



Newsletter No.69

Edited by John Atkins (Principal Consultant). Published August 2026. Please send us any news items, stories of interest, press releases or photographs.

UK – Support with Trustee Recruitment from Reach. A number of CTs – including some substantial operators – are subsisting with very few trustees on their management boards. In a fairly random search of CT sector governance, **TAS** noted that out of ten large CT operators with annual income ranging from £250,000 to £2m, four had only 2 trustees, the remainder 3 trustees. This appears to offer a very thin layer of governance for the size of the operation. There will be many more CTs with various income levels with only 2 or 3 board members. Whilst there is no formal requirement for more than 3 trustees, and no recommended correlation between the size of the board and turnover of the charity, there are clearly risks and disadvantages with a board of too few persons.

The **Charity Governance Code**

(<https://www.charitygovernancecode.org/>)

suggests a board of at least five but no more than twelve trustees is typically considered good practice. Many CTs are genuinely struggling to recruit, retain and replace trustees. The overall demographic of UK charity trustees is reportedly less than representative: The **Social Change Agency** has posted that “boards are around 92% white with an average age of 60 and show little sign of changing.”

<https://thesocialchangeagency.org/blog/rethinking-trusteeship/>



"Sign here to indicate you have no idea what you're letting yourself in for."

Subsequent to writing the above, an inquiry into **Merseycare Transport Services Ltd** by the Charity Commission has been announced – see next item – partly on the grounds of the operator having too few trustees (two), managing an annual turnover of £2m.

One potential solution might be **Reach Volunteering** which is described as “the leading skills-based volunteering charity and the UK’s single biggest source of trustees for the voluntary sector:

- Providing a range of services, resources and advice to help you recruit trustees to bring expertise and diversity to your board;
- Building capacity through skills-based volunteering;
- Connecting charities and groups with volunteers offering the skills they need to thrive and
- Inspiring participation - Communicating the power of volunteering and the mutual benefits both to volunteers and to charities and groups.”

Reach offers “a purpose built platform: charities and groups post opportunities for trustees, for short projects or in ongoing roles. Volunteers search and apply for these opportunities based on the skills they are offering and the causes that matter to them. Volunteers can also create profiles, so that charities can contact them proactively. Our platform encourages interaction and connection.” In 2025, Reach reported that “charities posted 7,095 roles for skills-based volunteers” and that “16,260 people volunteered their skills through Reach...” <https://reachvolunteering.org.uk/>

Merseyside – Charity Commission Inquiry into Wirral CT.

Gov.UK has announced its concerns about the governance of **Merseycare Transport Services Ltd**: “The Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into the charity as it has identified governance and financial management concerns. These include that the charity appears to have too few trustees, in breach of its governing document, and that it has not complied with statutory accounting requirements and has expenditure that does not seem to align with its objects [sic]. The inquiry will examine the extent to which the trustees are complying or have complied with their legal duties in respect of the administration, governance and management of the charity, with particular regard to:

- whether the trustees have complied with the charity’s governing document and that charity funds have been applied only in furtherance of the charity’s objects
- whether the charity’s financial controls and governance arrangements are adequate
- whether inaccurate or misleading information has been submitted to the Commission
- whether there has been misconduct, mismanagement or misappropriation of charitable funds



The scope of the inquiry can be extended if additional regulatory issues emerge. It is the Commission’s policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing the issues examined, any action taken, and the inquiry’s outcomes.” <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charity-commission-investigates-wirral-community-transport-charity> Also: <https://www.thirdsector.co.uk/regulator-investigates-transport-charity-financial-governance-concerns/governance/article/1966734>

Worcestershire – Wyre Forest CT Gains New Treasurer. A new trustee has joined **Wyre Forest Community Transport** in the role of treasurer. This is chartered accountant **Roger Lindsay. Trudi Elliott**, chair of Wyre Forest CT said: "Roger is a very experienced accountant and we are delighted he has agreed to take on this key position in our organisation." Roger Lindsay commented: "I now have the capacity to undertake a voluntary role and I am happy to help what is a very worthwhile charity. The transport services it provides enable hundreds of people who can't access their own or public transport, to stay connected with their communities and attend essential medical appointments and social activities."



