



## Newsletter No.54

Edited by John Atkins (Principal Consultant). Published May 2025.

**UK – DVSA Changes to the Drivers' Hours Rules for PSV Operators.** DVSA: "New regulations came into force on Monday 21 April which changed the drivers' hours rules for PSV operators. The drivers' hours guidance has now been updated to reflect these changes. Please familiarise yourself with the updated guidance and ensure you remain compliant. What you need to know – a reminder of the changes. You must follow AETR rules on international journeys. We've updated the GB domestic breaks and length of working day section in the guidance and removed the requirement to return to base or your country of residence. The changes also include:

- ) an updated list of countries for the EU and non-EU
- ) an updated list of what regulations apply to drivers' hours and working time
- ) replacing any reference to 'EU law' with 'assimilated drivers' hours rules'.



<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/3dc2e83>

DVSA has also made some updates to its Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness, including

- ) updated guidance from the Traffic Commissioners on maintaining compliance;
- ) additional guidance for driver checks on vehicles in arduous conditions and
- ) clearer requirements for brake assessments, risk assessments and Electronic Brake Performance Monitoring Systems

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDVSA/bulletins/3dded7b>

UK – CTA Promotes new Guide to Insurance. CTA has posted on LinkedIn: “Our insurance partner, Business Choice Direct Insurance Services, has put together an exclusive, easy to follow guide designed specifically to support you in navigating your insurance needs and responsibilities. Inside, you’ll find practical advice to help you:

- ) Check if you’re getting the best possible quote;
- ) Understand if your broker is reviewing your cover annually;
- ) Learn why you’re sometimes only offered one option.

Whether you operate a single vehicle or a full fleet, this guide can help you make

more informed choices- and potentially save money too.

Download your free guide today and see how BCD can help keep your vehicles protected: <https://bit.ly/4cttNuQ>. Get in touch to speak to an insurance expert today: <https://bit.ly/3GeERQ>.”



GB - Integrating Rail and Community Transport. CTA’s Director for Scotland David Kelly writes: “A lack of integration with other transport modes has been a long-standing issue for our sector. Community Transport is too often sidelined in strategic transport planning and treated in isolation when local bus, rail, tram or ferry services are being designed...” A DfT consultation



has recently sought “views on new policies to be included in the forthcoming Railways Bill, which will enable the establishment of Great British Railways (GBR). GBR will be a “single directing mind” that will run our rail infrastructure and passenger services in the public interest.” CTA’s response is available here:

<https://ctauk.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/news/A%20railway%20fit%20for%20Britain%27s%20future%20CTA%20RESPONSE.pdf> <https://ctauk.org/news/integrating-rail-and-community-transport> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-railway-fit-for-britains-future>

England & Wales – Charity Commission Research into Trustee Motivations and Skills is Published. Commenting on a new report by Pro Bono Economics, the Charity Commission said: “The research finds that the vast majority of trustees are ‘immensely positive’ about their experience, with eight in ten trustees likely to recommend the role to others. Most trustees feel positive about board dynamics, and their relationships with staff and volunteers. Researchers have analysed over 2,000 responses from trustees across England and Wales, with responses weighted to ensure it was representative of the size profile of charities on the Register.” The report: Trusteeship – a positive opportunity: Understanding skills, experience and demographics in England and Wales considers

- )] rewards and benefits of trusteeship;
- )] skills and expertise among trustees;
- )] demographic profile of trustees.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-commission-research-into-trusteeship-and-the-trustee-population>



Trusteeship – a positive opportunity  
Understanding skills, experience and  
demographics in England and Wales  
Daisy Harmer and Antonia Ren  
April 2015



Northern Ireland - Accessible Transport is Cornerstone of Social Inclusion says Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmins. At a recent Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Inclusive Transport & Travel conference, Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmins identified accessible transport as a cornerstone of social inclusion and that progress should be built upon to improve mobility for everyone, due to the diverse nature of our society. Minister Kimmins said: “The ability to move freely and independently is not just a convenience; it underpins our social, economic, and cultural fabric. There is a lot of good work ongoing across DfI and Translink in this space but there is always room to do more. Accessibility in transport is more than providing ramps or designated seating, it is about working to create an inclusive environment. It is about dignity, equality and the ability to live without barriers. By ensuring easy access to transport systems, we open up more opportunities for employment, education, and business. I believe accessible transport is a cornerstone of social inclusion. People with sensory impairments and disabilities must be part of the planning and implementation of transport services. Inclusivity and putting people at the heart of everything we do is one of my department’s Foundations for a Better Future and I am committed to ensuring my Department continues to work directly with disabled and older people to build on progress to date.”

