



Newsletter No.60

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

UK - DVLA Modernises Diabetes Rules for Bus and Lorry Drivers. New changes will enable bus, coach and lorry drivers with diabetes to use Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems. Until now, professional drivers with diabetes had to rely on finger-prick tests to monitor their glucose levels before and during driving. The new rule means they can now use technology like CGMS, which provides real-time glucose readings. This brings Group 2 drivers (bus and lorry) in line with car and motorcycle drivers (Group 1), who have been allowed to use CGMS since 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dvla-modernises-diabetes-rules-for-bus-and-lorry-drivers>

UK - CTA Updates

-) CTA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place online via Microsoft Teams at 4pm on Wednesday 26 November. <https://ctauk.org/event/cta-annual-general-meeting-2025>
-) Become a CTA Approved Training Centre: express your interest. <https://ctauk.org/form/register-your-interest-become-cta-approved-training-centre>
-) New Report: Healthy Communities Scotland. <https://ctauk.org/healthy-communities-scotland>
-) Planning for Change: Why succession planning matters in CT. <https://ctauk.org/news/planning-change-why-succession-planning-matters-community-transport>
-) Show and Tell with South West Community Transport – Wednesday 19 November, 1pm – 2.30pm (online). <https://ctauk.org/event/show-and-tell-south-west-community-transport>
-) Community Building Session: How to Tell your Story - Wednesday 26 November, 11am - 12pm (online). <https://ctauk.org/event/community-building-session-how-tell-your-story>

Derbyshire – Ashbourne Town Centre Access Controversy.

Work is underway on a £15.9m Ashbourne Reborn project, which is a public space and road improvement programme and includes a new community hub. However, a local resident Dawn Routledge has raised the point that the disabled parking bays are to be relocated further away from the main amenities and therefore less accessible.

Pat Laughlin, who is the Ashbourne Community Transport director, has also commented that the change to the parking bay location is likely to result in an increased demand for CT services. She said: "I do think it is going to be a change of lifestyle for a number of people when that central parking is reduced and it is especially difficult for the people who have mobility issues."

Ashbourne CT is also going to request that Derbyshire County Council creates a parking space for one of its community buses in the market place and near the community hub in Church Street.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gzp0gl01ko.amp>

Nottinghamshire – Local Operator CT4N Faces Uncertain



Future. It has been reported that CT4N, set up as the wholly-owned trading subsidiary of Nottingham Community Transport, is facing trading difficulties. CT4N operates over 20 local services and recently announced it had entered into a company voluntary arrangement (CVA), which is used to avoid liquidation or administration. The CVA is able to preserve the jobs of about 75 employees and continue trading. MD Barry Allitt said CT4N had considered ceasing trading and entering

liquidation, but believed it was not in the best interests of staff or the "wider community". It is not known how this situation will impact on the core CT services such as Easylink.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckg180pwpkro> and

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwyprzd572wo>

Scotland – Lanarkshire CT Group Hosts MSP Visit. During CT week, Members of the Scottish Parliament Monica Lennon and Davy Russell visited the Larkhall & District Volunteer Group lunch club. Monica Lennon said: "It was a privilege to spend time with the incredible team at LDVG and hear directly from local residents about the difference community transport makes in their lives. From medical journeys to shopping buses and lunch clubs, LDVG is a lifeline for many people and a shining example of how grassroots

services can transform communities. I'll continue to champion their work and push for the support and investment they deserve." In the past year, LDVG has supported 92 community groups, completed 112 medical journeys, delivered 15,026 passenger journeys and co-ordinated 3,282 hours of volunteer driving.

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/msps-join-members-larkhall--36109703>

Scotland – Dornoch CT Hosts MSP Visit. Another CT showcase for Community Transport Week was held by Dornoch Area Community Interest



Company who received a visit from local MSP Maree Todd to learn more about the success of the Dornoch Community Transport project. The project has now become a lifeline for residents across the Dornoch area. After meeting volunteers and users, Maree Todd said "It's inspiring to see how local people have come together to make a real difference in their community...This project shows the power

of community-led action in tackling both social and environmental challenges."

