



Newsletter No.43

Edited by John Atkins (Principal Consultant). Published March 2024.

UK – CTA Launches its Manifesto. Community Transport Association has produced a new manifesto ahead of the next UK general election. Titled Manifesto, A Better Future for Transport: National Challenges, Community Solutions, CTA states that it captures “the ambitions, ideas and voices of our valued members at its heart. It’s centred on five key priorities based on the national challenges facing the UK and the community solutions which

Community Transport operators can deliver and which we identified in collaboration with you...Our Manifesto calls for a new and dynamic partnership between the next UK Government, CTA

and the Community Transport sector to reverse a shrinking bus network; respond to an ageing population; protect the future of the NHS and social care; tackle climate change; reduce poverty and inequality; and level up the nations and regions of the UK.” <https://ctauk.org/ct-manifesto/>



UK – Therese Coffey MP and Plans for Driving Licence Changes.



Therese Coffey MP has been proposing a plan to remove the requirement for a C1 and D1 category test for those who passed their driving test after 1997. One argument that she has voiced was its benefit to community transport. She said: “This would be a Brexit bonus for increasing community transport and removing an unnecessary, costly barrier for business.

Recognising the strengthening of the driving test in the past 25 years, we should have the confidence to back British drivers

with British rules, not an EU overhang." When presented in the Commons the Bill was blocked from reaching the next stage. Caroline Whitney of the Community Transport Association said: "These services are critical for the physical and mental health of so many often-vulnerable people currently not served by mainstream transport services. This change should make it easier for Community Transport organisations to hire drivers, which will help secure and expand Community Transport services."

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/26081332/drivers-licence-lorries-trucks-therese-coffey/> Some further comment here: <https://thecritic.co.uk/death-by-a-thousand-regulations/>

UK (Midlands & North!) – Reallocated H2S Money is Invested in Local Transport. DfT: "From 2025, the Local Transport Fund (LTF) will fund a wide range of projects to improve the local transport connections that people rely on every day, particularly across towns, villages, and rural areas. Over the next 7 years from April 2025, local transport authorities (LTAs) in the North will receive £2.5 billion and those in the Midlands will receive £2.2 billion. The funding covers the period 2025 to 2026 until 2031 to 2032 and will be used in line with the 3 priorities we have set out, which are to:

-) drive better connectivity within our towns, suburbs and cities
-) drive better connectivity between our towns and cities
-) improve everyday local journeys for people

Additional funding will be predominantly capital and will include a resource element to ensure LTAs can deliver their plans. Further details on this will be announced soon. The Department for Transport will publish further guidance on the scope of LTF and the delivery requirements for LTAs..." There is a county by county breakdown of fund allocations, but it is not yet clear if or how CT services might benefit but the Govt has described the funding as "the first transport budget of its kind that's specifically targeted at smaller cities, towns and rural areas and empowers local people and local leaders to invest in the transport projects that matter most to their communities – helping create jobs, grow the economy, and level up the country..."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-transport-fund-allocations/local-transport-fund-allocations-2025-to-2032>

CTA Updates

-) Wales Climate Week Reflections: Taking a whole-community approach to developing locally tailored transport solutions
<https://ctauk.org/wales-climate-week-reflections-taking-a-whole-community-approach-to-developing-locally-tailored-transport-solutions/>

-) CTA launches Women in Community Transport UK Network to coincide with International Women's Day 2024



<https://ctauk.org/cta-launches-women-in-community-transport-uk-network-to-coincide-with-international-womens-day-2024/>