<https://downnews.co.uk/accessible-transport-underpins-social-inclusion-kimmins/>



Following visits to several CT operators Liz Kimmins announced “I intend to increase the level of funding available to the community transport operators, that will enable them to deliver these vital services in 2025/26.” See <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/infrastructure-minister-prioritises-protection-community-transport> and also <https://www.derrynow.com/news/home/1806572/full-funding-for-community-transport-a-lifeline-for-rural-and-older-people-in-county-derry.html> and <https://sinnfein.ie/news/community-transport-funding-a-welcome-boost-murphy/>

**Northern Ireland – Lagan Valley CT is now a Living Wage Employer.** Lagan Valley Rural Transport posts: “We’re proud to have become the second Community Transport organisation in Northern Ireland to be accredited as a Living Wage Employer. The Real Living Wage is higher than the National Minimum Wage and is the only UK wage rate based on the actual cost of living, taking into account essential factors such as housing costs, food prices, and utility expenses. Over the past year, we’ve raised awareness of our work and seen growing demand for our services — and it’s vital that we look after our staff team. We’re proud to become the second Community Transport organisation to be accredited as a Living Wage Employer. We want to ensure our team is fairly paid for the vital service they provide to our community. Joining the Living Wage movement is a step towards a stronger, more sustainable future for our sector. We are grateful to Advice NI for their support through the accreditation process.”



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559930639642>.

Meanwhile Liz Kimmins paid a visit to Lagan Valley CT which is celebrating 20 years of service. The Minister commented that “Community transport services are a life-line to many. As well as offering the vital ability to travel for whatever reason it provides connection, community and accessibility. I congratulate Lagan Valley Transport on reaching this milestone and wish them all the best for the future.”

<https://www.northernirelandworld.com/community/infrastructure-minister-visits-lagan-valley-rural-transport-5119577>

**Northamptonshire - Spotlight on Volunteer Action and CT Volunteers Saluted.** 2025 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Volunteer Action which now boasts having 1,200 community members aged over 65 years of age, thanks to two simple but vital services: the Community Transport Scheme and the Befriending Service. The CT service is “more than a car

journey—it's a connection to life-saving healthcare and essential services. In the last year alone, volunteer drivers clocked up 132,000 miles over 12,500 trips, more than half of these were for medical appointments... Volunteer Action is always looking for more caring hearts and willing hands—especially drivers! All you need is a car, some free time, and a desire to help. The role is flexible, and mileage costs are reimbursed. It's a great way to give back, meet people, and be part of something truly meaningful. Get Involved. Want to find out more or get started? Visit: [www.volunteeractionundle.org.uk](http://www.volunteeractionundle.org.uk)." <https://www.northantstelegraph.co.uk/community/spotlight-on-volunteer-action-30-years-of-changing-lives-in-our-community-5085906>

**Hertfordshire - Bishop's Stortford Community Transport Seeks New Sponsors.** For many years the Stortford Shuttle bus has been sponsored by Fordyce Furnivall but this successful partnership is coming to an end. Nick Fordyce Furnivall said: "After many years of sponsoring the Stortford Shuttle bus, we feel it's the right time to step aside and make space for other local businesses to enjoy the opportunity of supporting this valued service. This decision was not made lightly, and our commitment to our community remains as strong as ever. We are incredibly proud to have been part of the Stortford Shuttle's journey since 2016, supporting it through key developments, including introduction of the Fiat Ducato and now the low-floor Mercedes minibus. We look forward to cheering on its continued success."