<https://www.northern-times.co.uk/news/msp-marks-community-transport-week-with-visit-to-dornoch-pro-417476/>

Scotland – Community Transport for Fossoway. Tony Lamb, Director of Fossoway Community Development Trust writes: Fossoway is a very rural area within Kinross-shire, which itself is part of the Perth & Kinross Council area in Scotland. Fossoway traditionally has had poor connections from public transport. Operators like Stagecoach have attempted to connect the villages within Fossoway to local towns such as Kinross, Dollar and Tillicoultry but without finding it commercially successful, so any attempt over the last few years has been relatively short-lived. We are now enjoying the fruits of the labours of the excellent Glenfarg Community Transport Group, of which many would be aware by now. Glenfarg now connect many of the Fossoway villages with shopping outlets and transport hubs where there will be opportunities for onward travel.

However, this service does not run into the evenings nor on Sundays and many within the Fossoway rural area feel 'stuck' and there continues to be a reliance on private cars for those that have them. Some do not. Now Perth & Kinross Council and its Councillors have come to the rescue and decided to give away their end of service minibuses to community groups instead of directing them to auction. After due process and a very full application, Fossoway Community Development Trust was awarded one of these minibuses. Successful in its bidding, it has moved into the world of the Community Bus and started a programme of support to its community by way

of being able to connect people with what they might need. It is now able to, and does, support groups and organisations within Fossoway that need transporting to see and do things that they would not have formerly been able to do, as the costs to hire a minibus and driver many find prohibitive.

It has offered our support to the local primary school getting to special events, when their usual means of transport is unavailable, and has also linked up with a live music venue in Kinross, to which it is offering evening travel at a minimal cost thereby bringing more opportunities for its communities to access entertainment.

Christmas is approaching and it is being asked more and more to support groups needing to access various things. The future appears bright and busy. It currently has just two MiDAS trained volunteer drivers but hoping to add two more to the driver base by the New Year which will see the initiative develop even further.



Thanks do go Glenfarg CTG for its support and advice, and to the Community Transport Association for its continued help, especially with the MiDAS training course, Section 19 permit and more. Its world in Fossoway has become just that bit more exciting and positive.

<https://fossowaytrust.com/>

Greater London – Wandsworth CT is seeking a new CEO. Wandsworth Community Transport (based in South West London) is looking for a new CEO and is keen to reach potential candidates in the field who know about Community Transport and have an understanding of the sector. To see the full advert and download an application pack, follow this link: <https://wctbus.org.uk/ceo-wct/>. Further details are also provided at the end of this newsletter.



Greater London – Making Community Transport a National Concern at Westway. Westway Community Transport writes:



Over the last year Westway CT has taken part in the Community Transport Association's national Passenger Survey. Now published, it evidences the impact it, and hundreds of other providers make for people across the country, by making transport equitable. Transport is the

bedrock of freedom of travel and without it many people simply can't be part of their communities. So much of modern life is dependent on being able to travel, the survey highlights that 46% of those questioned wouldn't leave home without community transport and 33% would have to use a costly taxi.

Setting aside the financial squeeze on many people right now, there is the social cost of being excluded, leading to higher rates of loneliness and isolation among the core users eligible for community transport - older people. Over half (54%) of older people report going days without speaking to another person. The impact on people's health and wellbeing is well understood, with a recent global study showing that social isolation increases mortality by 35%. And one in five (19%) of people aged 80-84 say they have difficulty shopping for groceries, rising to 60% for those aged over 90. Missed outpatient appointments cost the NHS £200m a year – with the most cited reason being difficulties with transport. This Passenger Survey is a great resource for local authorities, community groups and anyone commissioning services or wanting to use services for themselves or a loved one, and we were delighted to be a part of it. Read the full survey here: <https://westwayct.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Passenger-Survey.pdf>

Worcestershire - Wyre Forest CT Receives Funding Boost.

