



Newsletter No.48

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

UK – Traffic Commissioner Change of Address. Office of the Traffic Commissioner: "Please note that on 16 September 2024 the Office of the Traffic Commissioner is moving from their current address at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds to new premises at Office of the Traffic Commissioner, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE. The move affects all licensing teams within the OTC and the teams handling public inquiries for the North-East of England. From 16 September 2024 any correspondence for the licensing team or North Eastern Traffic Area Hearing Centre should be directed to Quarry House. Telephone numbers are not affected."

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKOTC/bulletins/3b05781>

UK – CTA Updates

-) Midas Awards Nominations have been requested (closed 9 Aug): "Do you know a community transport organisation delivering MiDAS that goes above and beyond?"
-) Recognise and celebrate their impact by nominating them...":
<https://www.facebook.com/CTAUK1/videos/1186344135743899>
-) CTA and New Insurance Partners Business Choice Direct & WRS Insurance Brokers
<https://www.facebook.com/CTAUK1/videos/1001136781718458>
-) Mapping England Report Launch
<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=475528568434848&set=a.157860103535031>
-) Third Sector Funding Principles – CTA response to Scottish Parliament proposal
<https://ctauk.org/third-sector-funding-principles-ctas-response/>
-) Profile of Cymrod Clwb Teithio Dwyfor Travel Club
<https://ctauk.org/a-small-and-mighty-operator/>

Westmorland – Funding Boost for CT Services. A further £16k budget has been created by Westmorland and Furness Council to support the provision of community transport services in Eden, combining with £20k allocated last year. Chair of Eden Locality Board Councillor John Murray, said: “Eden is the largest Cumbrian district in terms of its size but it’s the least populated. This sparsity means that public transport is infrequent and often limited to our larger towns and villages. In a district such as ours, we rely heavily on creative community solutions using the third sector and our invaluable volunteers. This allocation of funding highlights Eden Locality Board’s commitment to helping people move about and access services within the district. I’m delighted to welcome applications and look forward to supporting some of our wonderful community transport services.”

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/news/2024/council-agrees-further-funding-boost-community-transport-solutions-eden>

Northumberland – New CT Service Connects with GPs in Cramlington. A new CT service has been launched to enable patients to access health appointments at the Northumbria Primary Care Northumbria Way location. This is the result of a partnership between Age UK Northumberland, Assura plc and Northumbria Primary Care. The service is free “to vulnerable patients and those that otherwise would not be able to reach the GP...The scheme came about after patient engagement events raised concerns about accessing the new surgery...”

<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/people/new-community-transport-scheme-launched-for-patients-in-cramlington-4726712>

Worcestershire – Dial-a-Ride Fare Reduction in Redditch. In an effort to boost patronage, a 50% fare reduction has been made on Redditch Dial-a-Ride, enabling users to travel for £2.50. Councillor Monica Stringfellow of Redditch Borough Council said: “Dial a Ride performs a vital service to Redditch by connecting people with their communities and we are proud to keep that service more accessible than ever. During this cost of living crisis when times are hard, we are helping where we can. I hope that with this new backing from the council, more people than ever who could benefit from the service will pick up the phone and find out more.” Council leader Joe Baker considered that CT services were “overlooked and undervalued...We are putting that right. We said many times that increasing charges for Dial a Ride was only hurting those most vulnerable in society, I am so pleased that we have put this forward and made this service more affordable for those who need it most.”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy08zg38j95o> Also: <https://www.redditchadvertiser.co.uk/news/24512755.redditch-residents-benefiting-cheaper-community-bus-rides/>

Worcestershire - Wyre Forest CT Needs Volunteers. Another car scheme operated by Wyre Forest Community Transport is seeking

volunteers. Chair Trudi Elliott, chair said:

"Our service is a lifeline to so many people, enabling them to live fulfilled and independent lives. We rely on volunteer drivers and have a wonderful team of men and women, but with an ever-increasing need for our service, we desperately need more volunteers who can give a few hours on a regular basis. We are, of course, flexible and plan around their commitments, holidays and so forth. The role is ideal for people who work part-time or are retired."



