

## Newsletter No.32 May 2023

Edited by John Atkins (Principal Consultant)

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: <a href="https://taspartnership.co.uk/TAS-news/">https://taspartnership.co.uk/TAS-news/</a>

UK – Bus Use is Still Well Below Pre-COVID Levels. The latest Department for Transport statistics (April 2022 - March 2023) on public transport usage show that the recovery of buses is still 82% of pre-COVID levels in London and 87% in the remainder of GB. The figures include s22 and DRT services open to the public but not s19. Although there is no data available to measure the usage of most community transport services, it is suspected anecdotally that the recovery of dial-a-ride type operations is much lower than the 82% and 87% cited for mainstream bus. As argued in the

article in the January issue of this newsletter (No.28), a sample of 12 dial-a-ride services showed a 28% decline over that last five years even before the impact of the pandemic, so the challenge for the CT sector to rebuild service usage is more acute. (Admittedly, public services are also facing a longer term decline).



https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/transport-use-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic/domestic-transport-usage-by-mode

UK – Benefits of Zero Emission Minibuses. An article by Dan Hayes argues that the value of zero emission minibuses should not be overlooked.

The article concludes that it "will no doubt be a long road to zero-emission for many minibus operators that are challenged by limited resources and lack of appropriate, tailored funding. But with more projects being introduced every year, it is becoming clear that zero-emission minibus operation is not just a long-term aspiration; it is achievable for many today." <a href="https://www.route-one.net/opinion/zero-emission-minibuses-lets-recognise-their-benefits/">https://www.route-one.net/opinion/zero-emission-minibuses-lets-recognise-their-benefits/</a>

UK – DVSA Launches New Official Highway Code App. Costing £3.99, the App will provide: "Instant access to the very latest version of the Official Highway Code while on the move, on tablets and mobile devices; Quizzes and timed challenge features, that help users check their knowledge of the Highway Code and track their progress; A voice over option enabling users to listen as well as read."

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/34f07e4



UK – DVSA Updates Inspection Manuals. From 1 April 2023, DVSA is to make changes to the HGV and PSV inspection manuals. The main amendments relate to: Inappropriate modification; Free Rolling Tyres (FRTs) on front steered axles; Wheel flanges; Seat belt webbing; 1c Tachograph fitment; Flashing stop lamps; Trailer EBS conditioning process; and PSV brake testing.

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/34e96e1

UK – New e-book 7 Concerning Challenges Facing Community Transport. Available to download free, in this e-book Oliver Kemp director, OJE Technology discusses:

- Why a lack of data could impact community transport in the near future.
- Why fuel prices will continue to fluctuate and why electric vehicles aren't the complete solution.
- Why community transport providers are struggling to find volunteer drivers.

"Packed full of insights and thoughtful considerations, this e-book is for anyone operating or involved with community transport services. Plus! Learn why passenger

demand continues to rise, the impact of "Trip Chaining", along with valuable insights into the future of community transport services and solutions." <a href="https://www.roadxs.com/7-concerning-challenges-facing-community-transport">https://www.roadxs.com/7-concerning-challenges-facing-community-transport</a>

UK – CTA is Disappointed that the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment Remains at 45p. Following the budget of 15 March, CTA states: "CTA and the AMAP coalition are extremely disappointed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt MP, has failed to take the opportunity of today's Spring Budget to announce a long-awaited review of the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP). Today is a dark day for volunteering and

volunteers across the UK. The AMAP rate has remained at 45p per mile since 2012 and has served as a bureaucratic barrier to fair and full reimbursement of expenses. With motoring costs up by nearly 40% and the cost-of-living crisis hitting hard, millions of employees and volunteers up and down the country will continue to be short-changed by a system which does not reflect travel costs in 2023..." <a href="https://ctauk.org/chancellor-fails-to-include-amap-in-newly-announced-spring-budget/">https://ctauk.org/chancellor-fails-to-include-amap-in-newly-announced-spring-budget/</a>

UK – CTA is Seeking a Documentary Photographer. CTA: "Could you tell our story? CTA is seeking a docu-photographer to demonstrate the value of the CT sector across the UK...One of CTA's priorities is to improve social inclusion and mobility for people who may be isolated or disadvantaged in their access to transport. Usually, when people think of Community Transport, they assume it's tailored to only elderly and disabled people. Storytelling pictures are one of the ways to dispel this myth.