James Parker, chair of Bishop's Stortford Community Transport commented: "The Stortford Shuttle is more than just a bus – it is a vital community asset that helps people stay independent and socially connected. We are deeply grateful for Fordyce Furnivall's long-standing support and now



look forward to welcoming new sponsors who share our commitment to serving the community." Bishop Stortford CT offers "flexible sponsorship packages ranging from £100 plus VAT for a 12-month logo placement on timetables to the branding of all or part of the bus. To support the Stortford Shuttle or find out more, contact Tracey Gaynor by emailing [tracey.gaynor@bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.gaynor@bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk)." <https://www.bishopsstortfordindependent.co.uk/news/sponsorship-of-stortford-shuttle-community-bus-service-could-9413041/>

Greater London – Ealing CT Faces Rent Hike on Greenford Base. Ealing Community Transport has been informed by Ealing Council that the rent on its site in Greenford is to increase by 150% and be back-dated for two years. Consequently

ECT is now facing a bill of £158,000 a year, increased from £63,000. An Ealing Council spokesperson said: "ECT has benefited from having its rent held at a low level for a significant number of years. In line with recent legislation, the council needs to be transparent in the provision of any subsidies, including rental subsidies and



must not distort market competition by doing so. The council carried out a rent review of ECT, in line with their lease, as part of standard commercial practice. This review was based on market evidence, and the figure represents a number of factors, including a significant increase in demand for industrial land and because costs, such as utilities, which have risen sharply recently, are included as part of the rent. In addition, as this is a five-year rent review, any increase is compounded compared to a year-on-year rent increase." Liberal Democrat Cllr Andrew Steed questioned: "Is this part of a bigger stealth programme by Ealing Labour to reduce costs and cut services for vulnerable residents, like the proposed closure of Michael Flanders and Cowgate centres, as well as a proposal to reduce children's centres?" He feared it could cause the collapse of ECT, echoing the folding of neighbouring Hounslow Community Services. <https://www.ealingtimes.co.uk/news/25083100.ealing-transport-charity-hit-150-rent-increase-council/>



Meanwhile, ECT has recently bid farewell to its long-serving MiDAS trainer Jay Solanki, who has retired after fourteen years of service. "I first joined as a school service driver. I'd spent 35 years as a quantity surveyor and, after a career break, I tried my hand at a number of things, but I've always enjoyed driving. When I started driving at Ealing, I

loved it. I then got an opportunity to do more, I moved onto driving on Adult Social Care services and then Dial-a-Ride. When the opportunity to train as a



MIDAS Trainer arrived in 2014, I leapt at the chance... I'd like to say 'thank you' to ECT Charity for giving me a wonderful time. I've greatly enjoyed my time as a trainer; it's been worthwhile as I've been able to help so many people – to do the work that they do and to become better, safer drivers..."  
<https://ectcharity.co.uk/news/story/ect-charity-bids-a-fond-farewell-to-midas-trainer-jay>

**Berkshire – Keep Mobile CT Needs a New Base.** Serving the communities of Wokingham and Bracknell Forest, Keep Mobile Accessible Transport is seeking assistance in locating a new operational base. Its current location at Riverways Farm in Twyford is now under development review and the CT is looking for a permanent new home. Sally Gibson, manager, commented: "We are committed to continuing our support for the local community, but without a stable base, our ability to operate is at risk. We're reaching out to anyone who may be able to help us find a new home so we can carry on providing these essential services." The CT cannot afford a commercial budget and is hoping that someone can assist them with a location that offers:

- ) Hardstanding space for 11 minibuses and staff vehicles
- ) Office space, including a main office and three additional offices for management, book keeping, and IT
- ) A large room for meetings and training sessions
- ) Storage for bus parts, equipment, and seats
- ) A wash station and a designated area for a mechanic to maintain the buses

Anyone who may be able to assist is asked to email Sally Gibson at:

[sally@keepmobile.org.uk](mailto:sally@keepmobile.org.uk) or to call: 0345 5440850. For information, visit: [www.keep-mobile.org.uk](http://www.keep-mobile.org.uk). <https://wokingham.today/keep-mobile-community-transport-needs-a-new-home/>



**Worcestershire - Redditch and Bromsgrove CT Service needs Volunteers.** BluWave Community Transport operates in Redditch and Bromsgrove and entirely relies on volunteer drivers. It currently has an 18-strong team of volunteers for its car scheme but is seeking others. One volunteer driver said: "Once I retired the days did get longer, without the strains of the workplace, no group of work mates to talk to, volunteer driving fills some of that void. It helps you put your own woes and troubles into perspective and it is also rewarding to the heart and soul and breaks even

financially." Increasing demand for BluWave has been partly due to the government's efforts to reduce hospital waiting times meaning more local residents are being given appointments. "Volunteers can give up as much or as little time as they want, dedicating a whole day or multiple days or even helping with just one trip a day. Call 01527 759 650 or email [admin@bluwave.org.uk](mailto:admin@bluwave.org.uk) if interested in volunteering."