For further details call 01299 405820 or visit www.ctwyre.org.uk.

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/wyre-forest/2024/07/25/charity-appealing-for-volunteer-drivers-to-help-vulnerable-passengers-get-about/>

Scotland – 2nd Bus Launched by Community Hero. Renfrewshire resident John McBarron launched Johnstone and Area Community Transport in May with a service 6 running a half-hourly service between Kilbarchan and Johnstone station. Now a new service 3 bus has been added providing new half-hourly service from Johnstone Town Centre, covering Johnstone-Elderslie-Johnstone and also Johnstone-Cochrane Castle-Johnstone. Councillor Chris Gilmour said: "This is great news for residents in Elderslie and Cochrane Castle who have been crying out for extra bus services for some time. I wish them all the best." Cllr Gillan Graham added: "This new service is fantastic news and builds on the foundations laid by the recently implemented bus services to Kilbarchan. New Renfrewshire South MP Johanna Baxter mentioned John McBarron's "brilliant work" in her maiden speech at Westminster. John said: "Without the community we are nothing. I am really humbled with the support we have been getting from the community councils and Johnstone Business Consortium and now recognition in Westminster. Thank you all so much."

<https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/24508581.community-hero-launches-second-johnstone-bus-service/>

Scotland – Applecross Gains New Community Minibus Highland Council has leased a new vehicle to Applecross Community Company, along with a revenue grant to cover running costs. Megan MacInnes, local development manager for Applecross Community Company said: "The vehicle will be used for school transport services to and from Applecross Primary School, it will be used by the Primary School for trips such as to forest school and swimming lessons. As well as this, it will also be available to the wider community, for things like lunch-club and trips within or

beyond the Applecross peninsula...Like many sparsely populated parts of the Highlands, Applecross has very limited public transport services. This new vehicle will help our community travel within the peninsula and also travel to gigs, shopping and other events in the wider area. This will support people's health and well-being, improve access to facilities and help reduce our carbon emissions from travel." <https://www.ross-shirejournal.co.uk/news/applecross-new-community-transport-vehicle-to-support-well-359838/>

Scotland – Glenfarg CT Revives 90-year-old Bus Route! The Glenfarg Community Transport Group has launched a 'new' 23 bus service running from Kinross to Tillicoultry, on the hour, six days a week. The route had been operated for 90 years before being cancelled in 2021. This follows the operator's success in operating a service. Trustee Douglas Fraser, commented that "we've travelled a long way in the 18 months since we started the 55 and are excited to watch the 23 doing the same."



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<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/5074508/glenfarg-community-bus-group-tillicoultry-service/> Also here: <https://www.alloaadvertiser.com/news/24556520.glenfarg-introduce-23-bus-service-tillicoultry-dollar/>

Somerset – Slinky Buses Underutilised at Weekends Claim. The Slinky Bus DRT was launched by Somerset Council in May offering a pilot service trial basis in Somerton, Langport and the neighbouring villages, with buses available between 7am and 7pm daily. However, Emery Taylor of the Somerset Bus Partnership believes the vehicles are not being operated at weekends. The Council has stated that further funding would be required for any extended provision, and would look to form a partnership with "town and parish councils or via private companies." Rosa Kell of the Wells Bus Users Group said: "We wonder if this could be used for Saturday and Sunday hire, especially where there are no services on Sundays. This is very much a rural community who would like to go out on a Sunday."

