



## Newsletter No.58

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

UK – Grants for Depot Charging Facilities – Update. In July (and mentioned in our last issue) the Govt. announced a grant programme to support the move to EV fleets. However, we noted that the eligibility criteria requires that operators “must own, lease, or order at least 1 battery electric van, HGV and/or coach as part of your vehicle fleet.” We questioned the eligibility and Scott Moore of the Cabinet Office has confirmed that “Minibuses would be considered eligible”. We also raised the issue of what was meant by the term “registered fleet operator” and Scott responded saying that applicants would have to provide “a copy of their operating licence, or for van-only fleets, evidence of their BVRLA membership, FORS accreditation or LUK van excellence accreditation...”. Additionally, the guidance says that “Commercial vehicles must be the primary users of the funded charging infrastructure”, on which no response was forthcoming. So it is still not clear whether a CT operator with no commercial elements to their service would be eligible. Scott did confirm that they were “unable to determine...eligibility via email. Please submit an application, and we will follow up with an outcome once it has been reviewed.” <https://find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/grants/depot-charging-scheme-1>

### UK - CTA Updates

- ) Fuel Store – CTA has “launched a new partnership with The Fuel Store, offering CTA members exclusive access to fuel savings, simplified fleet management, and access to expert support - with no joining fees.” <https://ctauk.org/fuel-cards>
- ) Insurance for Car Clubs – “Members have long told us that insurance is a major barrier for Community Car Clubs, with rising costs and limited cover forcing some to close. This new scheme offers a dedicated solution for clubs with two or more vehicles.” <https://ctauk.org/news/new-insurance-cover-removes-barrier-community-car-clubs>

- ) Caroline Whitney on BBC Breakfast - "Director for England, Caroline Whitney, joined Jon Kay and Sarah Campbell on BBC Breakfast to discuss the Transport Select Committee's new report on buses."  
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7361364076662267906/?actorCompanyId=10055995>
- ) Victoria Armstrong CEO of CTA has joined the panel of the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee (DIPTAC). Victoria commented that "I am delighted that I can share news of my appointment with everyone this week. I am looking forward to all I can contribute in this role in the coming years..."  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disabled-persons-transport-advisory-committee/about/membership>
- ) Community Transport Week is happening next month 13th to 17th October 2025. Find all the resources you need to take part on the CTA website: [https://ctauk.org/ctweek25-how-get-involved?fbclid=IwY2xjawMswftleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHrTs9yUBSI9EoJaqlXt7y1NNQFVHoXE6aVRx\\_crG4NvcOqadt\\_1ryM6-PTz0\\_aem\\_H4UJGie3hGTMdOaba45nyA](https://ctauk.org/ctweek25-how-get-involved?fbclid=IwY2xjawMswftleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHrTs9yUBSI9EoJaqlXt7y1NNQFVHoXE6aVRx_crG4NvcOqadt_1ryM6-PTz0_aem_H4UJGie3hGTMdOaba45nyA)



UK – Motability Foundation New Grants Programme. Following its recent strategy announcement and criteria amendment, Motability Foundation has now launched a new round of grant funding. Its new grant programmes for organizations are:

- ) Better Access to Active Travel Experiences and Equipment (£50,000 to £1m) – to improve active travel options for disabled people...Organisations can apply for active travel equipment including cycles and walking aids, access to services for disabled people, pilots, staff costs and overheads;
- ) Better Access to Wheelchairs and Mobility Aids: Large Grants (£250,000 to £1m) & Small Grants (£50,000 to £249,999) – to improve

access to good quality, affordable wheelchairs and mobility equipment for disabled people;

- J Building a Resilient Community and Shared Transport Sector (£50,000 to £1m) - to build a sustainable, stronger more resilient community and shared transport sector. This might include: **New operating models**; Shared infrastructure; Collaborative approaches; Digital transformation; Enhancing volunteer capacity;
- J Community and Shared Transport: Large Grants (£150,000 to £1m) & Small Grants (£50,000 to £150,000) – to improve access to community transport services for disabled people. This includes: Dial-a-Ride services; Volunteer car schemes; Non-emergency patient transport.;
- J Expanding Access to Driving Tuition for Disabled People (£50,000 to £1m) - to increase disabled people’s access to driving, by funding organisations that provide driving lessons and car adaptations tailored to people with different disabilities;
- J Support for Travel Training Schemes (£50,000 to £1m) – to support schemes which provide Travel training; Travel buddy schemes; Classroom-based training; Mentoring; Piloting new approaches to travel support; Projects that test different ways of building confidence and resilience in travel.