The charity is also seeking a volunteer to organise a couple of fundraising events a year, with support from trustees. Mrs Elliott said: "We rely heavily on grants and donations and to have someone dedicated to running one or two fundraisers – anything from a quiz night to a golf day – would help enormously in maintaining and developing our vital services." To find out more about helping the charity, becoming a volunteer driver or

using the services, visit ctwyre.org.uk or call 01562 755084.

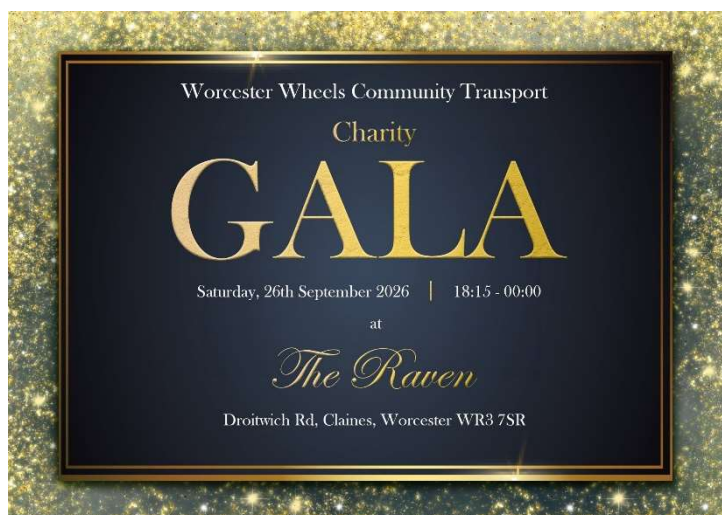
<https://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/26255095.wyre-forest-community-transport-welcomes-new-trustee/>

Worcestershire – Gala Fundraiser to Support Worcester CT.

Cash-strapped **Worcester Wheels** is to benefit from a black-tie charity gala in September. With a £320,000 deficit in funding this year, it is hoped the event will generate some much-needed cash for the charity. The event will feature swing and jazz trio the **Gershwin Gang**, a three-course meal and drink on arrival. As well as ticket sales, funds are hoped to be raised through a raffle and auction. A Worcester Wheels spokesperson said: "We would be incredibly grateful for any donations. A prize would be a fantastic addition and would help us maximise fundraising on the night. Every prize donated plays a direct role in reducing loneliness and isolation, supporting independence and wellbeing and helping people remain connected to their community. All donating businesses will be acknowledged on the evening and through our promotional channels, providing positive local exposure while demonstrating your commitment to supporting the community. We truly hope you will consider supporting this cause. Your generosity will make a tangible difference to the lives of people who rely on Worcester Wheels, helping ensure our services can continue to reach those who need them most."

Worcester Wheels also operates the **Friendship Hub Day Centre**, which provides a supportive environment for adults who are lonely, isolated, or living with a disability. The services aim to build confidence, develop new skills, and promote mental well-being through shared experiences, as well as providing practical assistance and a chance to socialise, helping to build lasting friendships and avoid isolation.

<https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/26281428.worcester-wheels-community-transport-hosting-charity-gala/>



Worcestershire – Droitwich Spa CT Profile. The community transport scheme operated by **Droitwich Spa CVS** is currently promoting the service. "The volunteer-run scheme has helped hundreds of people remain independent by helping them get to where they need to be. The transport enables them to travel safely to medical appointments, shops, social clubs, family visits and activities. Essential services are made accessible with the



service, giving residents the confidence to keep active whilst tackling loneliness and isolation. The charity also organises 'mini-bus outings' to places of interest across the county.