CT caters to a wider range of people. Our services include transport solutions for young people, the elderly, ethnic minorities, people living with disability and everyone that cannot access public transport or a private vehicle. We are also committed to promoting sustainable and environmentally-friendly transport options in local communities. We would like compelling photos that accurately reflect CT as an inclusive accessible transport solution, promoting equitable and affordable transport for everyone, especially those in rural areas." <a href="https://twitter.com/i/web/status/1641048862793056256">https://twitter.com/i/web/status/1641048862793056256</a> <a href="https://ctauk.org/jobs/">https://ctauk.org/jobs/</a>

UK – CTA's Response to Accessible Transport Select Committee Inquiry. In its response to the government's inquiry into accessible transport, CTA has argued the role of the CT sector in enhancing accessibility, and calls for active intervention by government to enable the sector to develop. Five areas have been highlighted by CTA for government action:

- ) amendments to the driver licensing regime to redress the shortage of drivers;
- fairer treatment for volunteers re. the AMAP rate;
- CT to be considered part of the bus network by the Government, and so access capital funding for new accessible vehicles;
- CT to be able to readily obtain organisational blue badges;
- s19 small vehicle use to be simplified.

"If the Government and other transport bodies worked with CTA and CT providers to tackle these issues, it would ensure that there was a sustainable, affordable, inclusive, and accessible transport offer available."

https://ctauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Transport-Committee-Accessible-Transport-Review-CTA-Response-1.pdf

UK – New Study of Community Transport's Value in Rural Areas. The Transport Planning Society has published a study "Changing the Parameters of Community Transport to Deliver Greater Economic and Social Value to Rural Areas Across the UK" by Jamie Smith, a transport planner from Arup. The study is the outcome of the Transport Planning Society Bursary Competition 2022. The aim of the study is to "explore how CT can be adapted to deliver greater economic and social value to rural areas across the UK" and can be downloaded here:

https://tps.org.uk/public/downloads/hEGgF/Jamie%20Smith%20TPS%20Bursary%20Competition.pdf

England – NCVO Launches Small Charities Advisory Panel. The membership community for charities, voluntary organisations and community groups NCVO has launched a Small Charities Advisory Panel "to champion the voices and experiences of small charities. The panel will ensure this vital part of the voluntary sector can continue to access tailored help, support and advocacy." The panel is formed from fourteen members but the CT sector is not currently represented. <a href="https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/small-charities-advisory-panel-launched-to-champion-continued-support-for-small-charities/#/">https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/small-charities/#/</a>

England – NCVO Highlights Spring Budget Implications for Charities. "Charities have struggled with rising demand for their services, falling income and increasing operational costs for over a year now," says NCVO. "Many are worried about surviving. We've campaigned relentlessly with partners to highlight the impact on charities and the communities they support. We submitted a joint budget submission earlier this year and last week we wrote to the Chancellor. The commitment in the 2023 Spring Budget to support the voluntary sector shows the power of our collective voice..." NCVO highlights what the budget will mean regarding: Funding for charities; workforce support; energy support for households; levelling up; tax; and next steps. https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/spring-budget-2023-funding-and-implications-for-charities/#/

England – CTA Conference Announced. The England conference from CTA is scheduled for 16 May and will include a keynote speech by Roads & Local

Transport Minister Richard Holden MP. Delegates can select two workshops from the following:

- Decarbonisation: How the agenda relates to the community transport sector
- MiDAS Overview: About the MiDAS transformation





- Connection to the wider VCFS and Local Authorities: How working together has improved CT in their areas.
- How to run a CT: Myth Busting and understanding the considerations.
- Digital Demand Responsive Transport: Exploring what role community transport has and should have in delivering this model.
- Tackling Loneliness: How can CT demonstrate its impact and measure its social value?
- Transport for Health: How we can ensure that this value has better recognition and visibility with health partners.