All of the above funding programmes should potentially be of interest to CT organisations.  
<https://www.motabilityfoundation.org.uk/organisation-grants/>

Wales - Senedd report recognises the vital role of Community Transport. CTA’s Wales director Gemma Lelliott writes: “In stark contrast with the draft Regional Transport Plans published earlier this year, the Climate Change Committee’s report [Bus Services (Wales) Bill Stage 1 Report] focuses heavily on community and Community Transport...making specific recommendations around engagement and statutory guidance to support the sector which recognises the vital role you play in connecting people. We can also see specific recommendations around access and inclusion across the whole network, which is essential if we want to make both public and community transport an inclusive option for the many people who are currently underserved by the mainstream transport network.

We were delighted that the Committee valued the input of the sector so highly that not only were we requested to submit written evidence, but for the first time we were able to secure the opportunity for a CT-specific evidence session with the Committee members. It was clear that the Senedd Members on the committee recognise the challenges that our current bus network presents for their constituents, and are proactively looking to constructively challenge the Welsh Government on making an already very positively drafted new law even better for us, the Welsh public. We welcome the Committee's clear and concrete recommendations, and we look forward to working with officials and the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales on how these should be implemented going forward..." <https://ctauk.org/news/senedd-report-recognises-vital-role-community-transport>

Wales – 'On the Go – Ar Y Ffordd' is Launched in Carmarthenshire. A joint initiative between Age Cymru Dyfed and CT operator Dolen Teifi is 'On the Go – Ar Y Ffordd' which is a travel scheme designed to improve accessibility and enhance quality of life for disabled residents in Carmarthenshire. The service is funded through a grant from Motability Foundation, and involves the introduction of 10 wheelchair accessible vehicles across 10 community locations over the next two years. The scheme offers flexible driving options by volunteers or by family members. Caroline Davies, Deputy CEO of Age Cymru Dyfed said: "This is about more than just getting from A to B, it's about independence, social connection and wellbeing. Through this project, we aim to support people holistically, identifying additional needs and building long-term, sustainable community support." Tom Cowcher, Chairperson of Llandysul a Phont-Tyweli Ymlaen Dolen Teifi said: "We are proud to be working in partnership with Age Cymru Dyfed to deliver this important new scheme. For over 20 years, Dolen Teifi has been at the forefront of providing community transport across our region. This partnership expands the reach of our services and will help fill some of the many gaps in accessible transport provision across Carmarthenshire, offering greater mobility, independence, and support to those who need it most." The project will see the creation of four new jobs. For further information on the project please contact project lead John Brennan: [Communitytransport@agecymrudyfed.org.uk](mailto:Communitytransport@agecymrudyfed.org.uk) or 07399861341. <https://www.cambrian-news.co.uk/news/funding-boosts-community-transport-project-in-teifi-valley-820969> See also: <https://www.southwalesguardian.co.uk/news/25381500.age-cymru-dyfed-dolen-teifi-transport-scheme-begins/>

Wales - New Minibus Brings Greater Community Transport Access to Llandeilo. Dolen Teifi writes: "A brand-new, fully accessible community minibus has been purchased for Llandeilo thanks to support from the UK Government Funding. The investment will greatly improve transport options for local residents, community groups, and those who face challenges accessing essential services. The vehicle will be operated by Dolen Teifi

Community Transport, a local social enterprise and charity that already manages more than 40 community vehicles across West Wales. The Llandeilo minibus will act as a lifeline for residents of all ages—particularly older people, young people, and those without access to a car—helping them stay independent, socially connected, and actively involved in community life.

‘This is a real boost for Llandeilo and the surrounding villages,’ said Rod Bowen, Manager of Dolen Teifi Community Transport. ‘We know how important reliable, accessible transport is for people in rural areas. Thanks to SPF support, we can now expand our services in Llandeilo and ensure that no one is left behind because of where they live or their ability to drive. This minibus will be a real asset for local people and a foundation for long-term sustainable community transport in the area.’ The new minibus comes fitted

with a wheelchair lift and other accessible features, ensuring inclusivity for all passengers. It will be used for a wide range of purposes, including Dial-a-Ride services, community group trips, and connections with public transport routes.