East Sussex – Cuckmere Community Bus is Seeking New Volunteers. One of the longest running community buses is looking to expand its volunteer pool. Already benefiting from 40 volunteer drivers and delivering “over 20 weekly timetabled services and additional town routes, including Hailsham and Seaford, Cuckmere Buses plays a vital role in connecting communities and getting people with no modes of transport, out and about and around. Last year, the bus network alone covered 123,000 miles and transported 75,000 passengers. On the 1 March, they will be welcoming the eighth bus to its fleet. It will continue to offer a £2 fixed fare until the end of the year.” Philip Ayers (Managing Director) said: “Cuckmere Buses is a crucial lifeline for our community and our dedicated team of volunteers has played a significant role in its success. As we continue to grow, we invite individuals who share our passion for community service, to join us as volunteer drivers. As well as being rewarding and fulfilling, you will be working with a group of like-minded, supportive people, whilst driving in an area with some of the best landscapes Sussex has to offer.” Would-be volunteers should call 07834 558376 or email volunteer@cuckmerebuses.org.uk. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/cuckmere-buses-expands-team-and-seeks-volunteer-drivers-4511688>

East Sussex – Adur and Worthing Councils cut CT Grant Support. The Community Transport Sussex service in Adur and Worthing has been allocated a reduced grant due to council budget pressures. “In a decision published by Adur and Worthing Councils on Friday, March 1, it was revealed the annual community transport grants budget would be reduced from £51,290 in 2022/23 to £40,000 in 2023/24 due to the councils’ budget pressures. A report by the councils on the decision described this as a ‘significant reduction’ to funding, seeing £15,000 going to Adur and £25,000 to Worthing in 2023/24, compared to £20,000 and £31,290 in 2022/23 respectively.” CT Sussex had bid for £54,000 hoping to expand their services in the areas. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/adur-and-worthing-community-transport-funding-significantly-reduced-4544699>

West Sussex – CT Sussex Travel Buddy Film. The Horsham Travel Buddy service operated by Community Transport Sussex has been nominated for a Smiley Film Award for its promotional film



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS13VxKENv0&t=3s>. Produced by Silvertip Films, the four-minute film animation involves “several different

characters in need of the service or wanting to volunteer hosted by a talking rucksack called Wilkins!" and is voiced by actor Jason Flemyng. CT Sussex has also produced a film to launch its Dial-a-Ride in Chichester:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etBJtFroWBE>

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/film-about-horsham-travel-buddy-scheme-in-line-for-award-4529830?r=9890>

Cumberland – Valentines Day Volunteers for Car Schemes

Cumberland Council's Community Transport Service is looking for some new faces to join the council's voluntary social car schemes. The Community Transport service has a team of over 100 volunteer drivers and co-ordinators providing around 17 voluntary social car schemes throughout the Cumberland patch, providing journeys for people who need to do the weekly shop, see the doctor, or just visit friends. The council is looking for volunteer co-ordinators (to organise journeys) within the following areas:

-) Wigton (the council needs at least two co-ordinators in Wigton)
-) Kirkbride, Silloth and Skinburness

Voluntary drivers only are needed in the following locations:

-) Millom
-) Dalston / Cummersdale
-) Drigg / Carelton / Irton / Seascale / Eskdale / Gosforth
-) Whitehaven / St Bees / Egremont / Cleator Moor / Arlecdon / Frizington

The council is currently looking to set up new voluntary schemes in several areas of the county, and is seeking volunteer co-ordinators (and drivers once they are established) in the following locations:

-) Brampton
-) Workington
-) Maryport / Allonby
-) Longtown



Councillor Denise Rollo, Cumberland Council's Executive Portfolio Holder for Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places, said: 'As it's Valentine's Day, we're extending a special invitation to all those who have a passion for volunteering to consider joining our team...If you have some free time and a desire to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you.' Anyone interested in finding out more should contact Katy Wood, the council's Voluntary Transport Officer, 07788 396194, or visit Cumberland Council's website."