This is another virtual event and can be booked here:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cta-conference-inclusive-transport-the-role-of-community-led-solutions-tickets-598364994807

Northern I reland - Threat to CT Funding Causes Major Concern. NI's Department of Infrastructure (DfI) announced last month that it would not confirm its community transport budget beyond April 2023, which left many CT services facing an uncertain future. A partial reprieve was granted following intensive lobbying when DfI announced that funding would be extended until the end of June. This has been a hot topic amongst the NI media. Fermanagh Community Transport is one service among many that potentially faces a bleak future. Manager Jason Donaghy said that "once it's gone, it's gone. A service like this is a sophisticated one to build up in terms of detailed knowledge and expertise - not to mention the training and development of volunteers and staff... If our service stops, what will be the consequences in terms of the health and wellbeing of the lives of those people?" A spokesperson for Department of Infrastructure has said that "although budgets have not been confirmed for 2023-24, the financial outlook is likely to be very challenging and require extremely difficult decisions. Despite this, to minimise uncertainty and operational difficulties, a funding commitment has been given to community transport providers for April 2023. No final decisions have been made on funding allocations for 2023-24 and further decisions for the remainder of the year will be subject to the budget outcome." https://fermanaghherald.com/2023/03/fermanaghs-community-transport-onthe-brink/



This threat to the various NI CT operations is also widely reported here:

- https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/23391764.funding-cliff-edge-fermanagh-community-transport/
- https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rural-community-transport-cuts-devastating-26481213

- https://www.armaghi.com/news/armagh-news/urgent-meeting-sought-in-bid-to-save-armagh-rural-transport-lifeline/203625
- https://www.armaghi.com/news/armagh-news/lifeline-transport-service-for-armaghs-vulnerable-may-cease-due-to-lack-of-funding/203027
- https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2023-03-28/at-risk-rural-community-transport-a-lifeline-to-older-people
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-65130966
- https://www.armaghi.com/news/armagh-news/short-reprieve-for-armagh-rural-transport-as-department-confirm-funding-extension/205880

There has been a huge response in the press reporting strong political support for NI CT sector:

- https://news.causewaycoastcommunity.co.uk/sinn-fein-requests-urgent-meeting-over-community-transport-funding-archibald/
- https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/people/vital-services-for-vulnerable-people-in-mid-ulster-face-uncertain-future-4058091
- https://downnews.co.uk/community-transport-groups-left-dangling-by-dfi/
- https://www.derrydaily.net/2023/03/27/durkan-community-transportservices-must-be-protected/
- https://www.ballymenaguardian.co.uk/news/2023/03/17/gallery/swann-calls-for-clarity-on-community-transport-schemes-41158/
- https://mydup.com/news/dup-expresses-concern-on-future-of-communitytransport
- <u>https://www.allianceparty.org/community\_transport\_providers\_left\_behind?\_locale=en\_</u>
- https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/politics/decision-to-stop-funding-to-community-transport-and-shopmobility-must-be-reversed-4068775
- https://www.farminglife.com/country-and-farming/vital-community-transport-service-must-be-maintained-lockhart-4083703

CTA's work as a key part of the lobby to maintain support for the CT sector is reported here: <a href="https://ctauk.org/ctas-campaign-pays-off-funding-for-rural-community-transport-in-northern-ireland-secured-until-june-2023/">https://ctauk.org/ctas-campaign-pays-off-funding-for-rural-community-transport-in-northern-ireland-secured-until-june-2023/</a>