<https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/community-transport-buses-sat-empty-9428654>

Somerset – Community-led Public Transport Services Announced in North Somerset. North Somerset Council has announced a number of transport services funded by WESTlocal which is "an allocated fund for community groups to create public transport services designed by them, for them." Three bids have been announced which are due to be launched "in September 2024 and provide vital connections to key locations such as workplaces, supermarkets, shopping centres, local towns, or other public transport options." These include:

- J Voluntary Action North Somerset, partnering with Nailsea & District Community Transport. Providing a weekday commuter link from Wrington to key transport interchanges. Morning trip from Wrington to Congresbury (offering connection for X1 bus), Yatton Rail Station and Bristol Airport, with evening return journey, and
- J Voluntary Action North Somerset, partnering with Weston & District Community Transport. Operating between 09:30 and 14:30 each weekday, an accessible minibus will serve a number of highly-targeted areas, each with one or two return trips a week. These will be focused on underserved places in Weston-super-Mare and the surrounding area. The exact routes and timings are to be confirmed.

These services are operating on a trial basis funded by BSIP until March 2026. North Somerset Council will work with the community groups, with the aim that the services become financially sustainable beyond March 2026.

Cllr Hannah Young, Executive Member for Highways and Transport at North Somerset Council, said: "We are thrilled to announce the launch of these community-led public transport schemes on a trial basis, which would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our community groups. Their efforts in designing these services highlight the commitment of our local residents who want to address community needs and ensure vital connections for as many people as possible across North Somerset. We have identified funding for these trial services through to March 2026 as part of the BSIP, so I encourage you to support them as much as you can. We want to make sure they have the strongest possible chance of long-term sustainability."

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/news/community-led-public-transport-services-announced-north-somerset>

Devon - Okehampton and District Community Transport Group – Social Media Videos. Creative use of social media is being made by Okehampton CT in a series of Facebook video posts about different aspects of their service. The following reels are currently online:

- J Julie, a volunteer driver, shares her reasons for helping the community.
<https://www.facebook.com/61551088477481/videos/1015861296855698>
- J Glyn taking us on a welcomed trip.
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1322815885343655>
- J Trip with beautiful moorland scenery
<https://www.facebook.com/61551088477481/videos/499833929113983>

-] Ursula describes how the Ring and Ride service helps her by getting out into the community
-] <https://www.facebook.com/reel/767678625148788>
-] Smooth journey on the Ring and Ride
-] <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1643713932833896>



Devon – Age Concern Warns of CT Crisis. In North Devon, Age Concern’s car scheme is in urgent need of a boost in the form of additional volunteers. The current team of 23 drivers is struggling to meet demand in an area that the organisation believes has around 10,000 older people in need of support. Recruitment of a further 20 drivers is required to help residents get to health care appointments and social events. Potential volunteers should contact Jill on 01271 445134, or email jill@ageconcernnorthdevon.org.uk

<https://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/news/home/1566414/age-concern-warns-of-community-transport-crisis-in-north-devon.html>

Japan – CT Services in Japan are also Responding to the Needs of an Ageing Population. This article from Toyota provides an interesting overview of how community transport is managed in Japan. The context is set with a familiar problem: “As many as 80% of Japan’s bus routes are facing potential service reductions or closures. What do such figures mean for the mobility of people in marginal communities?”

https://toyotatimes.jp/en/series/series_mobilityforall/001.html#anchorTitles

Cornwall - New CT Infographic.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=916697983832879&set=a.321967806639236>

Age UK Cornwall & Isles of Scilly: “Over the last few months, we have seen a rise in the need for accessible transport across Cornwall Community Transport Association, Volunteer Cornwall, Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum, The CHAOS Group, Lanivet Parish Community Centre, Govenek - Age UK Cornwall, Falmouth Age UK Day Centre, St Austell Day Services. We have been helped by local community hubs and volunteers and steadily increased the number of journeys.”