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2024/make-difference-joining-cumberland-council-volunteers-valentines-day>

Cumbria – New Community Bus Planned for Millom Area. A new CT service is to be launched by the Millom Network Centre working in partnership with the South Copeland Disability Group. The service has been made possible by a three year £183,000 grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. Network Centre office manager Sue Dust said: "This will allow the centre to offer the community a valuable and much needed service

that will transport local residents to and from local events, community groups and access to our MNC Community Food Shop. The feedback that we were receiving was that people without transport and mobility issues struggled to access these things. The timetable is currently in the planning stages as it will be some time before we take delivery of the bus which will need to be built and fitted out with the necessary access to ensure its suitability." The service is initially planned to provide for journeys between Millom and Haverigg five days a week, which will help connect locals to the charity as well as other parts of Cumberland. <https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/24152458.millom-charity-secures-180-000-give-bus-access/>

Yorkshire – Motability Foundation Awards Grant to Leeds CT Partnership.

A consortium of two charities in Leeds has been awarded a

£356,873 grant from Motability Foundation to develop CT services for older

people. The organisations are OPAL &

ASVED who are part of the Leeds

Neighbourhood Network schemes. A

spokesperson for the charities said: "We

are thrilled to find out that Motability has

funded our project, which will enable us

to expand and reach more beneficiaries,

many of whom may not have access to

affordable, disability-friendly, community

transport. The funding allows us to

promote independence and support choices for those facing barriers to

transport". Each project will be able to purchase a new wheelchair accessible

vehicle which will enable the development of a shared pool of transport

volunteers, including volunteer drivers, and passenger assistants, that will be

used collaboratively to deliver their services. They anticipate that collectively

they will make around 2,400 individual journeys per month, which include hot

meal deliveries, and three lunch clubs attended by up to 100 older people each

week. <https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/two-leeds-charities-awarded-over-ps350000-to-expand-their-community-transport-4520201>



Greater London – Tribute to Dai Powell, former CEO of

Hackney Community Transport. The death of Dai Powell OBE has

been announced, and Pioneer Post has published the following tribute: "Dai

Powell OBE was a former coal miner in his home country of Wales. He joined

London's Hackney Community Transport, which had been founded in 1982,

as a volunteer bus cleaner and worked his

way up to become CEO in 1993. The

journey he took Hackney Community

Transport on over the next two decades

saw it transform from a locally-focused,

grant-reliant community minibus

operation to a multi-million pound social



enterprise with activities across the UK...Powell was ambitious for HCT Group to grow and, as social investment began to develop in the UK during the early 2000s, he explored all the financial possibilities available, breaking new ground in the deals he made... Powell retired from HCT Group in 2020..."

<https://www.pioneerspost.com/news-views/20240229/dai-powell-icon-of-modern-social-enterprise>

Hertfordshire - Welwyn Hatfield Community Car Scheme Needs Volunteers. The Welwyn Hatfield Community Car Scheme "works with volunteers who use their own vehicles to take people who are unable to use public transport to health-related appointments. This may be because of mobility problems or other special needs. The scheme is available only to people living in the Welwyn Hatfield Borough. A disabled people carrier is available for wheelchair users and also to hire providing you are able to supply your own driver. The scheme may not always be able to match a passenger with a driver but if we cannot help we may know of some other organisation that can. All sorts of journeys can be taken such as hospital appointments, visits to sick relatives or friends, dental appointments, optician appointments, visits to support groups, shopping, and theatre trips. The charge is 60p per mile from the volunteer's home for the whole journey, payable to the driver. Card payment only is taken by our office staff. Donations towards the running of the scheme are always welcome. The Welwyn Hatfield Community Car Scheme is run by Welwyn Hatfield Community and Voluntary Services which promotes the effectiveness of local voluntary and community groups by providing them with a range of services."