Hertfordshire - CT Vehicle Stolen in Hemel Hempstead and Destroyed. A Peugeot Boxer minibus owned and operated by Community Action Dacorum was stolen from outside Shendish Manor on 7 March and later discovered after having been set on fire. CT manager Deborah Fogden said: "It's an absolute nightmare it really is...As because you can image because of Covid, lots of vehicles have been SORN, and we've had to lower our fleet size to still be able to operate." The police are investigating the incident. <a href="https://www.hemeltoday.co.uk/news/people/community-bus-for-elderly-and-disabled-in-hemel-hempstead-stolen-and-destroyed-4062057">https://www.hemeltoday.co.uk/news/people/community-bus-for-elderly-and-disabled-in-hemel-hempstead-stolen-and-destroyed-4062057</a> A fundraising effort at Crowdfunder is now underway "to replace a stolen minibus so that we can reinstate essential bus services for children and elderly passengers who

can't otherwise travel." £10,000 is needed. https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/minibus-capital-fundraising



Volunteers are also needed by Community Action Dacorum: "The Community Transport service provides transport solutions that enable people to live independently, socialise with others, and fulfil everyday life activities. This would not be possible without the help of volunteers! The

Community Transport team is currently looking for some one-off volunteers for its Day Trippers Club...The Day Trippers Club has a number of upcoming trips planned and needs volunteer escorts to assist on the trips." Contact 01442 247209 or email <a href="mailto:volunteering@communityactiondacorum.org.uk">volunteering@communityactiondacorum.org.uk</a>. <a href="https://www.hemeltoday.co.uk/news/people/community-action-dacorum-seeking-one-off-volunteers-for-day-trippers-club-4089898">trippers-club-4089898</a>

Scotland – New CT Service is Funded in North Ayrshire. £100,000 budget has been allocated by North Ayrshire Council for a new CT service. Details have yet to be confirmed but the Council intends the service to enhance and augment the local bus network, which it had considered "not fit for purpose." <a href="https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/ayrshire/community-transport-scheme-pilot-worth-29445559">https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/ayrshire/community-transport-scheme-pilot-worth-29445559</a>

Scotland – Badenoch and Strathspey CT Misses Out on Vital Scottish Government Funding. An application from Badenoch and Strathspey Community ConnXions in Aviemore for £180k from the Investing in Communities Fund has been rejected. This threatens the sustainability of the Where2Today? service. <a href="https://www.strathspey-berald.co.uk/news/badenoch-and-strathspey-berald.co.uk/news/badenoch-and-strathspey-berald.co.uk/news/badenoch-and-strathspey-berald.co.uk/news/badenoch-and-strathspey-berald.co.uk/news/badenoch-and-strathspey-berald.co.uk/news/badenoch-and-strathspey-berald.co.uk/news/badenoch-and-strathspey-

herald.co.uk/news/badenoch-and-strathspey-community-transport-misses-out-on-vi-308227/



Scotland – Kilmory Community
Bus Received Support. Two
positive Facebook posts recently:
"We are delighted to share the good
news that we have been awarded
£10,000 towards a new bus from the
National Lottery. Without National
Lottery players' support this grant
would not have been possible so on
behalf of our committee and all our
passengers a huge thank you." And
also "We recently had representatives
from CalMac and Foundation



Scotland over to advertise the funding of £2,000 we received to help keep the big yellow bus on the road. A big thanks to pupils from Kilmory Primary that were happy to be involved."

https://www.arranbanner.co.uk/2023/03/24/funding-boost-will-help-kilmoryget-a-new-community-bus/

Scotland – New Electric Minibus Arrives in Tongue. A new 9-seater vehicle has been put into operation at Transport for Tongue (T4T) in Sutherland. T4T benefitted from a £7k Plugged-in Communities grant from the Energy Saving Trust. The vehicle will be used for services in Tongue, Melness and Skerray, and carry students to the North Highland College in Thurso. <a href="https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/tongue-transport-group-going-places-with-fully-funded-minibu-309326/">https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/tongue-transport-group-going-places-with-fully-funded-minibu-309326/</a>