Sarah Murray, Droitwich CVS' community transport

manager, said: 'Community transport is about much more than taking someone from A to B. Every journey helps someone maintain their independence, access essential services, or simply enjoy getting out and meeting other people. Our volunteer drivers make that possible and we are incredibly grateful for everything they do.'" See:

<https://www.droitwichcvs.org.uk/community-transport-droitwichspa>

<https://droitwichstandard.co.uk/news/getting-the-word-out-about-droitwich-cvs-community-transport/>

Rutland – Uppingham Hopper Needs Drivers. The **Uppingham Hopper** community bus offers free travel in the Rutland area and has been operational for 10 years, offering a service Monday to Friday linking Uppingham with Corby, Stamford, and Oakham. Some of its services are now under threat as no fewer than four long-serving volunteer drivers are due to lose their D1 licence entitlement as they reach their 70th birthdays. **Janet Thompson** Hopper's co-ordinator and driver, said: "We are getting into dire straits now by losing this many drivers in the same year, so we need to bring in some new volunteers. Ideally, we really need 12 regular drivers to run the service as it is... I've

designed a contingency, which I really hope I don't have to put into action, maybe doing just Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. If we haven't got the volunteers, we can't do the driving."

Potential volunteers should contact via

email uppinghamhopper@gmail.com.

<https://www.lincsonline.co.uk/rutland/news/appeal-for-volunteer-drivers-to-keep-free-bus-service-on-the-9472149/>



Shropshire – MP's Support for Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride

Service. The volunteer-driven shuttle bus operated by **Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride** serves the Upton Magna, Uffington, and Withington areas on Saturdays. The pilot service is looking to increase its operation and has enlisted the support of local MP **Julia Buckley**. The MP commented: "Now we're looking to increase passenger numbers and get the service properly established... There was so much genuine enthusiasm and excitement for a good, reliable bus service that I immediately approached the local community transport charity Dial-a-Ride who have in turn spoken of 'a genuine and exciting opportunity' to help villagers – and not just in the short-term." The MP is now set to contact residents of the three villages to further promote the bus. "Our message is this: Use it, support it, and help secure its future. By travelling on the shuttle service, you will be helping to keep our villages connected, support local volunteers, reduce unnecessary car journeys, and show that our rural communities deserve reliable transport options. Of course, if we can make this work for Upton Magna and neighbouring villages, then perhaps there's scope to make it work in other rural areas as well."

Chief Officer of the Dial-a-Ride **Neil Langford** said: "I really do think there's a genuine and exciting opportunity here, not just to help in the short term but also to give us the chance to rethink how we do things at Dial-a-Ride so we better meet the needs of more rural communities like Upton Magna. I'm fully committed to extending what we offer at Dial-a-Ride, including looking at weekend services to align with the wider Shrewsbury Transport Plan.

There are many different options we can explore with this. I'm also absolutely delighted, by the way, that Julia Buckley, in her wisdom, sees us as an organisation that can help in these



situations. Given this encouraging start that we've seen throughout June, I intend to continue operating the service throughout the summer months. The service has clearly demonstrated a demand for improved rural connectivity and has also contributed to reducing the number of individual vehicle journeys into the town centre. I am also delighted to confirm that a volunteer from Upton Magna has agreed to take on the driving responsibilities going forward."

<https://www.shropshirelive.com/news/2026/07/11/mp-helping-to-drum-up-support-for-bus-service/>

Shropshire – CT Solutions being Considered for Withdrawn Clun Bus Service.

On the Shropshire-Powys border, the **745** bus route between Pontesbury, Bishop's Castle, Clun, Craven Arms and Ludlow is due to cease in September. Shropshire Council has cited high subsidies as the main reason. However, locals are calling for some kind of replacement, with community transport options being considered. Councillor **Rob Wilson** said: "We recognise that this service has provided an important link for some of our rural communities, and we do not take this decision lightly. However, the cost of maintaining the service has increased significantly while passenger numbers remain very low, meaning it is no longer sustainable to continue funding it in



its current form at over £60 per passenger per journey." Councillor **Ruth Houghton**, added: "My understanding, at the moment, is that a community transport service, using employed drivers, will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, leaving Bishop's Castle at

around 9am. Whilst I am not sure of the exact departure and arrival times yet,

it is very likely that there will be more time available for passengers in Ludlow. Bus passes will be able to be used and the fare cap, currently £3, will apply.” <https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/26417736.community-transport-replace-745-bus-service-clun/> and <https://www.hellorayo.co.uk/greatest-hits/black-country-shropshire/news/community-transport-replace-withdrawn-shropshire-bus-service> and <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/745-bus-clun-bishops-castle-ludlow-8826875>. The new service has been subsequently confirmed, operating from 2 September: <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/community-transport-to-replace-shropshire-bus-service-8841462>