Eve - Volunteer Driver



Kevin - Volunteer Driver



Thippi - Volunteer Driver



Paul - Volunteer Driver

A couple of quotes for some of the users:

-) "I can't believe your drivers are all volunteers, giving up their time especially at the weekends!" - Ann
-) "I am overwhelmed with the support I received. I didn't think I'd be able to attend my best friend of 80 years' funeral, as I am wheelchair bound. Thank you so much, you have now opened a new world for me. I didn't think I'd be able to get out again" – Charles

Contact here: 01707-274861 or <https://www.whcvs.org.uk/join-our-team-of-volunteer-drivers/>



Volunteer with the Community Car Scheme
Community Car Drivers | Office Bookers | People Carrier Drivers

You like driving
You like helping people
You have some hours free
Mileage Reimbursed*

Apply Today!
☎ 01707 274 861

 **Volunteer Centre**
Welwyn Hatfield

Welwyn Hatfield
CVS
Community and Voluntary Services

www.whcvs.org.uk

Charity Registration No. 1141645 | Company Registration No. 07525220

Somerset – Funding for Transport Designed and Run by Community. West Somerset Council: “Community groups are invited to apply for a share of funding to design and run their own public transport thanks to a £2 million fund called WESTlocal. Set up by North Somerset Council and the West of England Combined Authority as part of the region’s Bus Service Improvement Plan, community groups are encouraged to apply for a portion of WESTlocal funding to set up and run their own not-for-profit public transport tailored to meet community needs. Transport can be anything from buses with regular fixed routes and timetables to flexible minibus services, helping communities to travel to key locations such as places of employment, supermarkets, shopping centres, local towns and transport interchanges.

WESTlocal is open to applications from a wide range of groups, including community groups, schools, faith groups, and town and parish councils. You can put forward proposals for very local individual ideas or work together with others as part of a wider group submission. You may wish to work with an established bus or community transport operator, or to set up an independent community transport operation. The funding will last until March 2026 only, so is targeted at schemes that have the highest chance of long-term financial viability. More information can be found here:

<https://travelwest.info/projects/westlocal/>

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/news/funding-available-community-groups-design-run-their-own-public-transport>

Somerset – Lottery Support for West Somerset CT Service.
A National Lottery grant of around £20,000 has been awarded to Wiveliscombe Area Partnership to support its work providing transport to rurally isolated residents in West Somerset. The service currently provides over 10,500 journeys a year to over 600 members. Pauline Homeshaw, chair of Wiveliscombe Area Partnership said: "We're delighted that The National Lottery Community Fund has recognised our work in this way. Thanks to National Lottery players we will be able to continue our work while we plan for the future. We are equally grateful for the ongoing support of the Wiveliscombe Town Council and many Parish Councils who support our work so that we can continue to deliver for their community who need us".

<https://www.somersetcountygazette.co.uk/news/24172161.wiveliscombe-area-partnership-awarded-nearly-20k-support/>

Wales - Bus Reform for Wales & Franchising Proposals

Welsh Government and Transport for Wales have outlined their proposed approach to bus franchising **Our Roadmap to Bus Reform - Towards One Network, One Timetable, One Ticket**. The franchising model proposed does seek to encompass the work of the CT sector: "Under the proposals of the new legislation, local authorities will retain their statutory duty for providing home to school transport. Community transport services will be able to continue operating without a franchise contract and community transport operators will not be expected to meet the conditions of franchised services by default. However, community transport operators will be able to bid for franchise contracts where appropriate...We will work with local authorities to explore opportunities for community transport schemes to thrive and continue delivering social benefit."

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-03/march-2024-our-roadmap-to-bus-reform.pdf>



Wales – Vale of Glamorgan Greenlinks Passenger Receives Hefty £550 Bill! Due to a severe number of backlogs in billing passengers for use of the accessible Greenlinks CT service, some have been invoiced for sums over £500 for usage over the last 18 months. The service went cashless during the pandemic and is supposed to issue three-monthly invoices, but some of these have been severely delayed. Vale of Glamorgan Council has asked anyone wishing to settle their invoice over an extended period to get in

touch and said it hopes to introduce a new payment plan soon. Greenlinks operates four accessible minibuses and two accessible cars, and fares are set to rise in the next financial year due to council funding constraints.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/woman-charged-550-council-after-28649611>

Wales – Funding Confirmed for Carmarthenshire & Ceredigion CT Services. Welsh Government has confirmed that an initial £185,000 will be provided for areas formerly served by Bwcabus. This commitment can now enable Dolen Teifi to progress its initial proposals to provide a service that will hopefully cover areas in the south of Ceredigion in and around Llandysul and Lampeter. Elin Jones MS said: “We’re grateful for Dolen Teifi’s devotion to trying to find an alternative transport model for those living in the most rural parts of our county who have been without the Bwcabus service since October. Whilst it will take a little more time for proposals to be finalised and put into action, this financial support from the Government is a very positive step towards a more sustainable form of public transport for Ceredigion residents.”