<https://redditchstandard.co.uk/news/vital-community-transport-service-calls-for-more-volunteers-in-bromsgrove-and-redditch-55267/>



**West Sussex – Inclusive New Transport Initiatives by Chichester Festival Theatre.** In an effort to enable more people to attend its shows this season, Chichester Festival Theatre is offering two new, free transport schemes to its customers. The Theatre Bus is a regular free electric shuttle bus linking Chichester rail station with the theatre for Saturday matinees, as well as a community bus running from Pagham for selected performances for every production this season. Ben Geering, head of customer operations at the theatre, said: "Spurred on by theatregoers who find the 20-minute walk to and from the station tricky, we're delighted to be collaborating with local community transport organisations, Community Transport Sussex, and Pagham and District Residents Association, on this free initiative. Spaces must be pre-booked from CFT's box office and all transport is accessible to wheelchair users. CFT's free companion service, CFT Buddies, is also piloting new Travel Buddies to assist patrons who can't travel to the theatre alone or by public transport. Available to anyone living within a 45-minute drive time of Chichester, Travel Buddies can collect patrons from their home, take them to the theatre, keep them company and assist with any needs during the performance, then drive them home afterwards. Buddies are friendly, trained volunteers who are all passionate about sharing their love for theatre. The free scheme is especially suitable for people with access needs; elderly and/or socially isolated individuals; autistic, neurodivergent and/or people with a learning disability; or anyone who is anxious about coming to the theatre alone."

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/chichester-festival-theatre-offers-two-new-free-transport-schemes-5071105>





**Suffolk – BACT Appeals for Volunteer Drivers.** The busy car scheme offered by Bungay Area Community Transport has seen increasing demand, and to avoid turning down journey requests it is appealing for additional volunteers. Drivers have a choice of using their own vehicles or using a fleet car and the scheme is operational in Lowestoft, Kessingland, Beccles, Bungay, Loddon, Harleston, and the surrounding areas. Debbie Blowers, who manages the service, said: "It is concerning what will happen to people who depend upon our transport and have no alternative if we continue to struggle to recruit, and it is not just our problem, but a nationwide one. If only we had more volunteers who would donate just a few hours a week, it would make such a difference. Our existing volunteers really enjoy what they do and meet people from all walks of life with many an interesting tale to tell from their lives. It can be so rewarding." Potential volunteers should call BACT office for an informal chat on 01986 896896 or email



[info@bactcommunitytransport.org.uk](mailto:info@bactcommunitytransport.org.uk).

<https://www.lowestoftjournal.co.uk/news/25131994.bact-community-transport-lowestoft-needs-drivers/>

**Staffordshire - Service Expansion for Lichfield CT Operation.** Connecting surrounding villages with Lichfield city centre and Burntwood, the



LinkUp community bus is now extending its hours between April and June to 8am to 6pm Monday to Saturday in a move to help commuters, shoppers and students. Lichfield District Council said: "The response to LinkUp has been encouraging and we are delighted to extend the service hours to offer residents even more flexibility. LinkUp is

easy to use and whether it's for work, education, appointments, or meeting up with friends, this extension gives our rural communities greater access to our high streets. For many people the service is their only direct link to Lichfield and Burntwood and we're proud to support them." The service costs £3 per journey and is free for children aged 11 and under and concessionary bus pass holders. People can book a journey by downloading the LinkUp app on Google Play or the App store, or by calling 0808 134 6632.

<https://lichfieldlive.co.uk/2025/04/25/community-transport-scheme-to-expand-operating-hours/>

**Scotland - Strathclyde Funding for CT Providers.** A recent report has indicated Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) operations committee is to provide funding support for community transport as follows:

- )] £30,900 Ardgowan Hospice
- )] £25,000 Inverclyde Voluntary Council of Social Services (IVCSS)
- )] £12,700 Port Glasgow Voluntary Transport Group (core)
- )] £8,000 Port Glasgow Voluntary Transport Group (MyBus)

Gordon Dickson, head of bus strategy and delivery at SPT, commented that the grants "seek to reduce the incidences of social exclusion by supporting community transport projects which complement the activities of SPT and other transport providers".

<https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/25115712.spt-awards-funds-inverclyde-community-transport-services/>

**Scotland – Perth & Kinross Minibus Giveaway!** Voluntary sector agencies have been able to take advantage of Perth & Kinross Council's offer to gift its retiring minibus fleet to the community via its Minibus Transfer Scheme.