Community response has been outstanding, with 34 new volunteer drivers already signed up and currently undertaking MiDAS training—the nationally recognised standard for minibus drivers. The investment is part of a wider programme to strengthen community infrastructure, improve rural connectivity, and enhance the wellbeing of residents across Carmarthenshire.” <https://www.dolenteifi.org.uk/dolenteifi/home>. Dolen Teifi has also produced a video highlighting the support of the RWE Brechfa Forest West Community Fund: <https://www.dolenteifi.org.uk/dolenteifi/News>.

Wales – Powys CT Provider Announces Closure. The trustees of Knighton and District Community Support who operate the local CT service, have announced that the charity will be closed down in the coming weeks due to financial difficulties. Yvonne Moses (chair) commented that: “It is with great regret that the trustees have agreed to close the charity, but all the trustees will be ready to work with any new volunteers who come forward to start a new group to run the transport scheme.” Nick Venti, from Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) said the organisation would support any new group that is formed to take on the transport side of things. <https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/25402122.trustees-close-knighton-district-community-support/> Also here:

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/2025/08/20/trustees-decide-to-close-charity/> The announcement has resulted in Knighton Town Council finding ways to preserve the service:

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/transport/2025/08/26/powys-town-unites-to-try-and-save-vital-community-transport-scheme/> and

<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/25410834.powys-town-unites-keep-vital-transport-scheme-running/>

East Riding of Yorkshire – New car Scheme Launched in East Yorks. A voluntary car scheme has been introduced by Bridlington Community Lift in partnership with HART Community Transport. Jane Evison of HART said: "An awful lot of people in Bridlington are directed to Malton and York hospitals for treatment. We know that transport issues can be a barrier for some people to get the care they need. This initiative is about removing barriers." Volunteer are being recruited for the new service.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czerll3enwzo> and

<https://bridlingtonecho.co.uk/volunteer-drivers-needed-for-bridlington-community-car-scheme/>. HART has recently added a Mellor Strata low-floor minibus to its fleet: <https://www.route-one.net/deliveries/north-holderness-community-transport-takes-a-mellor-strata-lf/>

Lancashire – Little Green Bus Receives Donation. Ribble Valley CT operator Little Green Bus has benefitted from a £200 donation from property developer Taylor Wimpey Manchester, who have a building project at Half Penny Meadows. Sam Evans, of Taylor Wimpey Manchester, said: "We're always looking to support the communities and charities where we have our developments, and Little Green Bus does incredible work supporting the local community. We hope our donation can assist the team at Little Green Bus in continuing to offer its incredible service to local people in Ribble Valley and we look forward to spotting the Little Green Bus out on the road close to our development." CEO and Manager of Little Green Bus, Adrian Clarke, said: "On behalf of Little Green Bus, I would like to say a huge thank you to Taylor Wimpey for the generous donation. For Little Green Bus, support from the wider community is vital to our success in helping people in the area. With this donation, we can continue to give our



**Little Green Bus**  
creating sustainable transport

unwavering support to our local community." <https://www.lep.co.uk/your-world/taylor-wimpey-manchester-donates-ps200-to-little-green-bus-in-clitheroe-5269252>

Norfolk – North Norfolk CT on YouTube. A short case study video has been uploaded on YouTube by North Norfolk District Council. This profiles the services provided by North Norfolk Community Transport and the launch of their first electric vehicle. The description states that North

Norfolk CT "celebrates 25 years on the road, and have grown their fleet to include electric vehicles. Thanks to a grant from the Rural Business & Community Grant, they were able to purchase their first electric minibus. Hear North Norfolk Community Transport's story, or visit them at [www.nnct.org.uk](http://www.nnct.org.uk)." Watch the video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6s9yV\\_2Jow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6s9yV_2Jow)



Scotland – Driving forward with Community Transport in the Highlands. In mid-August the Highland Council brought together community transport providers along with representatives from the NHS to focus on developing the network and to explore options for growth and collaborative working. The day was well attended and very positive, with plenty of opportunities for networking. Going forward this new platform will help the network of providers, the Council and other stakeholders, including NHS Highland, build relationships and create closer collaboration. Kathleen Lohsa, NHS Head of Service Development said: "There is a lot of opportunity for improved collaboration between the NHS, Highland Council and community groups around community transport. Coming together to talk about how we can work more closely together has been great as has speaking to people and making connections." Angus Watson, a volunteer driver with Communities in Motion based on the Black Isle said: "I feel this is the start of something new and exciting and the day has been a good way to share best practice and discuss a wide range of topics, including efficiency. As community transport providers we have so much in common, but also so much we can learn from each other." Topics discussed included potential funding opportunities, addressing gaps in transport provision, the availability and tariffs of EV

charging across the Highlands, mobility vehicles, funding streams, the pivotal role volunteers play, identifying new opportunities and finding creative solutions. The Council also highlighted that it is very keen to build on the model of using community transport providers to fill gaps in school transport provision.