Donations of over £1,000 have been presented to Wyre Forest Community Transport courtesy of Stourport Carnival (£300) and local councillor Tracey Onslow's Community Leadership Fund (£720). Chief Officer of Wyre Forest CT David Muggeridge said: "We are so very grateful for these donations which will go towards helping maintain and develop our lifeline services. We provide hundreds of people, who through age, disability, or isolated living can't access their own or public transport, the opportunity to enjoy active lives free from loneliness. Cllr. Onslow has been a true friend of community transport in Wyre Forest for many years and we are eternally grateful for her amazing support... Stourport Carnival is the highlight of the town's calendar and so much work goes into its organisation by a relatively few people. They provide a tremendous day of fun and entertainment and raise thousands of pounds for local charities and good causes. We are, yet again, privileged and grateful to be included as a chosen recipient for a share of the funds."



Cllr. Onslow said: "I am delighted to have been able to support community transport in our district as I know how much residents need and appreciate it. In my ward in particular, the twice-weekly Habberley Community Bus offers a great service, taking people into town and back." For details about the community transport services offered, to volunteer as a minibus or car driver, or for details of how to donate or fundraise for the charity, visit www.ctwyre.org.uk. <https://www.expressandstar.com/your-world/2025/10/27/generous-donations-boost-wyre-forests-community-transport-charity/>

Worcestershire - Droitwich CT Service Appeals for Volunteers. Community Transport Week was celebrated by Droitwich CVS hosting a visit from Coun Dan Birch. Coun Birch said: "It was lovely to meet and discuss the invaluable work they do day in and day out. Their services go far beyond simply driving a vehicle – they provide people with the opportunity to live independently, engage in their communities, and access essential services." CEO of Droitwich CVS Tonia Enderbury added: "It was an excellent opportunity to showcase how much more we are than just a Community Transport service. We are part of the fabric of this community, helping individuals stay connected, independent, and part of society."

Do you enjoy driving and meeting new people?
Do you want to help your community?

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteer drivers to help the community maintain their independence and stay connected with others.

Transport local residents to hospital appointments, social clubs, to see family and friends, shops and much more...

Get in touch
☎ 01905 779115
✉ admin@droitwichcvs.org.uk
🌐 www.droitwichcvs.org.uk

Droitwich Spa CVS
Connecting Our Community
Company Reg No 3897908 Charity No. 1088042

The organisation took the opportunity to launch an appeal for new volunteers, both drivers and trustees (www.droitwichcvs.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities). Alternatively, email: admin@droitwichcvs.org.uk or call 01905 779115. Tonia said: "Our trustees are at the heart of everything we do. By joining us, you'll be helping to ensure that vital community projects continue to thrive and make a difference where it's needed most."

<https://droitwichstandard.co.uk/news/droitwich-cvs-celebrates-community-minibus-week-and-appeals-for-volunteer-drivers-and-trustees/>

Wales – Ceredigion Villages Meet to Discuss Dearth of Public Transport. The villages of Blaenporth and Blaenannerch both sit on the main A487 road east of Cardigan. The nearest bus route is the T5 which deviates through Aberporth and then rejoins the main road near Tremain. A meeting was recently held to discuss the problem. Sue Lewis, community council chair, said:



"Villagers are left with the option of walking around half-an-hour to get to a bus stop or not accessing public transport at all. This has really impacted on our more senior residents." Also at the meeting was Caroline Wilson of Green Dragon Community Transport which has offered the villages the option of a Green Dragon bus which goes to Cardigan on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Villagers need to book in advance (01239 698506) "Hopefully villagers can make use of this great community transport option," said Cllr Lewis.