The council reported that "Several well-maintained ex-PKC minibuses are ready to find new homes with local community groups. Instead of auctioning them off, we're offering these vehicles to groups in need of transport." Interested parties have been able to attend a number of information evenings at which CTA has advised groups on minibus operations.



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/perth-and-kinross-council/posts/>

**Scotland – Dumfries & Galloway Taxicard & CT Funding Under Review.** The taxicard scheme offered by Dumfries and Galloway Council assists 2,416 mobility impaired individuals who are eligible for £100 worth of free taxi travel each year. However, an evaluation using the European Foundation for Quality Management model has resulted in the scheme receiving a score of 18 out of 30, short of the benchmark 25-30 points. Stranraer and the Rhins Councillor Willie Scobie cast doubt on the

future of the scheme, saying that: "I'm quite sure the people who receive the taxicards will see they're of great benefit. But when you look at it in terms of £100, with the increase in taxi fares there has been, I would say it's something in the region of a fiver. That's one way, and then a fiver back. So rather than 20 journeys, you're getting 10. Just 10 throughout the year. When I come back to the ones that use it, they'll see this as great value. But is it really? Are we benefitting from that £100, or do we really need to look at increasing that £100 to something more realistic? In terms of using the service once per week to go for your shopping, that would only give you 10 weeks." Service manager Mark Molloy added: "the community transport and taxicard scheme were two of the lowest scored projects – that's not to say that they're not making a significant difference to individuals. But if you compare them against the other projects using that consistent (EFQM) framework, they do rank as some of the bottom projects. In terms of the budget and amount of money, the officers are delivering the project in line with the agreed budget that's there. As inflation goes up, running costs for taxis go up to ensure they have a fair livelihood, that does result in people have less journeys due to the available budget."

<https://hellorayo.co.uk/greatest-hits/dumfries/news/taxi-card-scheme-under-scrutiny/>

**Essex – Epping Forest & Harlow CT Minibus Stolen.** A major setback has occurred at Epping Forest & Harlow Community Transport when a key accessible minibus was stolen during the night from Epping. The vehicle was a yellow Mercedes Sprinter was taken sometime after 8 p.m. on Wednesday 23 April. The operator commented: "This is a lifeline for so many people, for some of our clients, this is the only way they can get out of the house and stay connected with the community. To have it taken from us is not just theft—it's taking away someone's independence. The charity operates on limited funds and relies heavily on volunteers and donations. This theft is a huge blow to our operations. Our passengers depend on us, and losing a vehicle hampers our ability to provide the necessary services."

<https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/charity-devastated-after-lifeline-minibus-10134958>

**Wales – Funding Package for Pembrokeshire CT Operators.** Innovative CT development and support agency Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations (PACTO) has secured over £213,000 from Pembrokeshire County Council. The grant is to ensure continuation of PACTO's work over the next five years. Cllr Rhys Sinnott described PACTO as "the glue that knits community transport providers together," and the members' report commented that:





"Community transport services in Pembrokeshire currently provide around 50,000 passenger journeys each year, helping to fill gaps in the public transport network, support community groups with their transport needs and assist elderly, disabled and other vulnerable people who struggle to access mainstream public transport. PACTO does not directly operate community transport services. Its role is to provide support to community transport operators to improve and extend the services they offer, to work with communities and community groups towards addressing unmet transport needs, and to provide information and advice to service users about the services that may be able to assist them."

<https://www.westerntelegraph.co.uk/news/25121865.pembrokeshire-community-transport-service-funding-boost/>

Wales – CTA Responds to Wales Bus Services Bill. Director for Wales Gemma Lelliott: "This new legislation represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform the Welsh public transport network, and CTA are passionate about ensuring the voices of Community Transport providers and the communities they serve are heard...we believe that everyone, in all communities across Wales, should be able to access transport that meets their needs. We were pleased to secure the opportunity to feed into the work of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee's scrutiny of the draft Bill, by submitting written evidence to inform the first stage of the Senedd scrutiny process." <https://ctauk.org/news/wales-bus-services-bill-ctas-response>

Devon – Ivybridge Citizen of the Year Donates Prize to Local CT. Local hero Colin Smith was recognised for his dedication and commitment to the Ivybridge community through voluntary service. He has won the David Britton Citizen of the Year Award 2024. Colin then donated his prize to Ivybridge & District Community Transport Association. <https://www.southhams-today.co.uk/news/colin-smith-awarded-for-dedication-to-ivybridge-community-788699>