Suffolk – Katch Bus to Return. After being withdrawn due to low passenger take-up in the post-COVID period, the Katch community bus service is set to resume from April 11, subject to a decision by the Community Partnership Board. The bus is to serve passengers between Framlingham, Wickham Market, Campsea Ashe and Snape and is operated by CATS (Coastal Accessible Transport Service). <a href="https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/23381282.katch-bus-service-expected-return-suffolk-april/">https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/23381282.katch-bus-service-expected-return-suffolk-april/</a>

Hampshire – New Service for Whitehill & Bordon. A new service has been proposed for the Hampshire villages of Whitehill & Bordon. The bus will be operated by the Waverley Hoppa Community Transport and will be a two-year pilot scheme funded by Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company and Section 106 developer contributions.

https://www.liphookherald.com/news/new-community-bus-service-to-launch-in-whitehill-bordon-600060

Devon – Travelling Ted at Large in Dawlish. A teddy bear mascot has been seen on board East Teignbridge Community Transport vehicles of late. He is described as "a much-loved companion of the transport group's passengers,"

enjoying his trips out with them on the fleet of vehicles which picks up people from their own homes in Dawlish and surrounding villages for shopping and days out." <a href="https://www.middevonadvertiser.co.uk/news/travelling-ted-the-new-bus-buddy-600568">https://www.middevonadvertiser.co.uk/news/travelling-ted-the-new-bus-buddy-600568</a> The project has also recently held a Paella night fundraiser in Cockwood. <a href="https://www.teignmouth-today.co.uk/news/paella-night-thatll-do-ricely-603181">https://www.teignmouth-today.co.uk/news/paella-night-thatll-do-ricely-603181</a>. The service has also offered reduced fares to its passengers, thanks to support from NHS South West Cost of Living Community Fund. <a href="https://www.teignmouth-today.co.uk/news/funding-boost-means-half-price-fares-offer-604248">https://www.teignmouth-today.co.uk/news/funding-boost-means-half-price-fares-offer-604248</a>

Devon – Tavistock Community Bus Needs Replacing. Funding for a new bus is being sought by Tamar Valley Community Transport Association which operates the service for around 100 older people in Calstock parish. Chair of Tamar Valley CT Carol Green commented that "the bus is now older than we would like and is becoming increasingly unreliable, and is off the road with ever greater frequency. It's costing us a lot of money to keep repairing it…"

https://www.tavistock-today.co.uk/news/social-lifeline-bus-service-at-risk-602930

East Sussex - Community Transport Sussex Scoops Award. At the

prestigious Gatwick Diamond
Business Awards ceremony in March
the category for best Community
Contribution has been gone to CT
Sussex. The award was presented by
actor and comedian Kerry Godliman.
CEO Matt Roberts said: "we are hugely
delighted to have received this award.
It's wonderful that a voluntary sector
organisation like ours has been



recognised for its innovation and delivery by the business community. This award is testament to the work of every one of our colleagues and volunteers. We continue to strive to ensure that no one in our county is disadvantaged by not having access to safe, affordable, accessible transport. This award recognises the vital work we do to bring people and communities together". <a href="https://eastsussex.news/sussex-charity-clinches-award-for-valuable-community-contribution/">https://eastsussex.news/sussex-charity-clinches-award-for-valuable-community-contribution/</a> CT Sussex has also showcased a 'postbox topper' to promote its Horsham Travel Buddy service:

https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/charity-postbox-topper-supportsservice-to-end-social-isolation-in-horsham-4094613