Shropshire – Knighton CT Car Sponsored by Radnor Hills.

Welsh soft drinks manufacturer **Radnor Hills** has sponsored an electric car, which is part of the **Knighton & Area Community Transport Scheme** fleet. Chair of Trustees for the CT **Andrew Craggs** said: “It means so much to have the support of Radnor Hills and for them to sponsor our community car. Since we launched, we have helped hundreds of people to get to appointments as far



away as Gobowen, Clun and Hereford but there are too many rides we haven't been able to do. We have an amazing team of volunteers, but we desperately need more. Our drivers, who can claim 45p for each mile they drive, are the backbone of the scheme, giving their time to help people get to their much-needed appointments.” Other kinds of

volunteers are also being sought. On behalf of Radnor Hills, **Chris Butler** commented: “Each year we strive to give back and raise awareness of important causes. We're based in a very rural area, just down the road from the Knighton & Area Community Transport Scheme, so it's an amazing partnership for us which we're proud to support.” If you would like to find out more about Knighton & Area Community Transport Scheme or to become a volunteer, please call 07410 438688 or visit its Facebook page

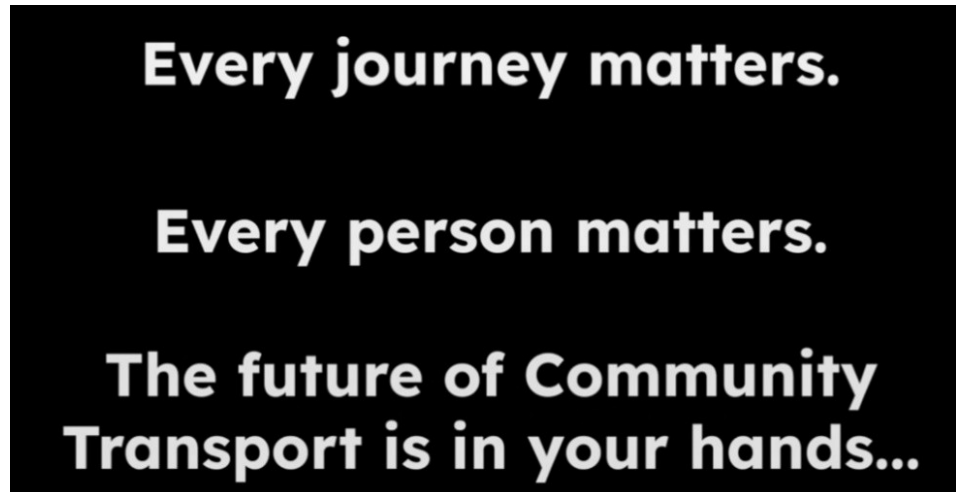
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Knighton-and-Area-Community-Transport-Scheme-61579736132288/>.

<https://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/26420075.knighton-area-community-transport-scheme-needs-volunteers/> and

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/transport/radnor-hills-sponsors-community-transport-scheme-which-is-urgently-looking-for-volunteers-8828415>

Wales – PACTO Video calls for Thought for the Future.

Pembrokeshire Association of Community Transport Organisations has posted: The following video, titled *The Cost of Doing Nothing: Community Transport in Pembrokeshire*, was premiered at last Thursday's Pembrokeshire Community Transport Strategy Launch Conference at Regency Hall in Saundersfoot. This short film, narrated by Year 6 pupils from Cosheston Church in Wales VC School, contrasts two possible futures: one where Community Transport continues to thrive through investment, collaboration and innovation, and another where support declines and vital services become increasingly unsustainable. PACTO says: "We have an opportunity to create a more connected, inclusive and sustainable Community Transport system in Pembrokeshire, ensuring people with mobility needs and those from rural communities can access safe, reliable and affordable



transport, which supports independence, wellbeing and participation in community life - but we need your support!"