<https://www.herald.wales/west-wales/funding-announced-for-community-transport/>

Somerset & Gloucestershire – Westlink Minibus Makes



Changes. Due to scheduling problems and driver availability, the West of England Combined Authority (Weca) is making some changes to the Westlink dial-a-ride service. The service operates in the areas around Bristol and Bath and from April the transport zones will be reduced, stopping passengers from booking excessively long trips. Improvements are to be made to through-ticketing arrangements

whereby passengers will be able to book just one ticket for a journey involving more than one bus ride, instead of paying for each ride. Councillors had heard how Westlink was rushed into service and has failed to live up to expectations.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-68488274>

Gloucestershire – Cotswold Friends Car Scheme Needs

Volunteers. Moreton-in-Marsh-based Cotswold Friends has operated a car scheme for many years and the service has made a big impact on loneliness in the Cotswolds area. A spokesperson for the CT said: “We would love to get more people involved. Becoming a volunteer driver is a wonderful way to meet new people, bring a smile to someone’s face, get more involved in the

community and be part of the inspiring team of Cotswold Friends volunteers with events throughout the year to celebrate one another. You can give as much or as little time as you have, from a few hours a month to several hours each week – it can be very flexible. If you'd like to find out more or to apply to become a volunteer, please contact our lovely volunteer manager on 01608 697007 or email volunteering@cotswoldfriends.org."

<https://www.cotswoldjournal.co.uk/news/24127318.call-volunteers-help-combat-loneliness-isolation/?ref=rss>. See also:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-68468390>

Scotland - New Perth-Kinross Service Launched by Glenfarg CT. Glenfarg Community Transport Group "has just added a whole new route to its schedule. The service connects Perth to Kinross, running hourly with stops at Glenfarg and Bridge of Earn. Buses leave Kinross from 8.45am-3.45pm, with return services departing from Mill Street and Scott Street in Perth. The new route has only been going for a few weeks. But already, it has carried close to a thousand passengers. And now Glenfarg's bus pioneers are eyeing other towns and villages with a view to opening up more transport links in future..." <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/4896759/glenfarg-community-bus-perth-kinross-service/>

Scotland - Rousay Community Transport Helping to Connect Islanders to Services - and to Each Other. The Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust has used a Community Transport funding award from Orkney Islands Council "to transform their community electric car into a tailored door-to-door service. The grant allowed the Trust to employ two drivers, who between them now offer trips on and off the island. On Mondays and Wednesdays the Trust offers trips to the Shop, Post Office and surgery for residents.



'Twice a month, we also take the car to Kirkwall for people to access some of the services that are not available on our island,' says Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust Manager Stuart Williams...'The success of the service has meant we are looking at sourcing a larger 'midi-bus' which would give us seven seats (or five with a wheelchair) which would mean that more people would be able to enjoy the service, and we'd like to expand the day-trip element.'" <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/News?postid=8886>

Orkney Council is also asking residents of South Ronaldsay how they would prefer an on-demand door-to-door service – a pilot trial will be funded from the Council's Sustainable and Green Transport Fund.