Wales – Wrexham Charity is Seeking Volunteers for New Service. Longstanding active-ageing charity The Rainbow Foundation operates three minibuses providing transport links to and from its South Wrexham Care Hubs in Penley, Chirk and Marchwiel. A new weekly service commenced on 20 March to carry passengers to Stan's Superstore in St Martins. Any volunteers who might assist with the service should call Rainbow Foundation on 01948 830730 or email <a href="mailto:info@therainbowfoundation.org.uk">info@therainbowfoundation.org.uk</a>.

https://www.leaderlive.co.uk/news/23385548.wrexham-charity-lookout-new-volunteers/

Cambridgeshire - Volunteer Recruitment Drive by Fenland Association for Community Transport. A number of charities combined at FACT's March HQ to attract new volunteers. Co-ordinator of the FACT's hub Nicola Christy said: "Basically the role would suit someone who is retired, male or female, and is willing to give a few hours a week. We are looking for someone to provide the extras, rather than act as paid dial-a-ride drivers." <a href="https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/fenland-charities-looking-for-willing-hands-in-volunteer-rec-9303408/">https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/fenland-charities-looking-for-willing-hands-in-volunteer-rec-9303408/</a> FACT has also been in the news following its being crowned Fenland's Best Social Enterprise as sponsored by Clarion Futures. <a href="https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/fact-named-best-social-enterprise-9306883/">https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/fact-named-best-social-enterprise-9306883/</a>

Worcestershire - Sponsored Walker to Aid Local CT. A 75-year-old ex-



soldier is hoping to complete the 32.5 miles stretch of the Worcestershire Way from Bewdley to Malvern in order to raise over £1,000 for Worcester Wheels. Also aiding the CT as a volunteer driver, Brian Cornes said: "I love walking. I'm looking forward to it. People in Worcester and the people who live around Worcester are very good and generous...I have decided to take on this challenge on behalf of Worcester Wheels as

I see every week the difference it makes to so many people living in Worcester."

https://uk.news.yahoo.com/ex-soldier-75-march-32-

050000024.html?guccounter=1&guce\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlL mNvbS8&guce\_referrer\_sig=AQAAAFArT3O9WHINbjpXB8wwkD-3dbtVfxpdoaf-3o2ykS6\_kKL0L2d892bxaPSHFt29EVIJfS7DFP9p2Hh4ZhE-dmg-

<u>eMT2tEMqh2tD5W3csM5xlWCs1\_b7Z6PhVJZ\_SCdV32bHYMwuHHcPWP04Zhg70</u> <u>j5i20gsgaIq1yaL9R7ByO9G</u>

https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/23403867.190-000-council-grant-buys-two-new-dial-ride-buses/?ref=rss

Worcestershire – Wyre Forest CT Organises Volunteer Recruitment Fair. A number of voluntary sector organisations participated in a volunteer recruitment fair at the Civic in Stourport. Wyre Forest Community Transport chief officer Beverley Coldrick organised the event and commented that "our services enable people to continue living independent and fulfilled lives in the community and our drivers find it a very rewarding

role. Of course, I'm looking for volunteers for our charity, but people have different interests and skills which can help other organisations." <a href="https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/wyre-forest/2023/03/15/stourport-volunteer-fair-will-showcase-variety-of-community-roles/">https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/wyre-forest/2023/03/15/stourport-volunteer-fair-will-showcase-variety-of-community-roles/</a>

Derbyshire - Two New Bus Services Launched by Derbyshire CT.