Devon – New Service Launched in Teignbridge. A new minibus service has been launched in the rural areas of Teignbridge operated by



Newton Abbot Community Transport. The service has been funded for five years by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund along with partners Teignbridge District Council, Dartmoor National Park Authority and local town and parish councils. The service will involve two new minibuses to be driven by volunteers, serving six areas

including Teign Valley, Chudleigh, Bovey, Ashburton, Haytor and Ambrook. Cllr Stuart Rogers commented: "We're really excited to have purchased these additional minibuses with the government funding to help increase the community transport offering across Teignbridge. All organisations involved have come together to bid for the funding to make this happen and we know it will make a massive difference to our communities. However, to make sure the new services are a success, we really want to recruit some additional volunteer drivers. The volunteer drivers we currently have do a fantastic job and we'd really like more people to join them. They give up their time to help our residents get to appointments, pick up shopping and other essentials, and without them our community transport services, which are the lifeline for some rural communities, wouldn't be able to run." Anyone interested in volunteering should email [admin@newtonabbotcta.org](mailto:admin@newtonabbotcta.org).  
<https://www.middevonadvertiser.co.uk/news/new-minibuses-boost-rural-transport-in-teignbridge-794643>

**Dorset – Lyme Regis Community Bus is Launched.** A new free community bus service has commenced operations around Lyme Regis. The Lyme Link is operated by Lyme Regis Town Council after funding for the No.71 bus was withdrawn by Dorset Council in August last year. The 16-seat minibus will be driven by a team of 10 volunteers. Councillor Philip Evans, the mayor of Lyme Regis said he was "personally delighted...When Dorset Council withdrew funding for the Lyme Regis town bus, which had been operational since 2017, we gave an undertaking to the people of Lyme Regis that we would not leave a stone unturned in our efforts to replace the service.." Councillor Cheryl Reynolds said the new bus would be a "great asset to this town and its people. I am sure it has been worth the wait to get this absolutely right." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy03dvnwk9o>

**Yorkshire – Community Transport Calderdale Adopted as Co-op Local Cause.** Now supported by the Co-op, Community Transport Calderdale's "Bring A Friend" project aims to "help older people connect with new friends by joining a local community group. Calderdale has many to choose from including lunch clubs, choirs, gentle exercise and craft groups." Calderdale CT said: "A big thank you to the Co-op for choosing us again as part of the Co-op UK Local Community fund. If you have a Co-op card you can designate us as your nominated charity. This means the value of your points earned will come to us and the Co-op will match that, doubling your contribution. A Co-op card costs £1 and you can gain member discounts and point which can



be redeemed or sent to your nominated charity."

<https://www.ctcalderdale.co.uk/news>

Yorkshire – Ryedale CT Group Outing Scores a Hit. The Filey Wellbeing Harbour Group (Hunmanby Section) recently made a trip to Mr



Moos café and ice cream Parlour in Driffild, courtesy of Ryedale Community Transport. On behalf of the group Joy Ossai wrote "Your scheme is a life changer as it allows those of us who are no longer in the first flush of life to do those things we still long to do .... Go on days out, where we want to go at the speed we need to go, with the friends we want to go with, irrespective of our changing needs and slow pace. Such simple things are so important to us and bring not only joy and happiness on the day but give us memories to dwell on and help us to look forward to our next trip

and therefore in the modern terminology reduce our loneliness and isolation and improve our wellbeing". <https://ryedalect.org/news/the-filey-wellbeing-harbour-group-hunmanby-section-trip-to-mr-moos/>

Warwickshire – VASA Volunteers are Celebrated at Civic Reception. VASA offers CT services in Rugby District, Rural Solihull & South Warwickshire, and its volunteers were recently invited to a mayoral reception in Stratford-upon-Avon. VASA said "We're delighted that two of our amazing volunteers, John, one of our Volunteer Drivers, and Steve, one of our Telephone Volunteers, represented VASA at this evening's Stratford upon Avon Town Council Volunteer Reception. Thank you to Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon for hosting, Shakespeare Kitchen for the delicious canapés and C.A.Rookes Wine Merchants for the refreshments . It was a wonderful event celebrating the incredible contributions of volunteers across our town, a fitting start to the Shakespeare Birthday weekend! A big thank you to the Town Council for





recognising the power of volunteering and to John and Steve for flying the VASA flag!" <https://www.facebook.com/VASAcharity>