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:ugcPost:7480696443020861441/?lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_search_srp_all%3BhptoHk81TmyUYnDobMdI0Q%3D%3D.

Also, PACTO was recently shortlisted in the finals of the **Leadership in Passenger Transport Awards**, but failed to bring home a trophy. **Wyndham Williams** reflected that despite the lack of a win "we left London incredibly proud. To be shortlisted as finalists in two Leadership in Passenger Transport Awards, alongside multi-million-pound public and private organisations from the bus, rail and tram sectors across the UK, is an achievement in itself. Even more importantly, PACTO was the only Community Transport organisation represented as a finalist. That says everything about how far we've come and the growing recognition of the vital role Community Transport plays."

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/?highlightedUpdateUrn=urn%3Ali%3Aactivity%3A7485335601584533504&highlightedUpdateType=COMMENTS_BY_YOUR_NETWORK&origin=COMMENTS_BY_YOUR_NETWORK&showCommentBox=true

Wales – East Vale CT Hits 40! Penarth-based **East Vale Community Transport** has recently celebrated 40 years of operation, posting: "What a wonderful turn out yesterday, over 100 people came out to celebrate East Vale Community Transport serving the community for 40 years. It was great to see Trustees, volunteer drivers, Councillors, service users and interested members coming together...Here's to the next 40 years."



<https://www.facebook.com/eastvalecommunitytransport>

Wales – Denbighshire CT is Looking for Trustees. Manager **Bev Mather** has posted: "Dial A Ride Denbighshire

Ltd is looking for people to join its board of trustees, if you feel you could help shape the future of Dial A Ride by bringing strong values, a good strategic vision and good judgement please get in touch to have a chat with our board of trustees. Knowledge of the charity sector is beneficial but not essential as full support, and training will be provided." The CT is specifically looking to replace the retiring long-term treasurer, as well as to gain a general trustee. Dial A Ride Denbighshire Ltd is a leading North Wales CT provider and winner of the CTA award 2026 for **MIDAS Organisation of the Year**. Contact info@dialaridedenbighshire.org.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/bev-mather-5650a5a6/?lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_feed%3BPTHeEFSRSg%2BoP8GX6SeNw%3D%3D

DIAL-A-RIDE
DEIAL A RIDE LTD
DENBIGHSHIRE - SIR CONWY
Community transport that connects people and strengthens communities.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
JOIN OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Due to the retirement of our long-standing Treasurer, we are looking for two exceptional individuals to join our Board as Trustee and Treasurer.

WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS WITH:

- Strong values and unwavering integrity
- Strategic vision and good judgement
- A commitment to our community and making a real impact

TRUSTEE
STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, SOUND JUDGEMENT, RESPONSIBILITY, INTEGRITY.
As a Trustee, you will help guide our organisation, ensuring we deliver outstanding service and make a positive difference to people's lives.
YOU WILL BRING:

- Unwavering integrity and a commitment to our values
- A strategic mindset and the ability to see the bigger picture
- Sound judgement, honesty and strong interpersonal skills
- An understanding of legal responsibilities and good governance
- A collaborative approach with respect for diverse opinions
- No transport experience is needed - just a passion for making a difference and helping our community thrive

WHY JOIN US?

- Use your professional skills to create real impact
- Be part of a forward-thinking Board that values your contribution
- Help drive independence, connection and opportunity for local people

TREASURER
FINANCIAL STewardSHIP, ACCOUNTABILITY, PROUD ADVOCATE.
As a Treasurer, you will oversee our financial health and ensure we use our resources wisely, responsibly and in line with our mission.
YOU WILL:

- Oversee the charity's financial management and reporting
- Oversee annual accounts and budgets
- Oversee internal financial controls and ensure compliance
- Report to and advise the Board on financial matters
- Ensure funds are used as intended to achieve our mission
- Knowledge of the charity sector is beneficial but not essential - full support and induction will be provided.