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/16794/driving\\_forward\\_with\\_community\\_transport](https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/16794/driving_forward_with_community_transport) also <https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/community-transport-summit-maps-out-future-for-highland-serv-389847/>

### Scotland – Dornoch Area CT Takes Delivery of New Community Car. A new electric Peugeot 5008 has been acquired by

Dornoch Area CIC to replace an older VW. The new vehicle has been funded through the Community Regeneration Fund. A DACIC spokesperson said: “The new car will continue to help local residents get to essential appointments, social activities and community events...We are incredibly grateful to the Anne Duchess of Westminster Fund, the Highland Council, the Community Regeneration



Fund, and locally Dornoch Golf Club and St Finnbar’s Church, all of whom have supported the development of our community transport service...Without their backing during our pilot phase and beyond, we simply would not be where we are today.” Ken’s Garage in Kildary supplied the new vehicle at a generous discount and Highland Council is providing support to cover its running costs. Additional volunteers are now being sought for the CT service.

<https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/volunteer-drivers-sought-as-dornoch-area-community-interest-390044/>

### Scotland – Highland Craft Event in Aid of Local CT. The Murkle



Women’s Institute staged a fundraising exhibition of members’ crafts at the Murkle Community Hall in aid of Wick-based Caithness Rural Transport.

<https://www.johnagroat-journal.co.uk/news/exhibition-of-members-crafts-to-aid-community-transport-in-391660/>

Hampshire – Community First becomes CTA Approved Training Centre for MiDAS Assessors. Long-standing Hampshire CT provider Community First has now been accredited to train MiDAS Driver Assessors. The Fareham-based charity is one of the few regional centres able to provide this function. Chief Executive Officer Tim Houghton said: “We’re proud to be one of a few centres in the UK to deliver this level of training. It means we can not only support local drivers directly but also train the trainers who will go on to make a real difference in their communities, keeping more people connected, safe and confident on the road.” Noleen Lynch, Head of Training at CTA added: “Community First becoming a CTA Approved Training Centre is fantastic news for Hampshire and beyond. Expanding the number of centres able to deliver MiDAS driver assessor inductions and refreshers strengthens not only the community transport sector but also the many organisations that rely on MiDAS to ensure safe, legal, and comfortable journeys. We wish Community First every success and look forward to supporting them on this journey together.” Community First offers MiDAS training and Driver Assessor training from a base at Leigh Park Centre, near Havant. For more information, see <https://www.cfirst.org.uk/training/midas/> <https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/business/hampshire-charity-expands-role-as-leading-provider-of-minibus-driver-training-5281431> See also: <https://loveandover.com/community-first-expands-training-role-to-boost-safe-minibus-driving/>



Greater London – Future of Capital Call Service Under Threat. London’s accessible minicab scheme Capital Call (which serves 10 Borough areas) has been mooted for withdrawal from March 2026, with the funding to be reallocated to Taxicard and Dial-a-Ride. However, Transport for London (TfL) is being urged to rethink this decision, as these latter two services are arguably struggling to meet users’ needs. TfL says that Taxicard and Dial-a-Ride have successfully booked over 90%



of trips in the ten boroughs that Capital Call operates in, and that the number of Capital Call trips has fallen by 58% since 2020. London Assembly member Elly Baker, however, believes that Dial-A-Ride is currently failing to meet user needs, while Taxicard passengers are still struggling in remote areas. Baker has written that: "We have heard that many of Dial-a-Ride's users have given up completely because the type of trips they want just won't fit into the DAR schedules, or they can't handle the booking system. Given these issues, the committee is concerned that the current services provided by Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard will be insufficient to pick up the journeys currently covered by Capital Call. This could result in individuals not being able to make the same journeys they used to make or experiencing difficulties with a different booking system. It will be critical that TfL solves any outstanding issues relating to Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard before absorbing current Capital Call members." <https://haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/2025/08/11/call-to-save-tfl-taxi-service-for-disabled-londoners/>

