration. An exhibition is now being held until July 18, commemorating the charity's efforts over the years.



The charity is an inclusive place where regardless of age and ability, everyone was welcome. A member of the social groups remembers how 'my son took a computer course here which enabled him to go to university to study cyber security. Now I come here to the lovely group meetings and to see the art displays.' The services like Dial-a-Ride has supported over 10,000 people, transporting them over 2 million miles since it began, the social groups have provided wellbeing support to over 1000 people and the Volunteer Bureau has posted more than 6000 roles for local organisations. Helpmates' founder Trudi Graham said: 'Oswestry, as a rural area, demonstrated the need for flexible transport to get people to hospital appointments, or day centres or even to go shopping.'



In 2020, following the coronavirus pandemic, Qube has had a great demand for support for the ones that could not leave their homes. One member said: 'It's helped me to focus better on talking to people. Before I didn't have any friends but now I come to Qube and everyone talks to me. Though the pandemic they kept us in contact through phone chats, letters and activity packs.'

In the past 30 years, Qube volunteers have given over 500,000 hours of their time to support the cause. Chief Officer Laurel Roberts, took over from Trudi Graham in 2008, she said: 'People remain at the heart of everything we do here at Qube. We would not be able to do much of our work without the incredible support of our volunteers who have given over 500,000 hours of their time in the last 30 years. We can't thank them enough for all that they do for our community.' The exhibition will be on until July 18, but

more events will be taking place later in the year."

<https://www.bordercountiesadvertiser.co.uk/news/20250789.qube-charity-oswestry-celebrate-30-years-anniversary/>

Ukraine – The Volunteer Divers Risking their Lives to Save Others

BBC: "Alexander is used to following tracks that are not shown on maps. Knuckles white, he holds the steering wheel tightly as the van jolts down mud tracks and through undergrowth. These paths were once used by tractors or for scenic bike trips. Now any inch of them or the open fields could be mined, hit by shells or surrounded by military. Alexander is just one of the volunteer drivers crossing the front line to evacuate civilians from Kherson and other Russian-controlled areas in eastern Ukraine. Quietly spoken, in his early twenties, he used to work in advocacy before the war. 'We can go along one road on the way in, but by the time we go back there's a crater from an explosion,' he tells me. 'Then we know that the enemy shells have arrived. Then we pray, you can shell a little to the left, a little to the right. Just leave us a corridor in the middle so we can get people out.'



In the last few weeks the volunteers say they have seen more demand from people wanting to leave Kherson as Russia tightens its grip on occupied territory. Arrivals tell stories of intimidation by Russian police, soaring food prices and fear of kidnap by the authorities. Despite the risks, they say, many still want to make the journey out. Evacuating the city has been difficult. The UN and the Red Cross told us they have not run any evacuation routes as they've been unable to get safety guarantees from both sides. Instead, volunteer drivers like Alexander negotiate the checkpoints and routes without any

formal agreements. We are using false names for both drivers travelling into Kherson to protect their identities...The drivers are part of a volunteer organisation that sprung up from a Telegram channel called Odessa As It Is. In the group's evacuation hub, volunteers pile vegetables, fruit, bread, cereals and nappies into rescue packs for new arrivals..."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-61511446>

Wales - Dial-a-Ride Shop is Proud to Win Award

Brecon Radnor Express - Brecon Dial-a-Ride's Lindsay Wilding writes about their jubilee window success: "The Dial-a-ride shop is very proud to be the winner of the Brecon Chamber of Trade shop window display for the Queen's Jubilee. The volunteers feel it is important to point out that no money at all was spent by the charity to dress the window. The only purchase, by a volunteer as her contribution, was the Union Jack bunting. The piece of jewellery on the Queen's sash was made by our volunteer whose forte this is. Everything else was a donation or lent to the shop. The newspapers have been arranged in chronological order: from left to right the marriage of the Queen, her father dying, the proclamation for her to become Queen, an article regarding her wedding dress, the carriage taking her to Westminster Abbey, Prince Philip paying homage, the family gathered on the balcony at Buckingham Palace and finally children from a primary school in Poplar, of Call the Midwife fame, singing to the new Queen. The volunteers' aim is to upcycle and reuse as much as we can. Customers have commented you have everything bar the kitchen sink; the volunteers' true response is we have had the kitchen sink but it has been sold."