<https://www.orkney.gov.uk/News?postid=8948>

Scotland – Future of CT in Edinburgh Event. Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC) has arranged an in-person event on Tuesday 26 March between 9.30am and 1pm at Norton Park Conference Centre. EVOC says: “we’re bringing together the city’s top five community transport operators, City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Health & Social Care representatives to talk about how we move vulnerable and disabled people around the city. Don’t miss this opportunity to connect and shape the future of community transport in Edinburgh!”
<https://nen.press/2024/03/11/evoc-event-the-future-of-community-transport-in-edinburgh/>

Scotland – Midlothian Dial-a-Bus Now Welcomes Bus Pass Holders. A recent change from using s19 permits to s22 has enabled full concessionary travel to be accepted on the Midlothian Dial-a-Bus service, operated by HcL Transport. Member of Midlothian Council, Colin Cassidy said: “It’s a fantastic door-through-door service supporting anyone with a mobility challenge – and that can be someone elderly, with a disability or even just those in a remote area with no local public transport – get to and from the shops. There are around 7,500 trips a year and with passengers paying £4 for a round trip, that can add up. Speaking to people on board today, I’m hearing that being able to use a concessionary bus pass from 1st February this year and travel free has been a real lifeline, especially during the current cost of living crisis.” Passenger Moira Campbell, commented: “It’s not just the shopping, it’s the social aspects too. We like a caper. They’ll even open my jars if I can’t...”
<https://www.midlothianview.com/news/new-rules-allowing-anyone-with-a-bus-pass-to-travel-free-on-the-midlothian-dial-a-bus-service>

Scotland – Community Buses for Renfrewshire. A grant of £25,000 had been awarded to Renfrewshire Community Transport Group from Renfrewshire Council’s Sustainable Communities Fund. The CT group has been formed to address the lack of public transport provision in the area and is working with a transport consultant on a feasibility study. Speaking for the CT group, Lesley Compston said: “We are excited about the prospect for Renfrewshire to have a sustainable community transport system. We can now make progress with our plans and push on to establish a much needed community bus service.” Cllr Robert Innes said: “I am really pleased to see the Renfrewshire Community Transport Group successfully applying to the Sustainable Communities Fund, projects like this are exactly what this investment in our community is for. I’m excited to see the outcome of this feasibility study and how the group can make this a reality for people in Renfrewshire. For too long our bus services have been stripped back to the point that in some areas people are truly isolated because of public transport. With an ageing population in Renfrewshire this should definitely be a focus not just for now but for the future.”
<https://www.renfrewshire24.co.uk/2024/03/11/renfrewshire-community-buses-take-a-step-closer-to-becoming-reality/>

Northamptonshire – Motability Funding for Two CT Operations. A £650,000 grant has been awarded by the Motability Foundation to two Northamptonshire CT operators. These are Serve (based in Rushden) and Ability (based in Towcester). The joint funding is for Project Serve-Ability which is designed to develop services by providing additional vehicles, support staff and in boosting the recruitment of volunteers. CEO of Serve, Jess Slater, said: "This is an exciting new partnership with Ability to come together to provide more transport options for residents. Not only are we sharing best practice but trying to ensure consistency and equitable transport options at local level. We know there are other transport providers in the county that cover different districts and offer alternative transport opportunities. Some of those providers are part of this project, we want this project to complement those organisations by giving more choice to residents who feel isolated. Serve is very pleased to be involved and look forward to more collaborative working."



Ability Director Lynn Hinch added: "Many Northants residents are struggling to travel due to the bus service cuts preventing them access to medical, employment and leisure. Transport poverty has become an issue as people can no longer afford or access suitable transport and are relying on expensive alternatives. Serve and Ability have worked together for two years on an exciting opportunity, to secure vital funding, to improve the provision of transport services locally and work with providers across the county, connecting people with places to keep people independent."