<https://www.tivysideadvertiser.co.uk/news/25568738.villagers-left-out-public-transport-despite-main-road/>

Wales – Dial A Ride Expands into Conwy.

Dial A Ride Denbighshire writes: A popular community transport service is expanding its reach in Conwy along the coast from Kinmel Bay to Colwyn Bay, thanks to a generous funding boost from the Community Funds of Gwynt y Môr and Rhyl Flats Offshore Wind Farms. The expansion of the Dial A Ride service along the coast will provide vital, affordable transport to residents who may otherwise struggle to access healthcare, shopping, social events and other essential services. The service offers pre-bookable transport for the elderly, disabled and those who find it difficult to access other forms of public transport. This development marks a significant milestone in improving social inclusion and mobility in the area. Funding for the expansion has been made possible by grants from both Wind Farms' Community Funds. They said: "We are delighted to support the expansion of the Dial A Ride service into the Conwy County area. It's a much-needed service and we wish them all the best with the project."

Dial A Ride Manager, Beverley Mather, expressed heartfelt thanks for the support: "This funding means everything to us. It allows us to reach even more people who rely on our service so that they can stay connected and independent. We're incredibly grateful for their support to be able to expand our vital service in the area. This week is the perfect time to launch this new venture as it's Community Transport Week 13-17 October and this year's theme is "More than a minibus". We have proved time and again to be a lifeline for some of our clients. We are so pleased to be able to offer this service to a wider audience expanding from Kinmel Bay to Llanddulas, Old Colwyn and Colwyn Bay."

The service will run initially on Tuesdays and Fridays between 9:30 and 14:00 with potential for other days dependent on availability. Residents can find out more information on how to register for the service by contacting Dial a Ride directly or visiting their website. This is a three-year scheme with further expansion into the county planned for year two to Rhos on Sea and for year three to Llandudno. More information: Dial A Ride Tel: 01745 344222. Email: info@dialaridedenbighshire.org. Website: www.dialaridedenbighshire.org.



Somerset – Mendip CT Seeks Volunteers. Volunteers are needed by Mendip Community Transport to sustain its car scheme which primarily enables local people to reach medical appointments. Last year the service delivered 1,660 journeys and demand is increasing. The CT serves residents of towns and villages such as Wells, Shepton Mallet, Glastonbury and the surrounding Mendip Hills who may otherwise struggle to travel to hospitals in Bath, Bristol, Yeovil or Taunton. Potential volunteers should contact Mendip Community Transport on 01749 880613 or email office@mendipct.co.uk. <https://glastonbury.nub.news/news/local-news/mendip-heroes-wanted-to-drive-patients-to-hospital-277008>

Rutland – Community Transport Survey is Launched. In order to plan for future community transport needs, Voluntary Action Rutland is inviting local residents to participate in a survey. Tom Walters (Chief Executive) said: "As we continue to evolve (we expanded to cover Stamford in 2021), we recognise that listening to the voices of those we serve is essential. That's why we've launched a Transport Survey - to hear directly from our clients about how we're doing, where we could improve, and what matters most to them. This isn't just a tick-box exercise: it's a vital part of shaping the future of our charity and the service we provide to our rural community. Our clients - over 2,300 - are at the centre of everything we do. Their experiences, insights, and suggestions help us understand what's working well and where we might be falling short. Whether people use the service themselves, book it on behalf of someone else or just pay the invoice, we want to hear from them. We also want to ensure we're future-ready. The world is changing, and so are the needs of our community. By understanding current expectations and anticipating future ones, we can adapt and continue to provide this support for years to come. Our survey is about partnership. It's about working together to ensure Voluntary Action Rutland remains responsive, relevant, and rooted in the community it serves. Your views matter - and they will help us drive the service forward with purpose, compassion, and clarity."