Yorkshire – Esk Valley Heather Hopper Bus is Profiled. Next year the Heather Hopper bus will mark 20 years of operation around the villages of the North Yorkshire Moors. The service is operated by Esk Moors Active. The BBC recently met passengers and the volunteer drivers. Volunteer driver Dick Brew said: "It really is a good community facility. Obviously, funding is always an issue and the board of trustees are always looking for funding. I'm retired now, so I've got time on my hands. I enjoy driving. I enjoy the passengers' company. They tend to be the seniors of the community and they've got lots of tales to tell." he added. Passenger Sue Alderson said that the bus "means everything to me. To get out and meet up with friends - I couldn't do without it. There's a shopping bus that goes on a Thursday, but apart from that there are no other (public) buses." Esk Moors Active are recruiting volunteers to run their regular schedule of days out.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2j30xjrlk8o>

Wales - Powys - Hay Dial-a-Ride Fundraisers. Hay and District Dial-a-Ride benefitted from two fundraising events in early August organised by Kelvyn Jenkins. The first was 'Night of ABBA and Elvis' and on the day afterward at St Mary's Church there was a concert in memory of SOE agent Violette Szabo and D-Day 80. Violette Szabo as a child had a close link with the area and her daughter Tania has lived near Builth Wells for many years, and spoke movingly about the incredible life of her mother.

<https://www.brecon-radnor.co.uk/news/community-news/weekend-of-fundraisers-at-hay-dial-a-ride-710877>

Wales – East Vale CT in Struggle for Survival. A long established CT provider in Penarth East Vale Community Transport is struggling to meet its operational costs. Grant aid has been static for many years but operational costs have increased. Staff member Claire Pearce said: "the funding from the council has been the same for years, but costs are going up. People don't realise how much it costs to keep a bus on the road. I've gotten calls from people who haven't been out since Covid. Trying to get transport when you're in a wheelchair or a bit slow on your feet—normal transport like buses and trains is just not acceptable." Donations can be given via the charity's website. <https://www.eastvalecommunitytransport.org/>
<https://www.penarthtimes.co.uk/news/24545957.east-vale-community-transport-struggling-funding/>

Lincolnshire – Grimsby Dial A Ride Needs Volunteers.

Volunteer drivers are being sought for Grimsby Dial A Ride which is reportedly struggling due to a shortage of drivers. Co-ordinator Ken Pennock said: "I've been working with the charity for 11 years now, six years as a voluntary driver and five years as a coordinator, and I've enjoyed it all. It's extremely rewarding to be working for a cause that helps facilitate transport for those in need. We currently have a driver who is 83 and is working hard to help maintain our service to the community, along with the other drivers. We hope to get more voluntary drivers so we can accept new registrations and ensure everyone gets the journey they need." North East Lincolnshire Council and its delivery partner, Equans, has announced that £15,994 has been awarded to Dial A Ride from the Local Transport Fund. Potential drivers should call Dial A Ride on 01472 269199 or email: grimsbydialaride@yahoo.co.uk.
<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/volunteer-drivers-sought-community-transport-073028062.html>

Northamptonshire – New Rural Bus Service Launched by Shire CT. Operating along a route between Peterborough and Northampton via Oundle, Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and Earls Barton, the Shire Connect DRT 94 service is operated by Shire Community Services. North Northamptonshire Council had provided £420,000 funding formed from 106 planning gain and former HS2 monies. Jonathan Ekins, CEO of Shire Community Transport and local councillor said: "It's a fantastic start to bringing full community transport to the north of North Northants which has been a vision of ourselves for the past 18 months. We have been working closely with NNC and ward councillors, officers from NNC and executive members."



<https://www.northantstelegraph.co.uk/news/people/new-bus-service-linking-rushden-lakes-to-rushden-raunds-thrapston-oundle-and-villages-launched-4766165>

Greater London – Epping Forest CT Parking Windfall. "Epping Forest District Council through its parking enforcement contractor (NSL Ltd) donated £900 to Epping Forest Community Transport (EFCT) as part of the Council's social value initiative. NSL has committed to offering social benefits to the community for the duration of the parking contract, which includes the donation of £900 to EFCT as the Council's organisation of choice. EFCT provides community transport services throughout the district benefiting the lives of the community at an affordable cost. EFCT Manager, Angela Canham said: 'We are delighted to receive the social value donation, which will be used to provide our volunteer drivers with uniform, helping our passengers identify their driver at a glance. Part of the donation will also be used to advertise the

community transport services.' <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/epping-forest-district-council-social-value-initiative/>



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