West Sussex – New Electric Minibus for Selsey. Having recently received a new electric minibus, Selsey Venture Club hosted a visit by Chichester MP Jess Brown-Fuller. The club was founded in 1974 and is described as the UK's oldest community transport charity. Its new vehicle is well suited for twice weekly shopping trips from Selsey into Chichester, as well as short journeys around the town for the club's 150 members. The MP commented that "The Selsey Venture Club is a fantastic example of community-led support that truly makes a difference in people's lives. The new electric minibus is not only greener but more cost effective for this popular charity and ensures that even more residents can stay connected to the services, shops, and social opportunities they value." <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/other/chichester-mp-visits-selsey-venture-club-s-new-electric-bus/ar-AA1KSPT5>

Community transport  
for all!

01243 605115    [ventureclubselsey@gmail.com](mailto:ventureclubselsey@gmail.com)



Northern Ireland – Shared Prosperity Fund benefits CT in Newry, Mourne & Down. The value of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area has been highlighted. Among 10 recipient projects being celebrated are the area's community transport operators (Newry & Mourne Community Transport & Down Community Transport). The Council commented: "Community transport was another important strand of work, aimed at reducing social isolation and ensuring that people with mobility challenges or those living in rural areas could take part in community life. In partnership with the voluntary sector, the Council funded new accessible minibuses and employed two full-time drivers, expanding services for people with disabilities and mobility needs. Chairperson Councillor Philip Campbell concluded 'These initiatives not only improve everyday life but also lay the foundation for long-term economic growth and social wellbeing. The Council remains committed to listening to communities and ensuring that every project delivered meets their needs and aspirations. It is through this shared vision and partnership that we can continue to strengthen the identity and pride of Newry, Mourne and Down for generations to come.'"



<https://www.newrymournedown.org/council-delivers-wide-ranging-ukspf-projects-to-boost-community-spirit-environment-and-economy>

Kent – Capital Grants are Available for CT Sector. Kent County Council is inviting applications for grant support: "We encourage and support communities to set up and maintain community transport schemes tailored to their local needs. If you are a community-led group or an organisation you can apply for a community transport grant to either:

- ) set up a new scheme or,
- ) support an existing one

In the past 2 years, we have supported a number of schemes through funding from the Department for Transport (DfT). As part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan Initiative programme (BSIP), we awarded £560,000 last year and £400,000 the year before, to a total of 19 community transport schemes in Kent...This year, as part of our BSIP delivery plan for 2025 to 2026 we are again running a community transport scheme to help community-led groups or organisations to create new or develop existing schemes. All funding available for a grant this year is capital funding.

The community transport funding can help you to:

- ) buy a vehicle or other equipment to support a community transport scheme (for example, computer equipment, ticket machines, parking facilities)
- ) cover the initial costs involved in setting up a community transport scheme (for example, staffing costs for the first year - providing the plan shows how the costs will be covered in subsequent years)."

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/community-grants-and-funding/our-current-funding-opportunities/community-transport-grant>



### Kent – Faversham Hopper Appeals for Volunteers. Operated by

Faversham Town Council, the Faversham Community Hopper Bus started operating with volunteer drivers in April 2024 following the withdrawal by Stagecoach of a rural bus service that served the villages of Newnham, Doddington, Teynham, Lynsted and Oare. However, an afternoon service was recently cancelled due to driver illness, prompting the council to seek new volunteers. Project manager Rob



Gibbs said: "We don't like to cancel any services because the reliability of the hopper bus is very important to our passengers, many of whom are elderly...Currently, we have a pool of about eight volunteer drivers but, ideally, would like two or three more...we put all new drivers through recognised training to drive a passenger mini bus and ensure the safety of users." The service is funded with a £60,000 grant from Kent County Council, which largely covers the cost of leasing the 12-seater Mercedes Benz Sprinter bus for three years. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer driver can call Mr Gibbs on 01795 503286 or email [hopper@favershamtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:hopper@favershamtowncouncil.co.uk). For more information on using the hopper bus go to [www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/active-travel/community-bus-service](http://www.favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk/active-travel/community-bus-service). <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/faversham/news/vital-rural-bus-service-launches-urgent-appeal-for-more-volu-328844/>