VAR
VOLUNTARY ACTION
RUTLAND

**RUTLAND COMMUNITY
TRANSPORT SURVEY**

★ **Transport**
Voluntary Action Rutland has operated a low cost community transport service using volunteer drivers for more than 42 years. That's a lot of journeys for local people to, from and around Rutland.

★ **Help to plan the future**
Complete a survey to tell us about:

- Your experience of community transport in Rutland.
- What is going well?
- What could be better?

★ **Get the survey**
Go online, scan the QR code

Email enquiries@varutland.org.uk for a link

Paper copies at:
Oakham Library
Tesco Oakham
The Falcon Hotel, Uppingham
Ketton Post Office & Village Stores

★ **Survey dates** Open 11.26 - November 2025

Working for the Rutland community • Registered Charity No. 1123653

People can access the survey online at: <https://forms.gle/Ki22GWgWRU6SzHxo8>. There are also paper copies available at The Falcon Hotel Uppingham; Tesco Oakham, Ketton Village Stores and Oakham Library. The survey runs until mid-November. <https://www.lincsonline.co.uk/rutland/news/survey-to-hear-from-community-transport-users-as-listening-9440100/>

Devon – Funding Support for Newton Abbot CT. An award of £5,000 has been made by Newton Abbot Town Council towards Newton Abbot Community Transport Association which operates the Ring and Ride service. Chair of Newton Abbot CT, Mike Hocking explained that the operation had faced “a difficult few years” following the pandemic but had provided transport for more than 10,000 elderly, vulnerable or isolated people in the past year.

The operator now also runs three rural bus routes that commercial operators had stopped providing. “Without us many people would be trapped in their homes,” he said. <https://www.themoorlander.co.uk/news/local-news/1932436/newton-abbot-community-groups-share-16-000-town-council-grant-boost.html> also <https://www.middevonadvertiser.co.uk/news/newton-abbot-community-groups-receive-ps16100-boost-from-council-847155> Additionally, Newton Abbot CT is currently seeking new trustees: <https://www.middevonadvertiser.co.uk/news/newton-abbot-charity-seeks-new-trustees-for-vital-services-848065>

Gloucestershire – Community Connexions Receives £20,000. Gloucestershire CT operator Community Connexions has been awarded £20,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund towards its Better



Connexions project which is improving away-from-home opportunities for people living with physical disability, mental health conditions or who struggle to participate in community activities. CEO Paul Riddick said: “I am delighted to continue moving the ‘Better Connexions’ project forward. Everyone in Gloucestershire deserves the right to access away-from-home opportunities. We are

very grateful for further National Lottery funding to continue providing these opportunities.” <https://www.punchline-gloucester.com/articles/aanews/community-connexions-receives-20000-pound-boost>

Surrey – Elmbridge Update on Community Transport Future. Elmbridge Borough Council has issued the following statement on the in-house CT service that it operates: “We are aware of rumours suggesting that Community Transport will close in April 2026, this is not correct. We always said, we continue to deliver community transport while exploring the potential to align with Surrey County Council’s Surrey Connect model to create a

more effective community transport offer. We will do this over the longer term as part our transformation of community services and of the local government reorganisation process. These rumours cause upset for our employees and we ask that clients and residents use our website and information boards at Centres for the most up-to-date and accurate information...We remain committed to delivering Community Transport while exploring ways to enhance the service in alignment with Surrey County Council's Surrey Connect model. Any changes will be part of a longer-term transformation of community services and local government reorganisation."

<https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/2025/building-connected-community-help-more-people-elmbridge-live-well>

Oxfordshire – Town Council Assists West Oxfordshire

Community Transport. In order to keep a community bus service on the road, Witney Town Council has increased its contribution to West Oxfordshire CT to £26,000 – an increase of £2,500 towards the Witney Town Bus Service. Leader of the town council Councillor Ruth Smith said:

"Witney's community bus network is a lifeline for so many people. We're proud to continue our partnership with WOCT and to provide this additional funding to help keep these routes running. Supporting accessible, sustainable local transport is a priority for the Town Council, and we're determined to ensure no resident is left isolated." The extra funding comes at a time of rising operating costs and follows a funding commitment earlier in the year from Oxfordshire County Council, which has since confirmed it has no additional budget available for community bus services.