INTERESTED?
We'd love to hear from you! Together, we can keep our community moving.
01745 344222
Option 1
info@dialaridedenbighshire.org
www.dialaridedenbighshire.org

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP OUR COMMUNITY MOVING.

UK – CTA Updates

- **Devon Community Transport Day 2026** - On the 24th of June, **Devon County Council**, **Devon Access to Services** and **Community Transport Association** brought together Community Transport operators from across Devon for the first in-person event for years that included both volunteer car schemes and minibus operators.
https://ctauk.org/civcrm/mailling/view?reset=1&id=751&cid=140461&cs=2daceb5aff023bad6d83f08cda23c2b5_1784625398_336
- **Your voice in the Future of Rural England Report**
<https://ctauk.org/news/your-voice-future-rural-england-report>
- **Evaluating and Future-Proofing Volunteer Car Schemes – Survey**
This survey is part of the Community Transport Association's **ConneCTing England: Volunteer Car Schemes** project. It aims to gather solid national data on schemes, drivers, journeys, funding and unmet demand. Your answers will directly shape the recommendations we publish later this year.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vol_car_schemes

- **CTWeek26 - How to get involved!** <https://ctauk.org/ctweek26-how-get-involved>
- **What the Charity Commission's 2026 trust research means for community transport** <https://ctauk.org/news/what-charity-commissions-2026-trust-research-means-community-transport>
- **D1 Licensing Campaign** <https://ctauk.org/d1-campaign>
- **Stockport Car Scheme Celebrates its volunteers** - On 3 July, **Stockport Car Scheme** hosted a volunteer garden party to celebrate the dedicated volunteers whose time and commitment help make the scheme such a success.
https://ctauk.org/civicrm/mailling/view?reset=1&id=751&cid=140461&cs=2daceb5aff023bad6d83f08cda23c2b5_1784625398_336
- **Hull & East Yorkshire partners come together to shape the future of community transport** <https://ctauk.org/news/hull-east-yorkshire-partners-come-together-shape-future-community-transport>

Cambridgeshire – Wisbech Car Scheme Seeks Volunteers.

After announcing its likely closure last month, the **Wisbech Car Scheme** still has a chance of survival if enough new volunteers come forward. The eleventh-hour push for more volunteers has been assisted by the efforts of local MP **Steve Barclay** who says: "The Wisbech Car Scheme is looking for volunteer drivers to help local residents get to hospital appointments, GP surgeries, shops, hairdressers and other essential destinations. Without new volunteers, those currently running the scheme have said it will close. These journeys are often a lifeline, helping people access healthcare, maintain their independence and stay connected to the community. Whilst we still need to address the health services being moved away from the North Cambs and Doddington community hospitals making transport challenges worse, this scheme is hugely valuable to many existing journeys. The scheme is flexible so if you can only spare a few hours a week or just a couple of hours a month, organisers say every contribution will make a difference." For more information on volunteering, contact **Gavin Moulton**, community transport officer at the combined authority, on gavin.moulton@cambridgeshire-ca.gov.uk.
<https://www.fenlandcitizen.co.uk/news/hugely-valuable-transport-scheme-to-remain-running-if-volu-9473373/> and
<https://www.facebook.com/stevebarclayofficial/posts/-help-keep-the-wisbech-car-scheme-on-the-road-the-wisbech-car-scheme-is-looking-/1394706602470741/>



Northern Ireland – Tribute to Fermanagh CT Driver. Tributes

are being paid to a former volunteer driver for **Fermanagh Community Transport**, who died on 8 July. **George Alexander Kilpatrick** volunteered as a social car driver for 11 years between 2009 until 2020. Fermanagh CT's Board of Management, staff and volunteers described him as a man of kindness and compassion who made "a huge difference" to the lives of many people through his willingness to give his time and support to others. "George cared deeply about everyone, and this shone through in the way he related to people," the organisation stated. "He was committed to getting people out of their homes and into life, helping them to take part in their community, meet up with friends, go to the shops, attend a GP or hospital appointment. He was there. He was their trusted and compassionate helper. Thank you for all that you did George. May you rest in peace."