Allestree, Darley and Spondon residents are to benefit from two new community bus services operated by Derbyshire Community Transport in partnership with Derby City

Council. The Mon-Fri services are to be funded by the Government's Local Transport Fund on a three month trial to support residents in communities which currently have no bus service. Liz Esnouf, Managing Director of Derbyshire CT said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Derby City Council to restore these vital links from Allestree and Darley Abbey to Park Farm Shopping Centre, as well as locally in Spondon. We're confident that these community services will assist many people living in these areas to access the amenities and facilities that they require."

https://www.derby.gov.uk/news/2023/march/two-community-bus-services-to-launch-next-week/

Shropshire – New Volunteer Car Scheme is Launched. An appeal for volunteers has been raised for the newly formed Ellesmere Community Cars Scheme. Anne Wignall is the co-ordinator and "trips for GP, hospital, dentist, optician, physio appointments, trips to pick up prescriptions, go shopping, visit the bank, or to visit sick or elderly friends or family will all be possible once the scheme is running." Shropshire County Council is supporting the scheme, and passengers are to be charged 30p per mile. Volunteers or potential users should contact the scheme on <a href="mailto:alwignall@gmail.com">alwignall@gmail.com</a> or telephone 01691 626525. <a href="mailto:https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-">https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-</a>

<u>hubs/oswestry/ellesmere/2023/03/10/new-community-car-scheme-being-set-up-is-looking-for-volunteers/</u> Also reported here:

https://www.bordercountiesadvertizer.co.uk/news/23382963.shropshire-town-car-scheme-appeal-volunteers-launched/

Oxfordshire – Carterton Bus Service Funding is Continued. A town council grant has secured the continuation of the Carterton Connector bus services (routes 345 and 355) operated by West Oxfordshire Community Transport. The £15,000 support will ensure another year of operation on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and West Oxfordshire CT is hoping to expand the service further.

https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23417855.carterton-town-centre-bus-service-safe-another-year/

LincoInshire – Donington Car Scheme is Suspended. A lack of volunteer drivers has forced the Ruby Hunt Centre to curtail its car scheme until new drivers can be found. The nearby Spalding and Pinchbeck Voluntary Car Service is also struggling to find volunteers. Anyone wishing to volunteer for Donington Voluntary Car Service can call 07598 924 308 for more details. <a href="https://www.spaldingtoday.co.uk/news/vital-travel-scheme-to-aid-elderly-has-been-suspended-9303535/">https://www.spaldingtoday.co.uk/news/vital-travel-scheme-to-aid-elderly-has-been-suspended-9303535/</a>

Bristol – Dial-a-Ride Services Get Cash Boost. A £435,000 cash injection



has safeguarded the Bristol community bus services for another year of operation. The funding has been provided by West of England Combined Authority, and will enable the operators the Big Lemon group, Lawrence Weston Community Transport, CATT Community Bus and The Sprint to continue their lifeline services.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-

england-bristol-65173236

Nottinghamshire – Appointment Signals New Way Forward for CT4N.

CT4N Charitable Trust's trading subsidiary CT4N has appointed Nigel Eggleton as Commercial Director aiming to boost areas of the organisation that are raising revenue to maintain a host of valuable community services. During a distinguished 40-year career in the transport industry, Nigel most recently served as Managing Director of the First Bus operation in South Yorkshire and the Midlands. "My role at CT4N is to look closely at a business we should already be proud of, using my years of experience to ensure its continued health by assessing what we do well, what needs attention and what we can do better," Nigel said. Ian Combellack, CT4N Managing Director, added: "We are delighted to welcome Nigel to our team and his broad experience will help us to refine our operations to best meet the needs of the communities we serve."



Greater Manchester – s19 and s22 Operations to be Exempt from Manchester Local Service Permit Regime. Bus services operating within and into Greater Manchester once the main bus network is franchised will need to apply to TfGM for a Local Service Permit in order to start or continue

operating within Greater Manchester. Consultation on the LSP regime closed at the end of March. However, the current proposal is that services provided under s19 or s22 permits will not need to apply. Summary and links at: <a href="https://www.route-one.net/news/greater-manchester-local-service-permit-plans-outlined/?utm\_source=routeone&utm\_campaign=bf5628c2d6-EMAIL\_CAMPAIGN\_2023\_03\_29\_10\_15&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_-bf5628c2d6-%5BLIST\_EMAIL\_ID%5D</a>

## Some Historic CT Photos from the TAS Archive





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