<https://www.brecon-radnor.co.uk/news/letter-dial-a-ride-shop-is-proud-to-win-award-551171>



CTA Wales - One Network, One Timetable, One Ticket – a Response from CTA

CTA, Gemma Lelliott : "Welsh Government have set out their vision for the future of Wales' public transport system in the recent consultation 'One network, one timetable, one ticket', which builds on the aspirations set out in Llwybr Newydd and Bws Cymru to deliver a truly integrated, inclusive and sustainable public transport network that works for everyone. CTA fully supports the Welsh Government's ambition, enshrined in Llwybr Newydd, of encouraging people to walk and cycle more, and to use shared and public transport options over private transport modes to address the climate emergency, provide equality of access, and help improve the health of the nation. We especially welcome the growing recognition that transport is a social justice issue, as accessible and affordable transport can have a significant positive impact on people's lives and life-chances, enabling them to access education, employment, health services, social and leisure opportunities.

**One Network,
One Timetable,
One Ticket.**

- a response from CTA

cta
community transport association



Our members welcome the opportunity to support Welsh Government and Transport for Wales in the plans to develop a network of bus services that are integrated, accessible, affordable, flexible, and low carbon. The community transport sector has continued to grow at a time when conventional public transport has contracted. Moreover, these community-focused services directly improve the wellbeing of people who use this form of passenger transport, making community

transport integral to the conversation about Wales' future passenger transport.

Some key points from our response are:

- J If we want everybody to be able to access an integrated and sustainable public transport network and facilitate modal shift, we need to see every passenger or prospective passenger as someone of value, and co-produce services with them to meet their needs.

- J) We believe there should be a statutory duty on local authorities and CJs to consult with all transport operators in their area, both commercial and not-for-profit, when drawing up local and regional transport plans.
- J) Community transport is a values-driven, needs-based, community-led approach to service planning and delivery, in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and should therefore be viewed as a lynchpin of a transport infrastructure aiming to be socially equitable.
- J) The legislative framework to facilitate this will need to change. By taking ownership of the whole system in Wales, for Wales, we believe our transport plans and delivery should be driven by integrated policy and legislation which recognises CT as integral to passenger transport delivery.

This response has been shaped by our members in Wales and reinforces our approach to enhancing Wales' transport network through community-led transport. We are very grateful to the operators who have taken time out of their day jobs to inform this policy work, and give shape to the way we engage with Welsh Government on these important issues. To read the full response, click here <https://ctauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/One-network-One-timetable-One-ticket-CTA-response-final.pdf>. If you would like to discuss this further, contact our Director for Wales, Gemma Lelliott on gemma@ctauk.org." <https://ctauk.org/one-network-one-timetable-one-ticket-a-response-from-cta/>

CTA Wales – Western Valleys Project Coordinator recruitment

CTA Wales, Gemma Lelliott: "We are looking for a Project Coordinator to join the CTA Cymru team and help us deliver our pilot project, Western Valleys. I'd be very grateful if you can share this email with your networks and anyone you think might have the right skillset for this key new role. The Western Valleys project has been funded by Welsh Government through the Household Support fund, to pilot new approaches to connected and sustainable transport. A partnership project led by CTA and delivered by a network of third sector transport specialists, coproduced with communities across Neath Port-Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion, Western Valleys aims to:

- Support low income families and individuals to access employment, education, training, support and leisure opportunities
- Improve cross-valley connectivity
- Develop and improve non-commercial EV infrastructure
- Connect and integrate with other transport modes to enable behaviour change and modal shift.



Recruitment Pack Western Valleys Project Coordinator



This role will closely connect CTA with the community transport operator network across the project region, and our wider stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors, to deliver the greatest potential for success through focused coordination of the project alongside our core team. The successful candidate will be proactive, self-motivated, highly organised, a great communicator, and committed to accessibility and inclusion, with a passion for community-led development. This post will support operators and stakeholders across the Western Valleys region (Swansea, Neath Port-Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion), and the expectation is that the successful candidate will spend time in these target communities alongside our members, to deliver the project's aims and objectives. The role will be home based with the option to also co-work in your local community and/or via the CTA member network. This post is fixed term for 12 months and any extension will be subject to additional

funding. We also welcome secondment applications from talented individuals who wish to expand their portfolio of knowledge and expertise through an exciting and challenging third sector project. If you'd like more information or an informal chat about the role itself, please contact me or my colleague Michelle Clarke (michelle@ctauk.org). To apply, visit our jobs page: <https://ctauk.org/jobs/>." Application deadline is Monday 1st August.



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