<https://cbwmagazine.com/boost-for-northampton-transport-services-for-the-disabled/>

A recent BBC item has highlighted the success of Ability and the fact that its number of passenger journeys has more than tripled in three years. In 2023 the service provided 29,500 trips around West Northamptonshire compared to 8,000 in 2021. One passenger is Mavis Richardson, 87, who started using Ability when her husband went into a care home in Daventry: "It's a lifesaver for me and I was able to visit my husband twice a week on the shopping bus." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-68354526>

Cornwall – New Bus Hits the Road in Tamar Valley. The Tamar Valley Community Bus operation has recently celebrated a new vehicle going into service. Two of the earliest bus passengers cut the ribbon at a launch event at The Rising Sun in St Ann's Chapel. The vehicle purchase has been made possible by grants from Calstock Parish Council, Bernard Sunley Foundation and Cornwall Community Foundation, as well as various local

donations and fund raising initiatives. <https://www.cornish-times.co.uk/news/brand-new-bus-for-tamar-valley-community-668746>

Lancashire – West Lancs Dial A Ride Funding Confirmed. In its budget for next year, West Lancashire Borough Council has confirmed that a grant of £30,000 will be made to West Lancashire Dial A Ride to ensure the service continues. Anne Fennel, the council portfolio holder for communities, said: "I'm delighted that once again, this council has been able to help secure this vital service for our residents. Without this provision, many people would be effectively 'locked' in their homes, unable to attend medical appointments, get essential supplies or have any social interaction at all, so it was important to us to secure this service on behalf of some of our most vulnerable residents."

Manager of West Lancashire Dial A Ride, Philip Walker, said: "We are very grateful that West Lancashire Borough Council has once again recognised the service we provide as vital for residents to be able to access local services, particularly for the elderly, vulnerable, disabled and isolated across the borough. This funding will allow us to continue our work and will no doubt come as welcome news to all of our service users."



Manager of West Lancashire Dial A Ride, Philip Walker, said: "We are very grateful that West Lancashire Borough Council has once again recognised the service we provide as vital for residents to be able to access local services, particularly for the elderly, vulnerable, disabled and isolated across the borough. This funding will allow us to continue our work and will no doubt come as welcome news to all of our service users." <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/dial-a-ride-services-continue-for-west-lancashire-as-council-confirms-ongoing-support/>

Wiltshire – Trowbridge CT Appeals for Both Funds and Volunteers. An appeal has been launched by Trowbridge Area Community Link minibuses scheme for both funds (for a new vehicle) and volunteers. The group needs to raise a further £35,000 to reach their £65,000 appeal. The operation serves residents of Trowbridge and to those in the outlying villages of Semington, Great Hinton, Steeple Ashton, Hilperton, Keevil, North Bradley, Southwick and West Ashton. Volunteer Nicola Blackmore said: "Our organisation is run entirely by volunteers who give up their time to enable us to run the minibuses. Without their help, these vital clubs would struggle to stay open. We desperately need more volunteers with a D1 category on their driving licence. Also, we need some kind people to escort the less able passengers and be a companion during the short trip to day centres, including some wheelchair/walker users who need help from their front door to get on and off the bus via the lift. We want to be able to offer our service to more community groups by taking them on more day trips. Without our help, many of these vulnerable people wouldn't be able to leave their homes. I am appealing to anyone who has a few hours to spare to get in touch and help us continue this 'good neighbour' service. We also need car drivers to take clients to medical appointments and coordinators who answer the phone book trips."

Potential volunteers should call 07969 347042 for more information.

https://uk.news.yahoo.com/good-neighbour-scheme-seeks-35-151200359.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAINvIYo4FUc_7Er4wSF9z6vk-TBYS9Wo2ZXiH9Dy3ADxhQNFnX0w3IoT1hSQyiw0uCFodOE-et3SNsJpw2hxl-ucR85m60SZfxGalf9vA_X890KIbzfFOCKHg49PRZ9M-6BtNhPjyR5XMV0BcJRpShI8mfAhq58u9UbBPIVfwUU

TAS CT Photo Archive - Rural Transport Development Fund projects (late 1980 / early 1990s)

Meopham Community Bus (Kent)



Stanford in the Vale Community Minibus (Oxfordshire)



Malpas Area Minibus (Cheshire)



TAS

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