<https://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/news/25595929.witney-town-council-steps-save-community-buses/>

Hampshire – Community First Lifeline Bus Service will

Continue. One of the Hampshire bus services threatened with closure has been the 44 link between Chandler's Fold and Eastleigh and surrounding areas operated by Community First. The service will now continue at least until the end of the year due to assistance of Ampfield Meadows retirement village and a number of private donors. Ampfield Meadows is working with



Chandler's Ford Parish Council and Hampshire County Council to explore continued support into 2026 and 2027, with a shared goal of increasing the number of monthly journeys from around 1,500 to 2,000. Kat Andrews, village manager at Ampfield Meadows, said: "The 44 bus is more than just a bus – it's a lifeline for

locals, providing essential independent travel. Allowing it to disappear would be incredibly difficult to reverse, so we're proud to help support the service. Supporting the service enhances quality of life, combats isolation and strengthens community ties, benefiting not just our village but the wider community too."

Local campaigners are still fighting to restore the 46 service between Valley Park and Winchester, which was withdrawn at the end of August. Earlier this year, local residents, led by campaigner Susan Dorsett collected more than 1,600 signatures calling for the retention of the route.

<https://www.eastleighnews.co.uk/2025/10/ampfield-meadows-helps-save-chandlers-ford-bus-route/>

East Riding of Yorkshire – Volunteer Driver Recruitment Event. Prospective volunteer drivers for community transport minibuses and cars are being invited to an event in Bridlington. This taster session allowed potential volunteers to test drive a minibus and chat with the teams from HART (Holderness Area Rural Transport) and BLCL (Bridlington Local Community Lift). The recruitment event is being held on Friday, November 21 from 10am in the South Shore Car Park in Bridlington, with two sessions for people to test drive vehicles at 10am and 11am. At this month's recruitment event, HART is looking for more volunteer minibus drivers for its services in the Holderness area. One of its minibuses will be available on site for supervised test drives. BLCL is looking for people who can use their own cars to give people in need lifts to medical appointments and other essential journeys.

Councillor Nick Coultish, the council's cabinet member for culture, leisure and tourism, said: "Community transport volunteers can make a huge difference to local residents who might not be able to get to appointments or shopping under their own steam, so I would encourage anyone interested to go along to this recruitment event, see what it's about and see how they could help." For more information about the taster session or to sign up,

contact 01964 536684 or email janeevison@btinternet.com

<https://www.thescarboroughnews.co.uk/community/chance-to-find-out-more-about-volunteering-at-community-lift-5395233> and

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c70j7d4jp0ko>.





Advertisement

Vacancy: Chief Executive Officer, Wandsworth Community Transport

We are seeking a Chief Executive Officer to provide inspirational leadership and strategic direction for WCT. You will work closely with the Management Committee, staff, volunteers, and partners to ensure our services continue to thrive and adapt to the changing needs of the community.

Based in Balham, London SW12 9PZ (on site)

Full-time, Hours: 35 per week (flexibility required)

Salary: £50,000–£65,000 (depending on experience)

Closing Date: 8th December 2025

This is a varied and rewarding role that requires a balance of strategic vision, financial acumen, operational oversight, and strong external engagement. You will represent WCT locally and nationally, build new partnerships, and ensure we remain a trusted and valued part of the community transport movement.

Job Description

Key areas of responsibility:

1. Leadership & Strategy
 -)] Provide overall leadership and management of WCT.
 -)] Work with the Management Committee to set and deliver strategic objectives.
 -)] Lead the charity through change, ensuring sustainability and growth.
2. Financial Management
 -)] Ensure robust financial systems, budgets, and forecasts.