County Durham – Shildon Minibus Fund Raising Effort. Shildon Community Bus has committed to purchasing a brand-new mini bus with the help of Durham County Council. Shildon CT says: "Our older bus, which has a boot, is nearing the end of its useful life and we cannot service our client base with just one mini bus. We promote social inclusion by providing transport for social, leisure and educational outings. We support social groups based within a 10-mile radius of Shildon. Our weekly shopping trips picking up in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon are very popular...All of these need to access a bus with a sizeable boot to enable equipment and shopping to be transported safely. Examples of our affiliated groups include a walking group and sports supporters. Our second bus cannot be used for these groups as the tail lift leaves no storage space. We have almost reached the final amount that we need. We now ask for the support

of the public for the final push towards our goal of £100,000. Nigel Price has kindly agreed to walk a total of 140 miles in six stages over eight days, with a view to publicising our appeal. Nigel's walk began on 10 April at Styford Hall and finished at Wall, Hexham... If you would like to donate in recognition of Nigel's generous commitment, we have set up a Go Fund Me Page to receive your donations. Follow the link at



[https://www.gofundme.com/f/community-bus-appeal-towards-funding-a-new-bus?attribution\\_id=sl:5771bcbf-b763-4970-a13d-999680aa9bcc&utm\\_campaign=fp\\_sharesheet&utm\\_medium=customer&utm\\_source=qr\\_code](https://www.gofundme.com/f/community-bus-appeal-towards-funding-a-new-bus?attribution_id=sl:5771bcbf-b763-4970-a13d-999680aa9bcc&utm_campaign=fp_sharesheet&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=qr_code)

Hampshire – Plans for CT and School Transport Integration. Budgetary constraints have been plaguing Hampshire County Council for the past couple of years, and the CT sector has borne its share of the brunt which has resulted in much uncertainty for future service sustainability. A new plan has been proposed to combine CT and some Home to School services within a single contract. The current plan "would involve using some of the contract hours procured through Connect service contracts to provide school transport journeys, where possible...the report indicated that to ensure the continuation of community transport services, services would be combined with school transport provision. 'Connect', formerly Dial a Ride and Call & Go, is a pre-bookable service that provides transport to those who cannot use conventional bus services, primarily frail, older and disabled people. In Hampshire, the

service supports 55,000 passengers a year. 'Connect: Minibus Hire' services allow local voluntary and community groups, schools and local councils to hire fully accessible minibuses for regular or one-off trips, with or without a driver. The combined system will provide school transport and between 9am to 2.30pm vehicles will be used to provide core Connect services."

<https://www.andoveradvertiser.co.uk/news/25152708.hampshire-county-council-school-community-transport-combined/>



Derbyshire – Belper CT Fills the Void. When Derbyshire CT ceased operations last year, residents of Belper were left without an accessible transport service. Local people have now formed a Community Interest Company Belper Community Transport, which has taken over operation of a minibus and two MPVs that were formerly owned by Derbyshire CT, and has raised £39,000. One of the founders is Siobhan Fennell who said: "I have become housebound for the last few months. I have been so isolated. You tend to get a bit lonely because you are not able to get out and see your friends or go to hospital appointments." The service relies on 16 volunteer drivers.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn4gww3w81do>

Shropshire – Tenbury Wells Car Scheme at Risk of Closure. Community car scheme Teme Wheels, which serves areas such as Clee Hill,



Menith Wood, and Orleton is struggling due to lack of drivers. Manager Wendy Schuster said: "We have 182 service users who rely on us; unfortunately, we are desperately short of drivers. Some have moved away, and others are unwell. It really is getting to the point where we cannot take some bookings, simply because there is no one available. It's really upsetting, as we hate to let people down. We have such a wonderful team of dedicated drivers, and they are working their hardest to meet local needs. They are constantly being told how grateful people

are for the kindness they show." Anyone interested in volunteering can call Wendy on 01584 233131.

<https://www.ludlowadvertiser.co.uk/news/25165649.teme-wheels-community-transport-tenbury-needs-volunteers/>



**If you require any advice or support please contact us on 01772-204988 or email [john.atkins@taspартnership.com](mailto:john.atkins@taspартnership.com)**