Dorset – Beaminster Community Bus is Relunched. The CB3 Community Bus, operated by Beaminster Town Council linking Bridport and Crewkerne, has been relaunched with a revised timetable from mid-August. Driven by volunteers, the bus will run every Saturday and cover Beaminster St James, Chedington, South Perrott, Misterton, Crewkerne Railway Station, Clapton, Drimpton, Broadwindsor, Beaminster, Netherbury, Melplash and Bridport. Cllr Craig Monks of Beaminster Ward and volunteer for the CB3 said: "Following the success of the CR6 Saturday service, I'm

delighted that the CB3 is back and better than before, serving even more of our local villages and bringing passengers to Beaminster so they can connect with the First Dorset CR6 bus or visit our shops, restaurants and bars. A huge thank you to all the volunteers for making this happen and



making a real difference." The service is also seeking additional volunteer drivers. <https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/25383497.cb3-community-bus-beaminster-returns-weekend/>

Warwickshire – County Council Provides BSIP Funding for Shipston CT Vehicle. Warwickshire County Council has announced that its cabinet has: "approved a £100,000 partnership funding contribution to Shipston Link, a not-for-profit community transport service, to help fund a new, fully accessible minibus. This funding – covering 50% of the vehicle's estimated £200,000 cost – comes from the Warwickshire Bus Service Improvement Delivery Plan and will enable Shipston Link to replace its current minibus. That vehicle, which has been in service since 2015 and has travelled over 125,000 miles, has seen maintenance costs increasing. Shipston Link operates a network of market day services across rural south Warwickshire, serving communities that would otherwise be at risk of becoming isolated. The new vehicle will enhance accessibility for passengers, many of whom are older or have mobility and visual impairments.



Cllr George Finch, Leader of Warwickshire County Council, said: 'Community transport services like Shipston Link are a lifeline for many of our older rural residents. This new minibus will ensure that these vital services can continue to operate reliably, helping to combat social isolation and providing people with a crucial link to healthcare, shopping, and social activities. We are committed to ensuring that people in rural areas can access essential services outside their immediate communities, as well as visit friends and relatives, so that they can enjoy a good quality of life.' The new minibus is expected to be in operation by the end of March 2027."

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6973/cabinet-supports-vital-community-transport-service-with-100000-funding-boost>

Devon – Donation Enables Newton Abbot CT to Expand Fleet. Two new minibuses for Newton Abbott Community Transport Association have been made possible by a donation for £50,000 from Newton Abbot Hospital League of Friends. One new and one used vehicle have been



procured for a total of £100,000. Receiving the donate at a special event, Mike Hocking, chair of the CT, commented: "We wanted to get you all together and say thank you to the volunteers at Newton Abbot Hospital League of Friends for all your support, not just over the last couple of years but for many years before that. Without the

support of people like you we wouldn't exist and if that was the case the people of Newton Abbot and the surrounding areas would not be able to get to hospital appointments, doctors' appointments, or even just go out for a bit of a social and meeting others. This is what it's all about so thank you." Speaking for the League was chair Ruth Robinson who said: "Because our volunteers are in the hospital, people see them and generously give money. The ladies have their stalls making us known, and Newton Abbot Hospital is part of the community. People see it as such and give us funds for which we are very grateful." Also League president Mike Ryan added: "Community Transport provides a good service for Newton Abbot, it's a very good charity and that's why we support it." <https://www.middevonadvertiser.co.uk/news/bus-boost-for-community-transport-fleet-829068>

Oxfordshire – Council Support for CT Operators. Four CT operators are to share a sum of £64,572 in grant aid from Oxfordshire County Council. The projects supported are:

- ) Daybreak Oxford (which received £25,072) provides transport for people with dementia to and from day centres, and shopping trips for older people, and to provide new provision in areas of the city not previously served;
- ) Thame Senior Friendship Centre which utilises volunteers driving their own cars to enable people to attend the centre;
- ) Filkins & Broughton Poggs Volunteer Doctor & Hospital Car scheme which provides transport to all the major hospitals in Oxford and to the Great Western in Swindon; and
- ) Wallingford Town Council – a 131 bus service in association with Going Forward Buses;

Councillor Andrew Gant, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport Management, said: "Oxfordshire's community transport sector is a lifeline to many people who don't drive or don't have a car. The grants will make a big difference to all four organisations and help them to continue the great work they are doing. We are extremely grateful for all the work they and other community transport groups do to make life easier for residents."

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-community-transport-grants/>