<https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/26296138.fermanagh-community-transport-pays-tribute-former-driver/>

Also Fermanagh CT recently hosted a visit by **Diana Armstrong** MLA who posted: "Today I had the privilege of experiencing the Rural Community Transport Service in County Fermanagh first hand, and it reinforced just how invaluable this service is to so many people across our rural communities.



For many users, Community Transport is far more than just getting from A to B. It provides access to specialist healthcare, medical appointments, shopping, social activities and the everyday services that many of us take for granted. I had some great company onboard this morning. One service user described the service as a lifeline which was incredibly powerful and brought home just how essential this service is to their

independence, health and wellbeing. It was inspiring to hear directly how much this service is valued and appreciated. It is a true asset for rural Fermanagh, helping to tackle isolation while ensuring people remain connected to their communities and the services they need... We must not only protect Community Transport—we must invest in it, strengthen it and ensure it continues to meet the changing needs of our rural communities for generations to come."

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556478385888>

Northern Ireland – Newry & Mourne CT Drivers Profiled. As part of its ongoing social media profile, Newry & Mourne Community Transport has recently highlighted the contribution of two of its drivers: "Natalie has been driving with us for just over a year and brings plenty of warmth, friendliness and craic to every journey. She loves getting to meet passengers, have a chat and help people get out and about across Newry and Mourne. For Natalie, the job is about more than just driving, it's about the people she gets to meet along the way. 'It doesn't feel like a job, it's lovely to pick up people and have the craic with them.' A huge thank you to Natalie for her kindness, positivity and the important role she plays in supporting our passengers...Next up we'd like you to meet another one of our full-time drivers Ciara! Ciara has been driving with us for 7 months and is always willing to help someone in need. She brings a kind and caring approach to every journey, helping passengers feel safe, comfortable and welcome on the bus. For Ciara, the people she meets are what make the job so meaningful."



Meanwhile, Newry & Mourne CT is hoping for recognition in an upcoming award: "The **International Year of Volunteers Awards 2026** are now open, and we would be incredibly grateful if you would consider nominating Newry and Mourne Community Transport for the **Small Organisation Award**. Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. They generously give their time to help people across Newry and Mourne attend appointments, complete essential journeys and stay connected with their community. If our volunteers or services have made a difference to you, your family or your organisation, please consider submitting a nomination."

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550880774591>

Lancashire – West Lancs Dial-a-Ride Closure Sinks In.

Following the recent announcement that **West Lancashire Dial-a-Ride** was to close, the local MP **Ashley Dalton** has responded, saying: "There are concerns that people are not going to be able to access the facilities, the services, and that it will significantly impact people's ability to feel independent. There's clearly demand for dial-a-ride services. I think that's absolutely clear, and my constituents are making that perfectly clear to me. I think what I want to see is support to Dial-A-Ride to help build their financial model."

West Lancashire Borough Council added that it had "provided significant

West Lancashire
DIAL A RIDE

financial support...The council recognises the vital role that community transport services play for local families, particularly for older residents and those with mobility challenges. We are committed to working closely with the trustees, local partners and with colleagues across Lancashire to explore alternative provision and minimise the impact of this closure on residents."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2mggdg0glo>

It has subsequently been announced that "the charity **Little Green Bus**, which runs a similar operation in Ribble Valley from a base in Clitheroe, has now agreed to expand into West Lancashire. It will begin serving the district once a week, on Mondays, from 7th September." <https://www.lep.co.uk/travel/travel-news/community-bus-service-west-lancashire-dial-a-ride-little-green-bus-8847106>

Northumberland – WATBus CT Drivers Take Break from the School Runs.

WATBus has posted: "The school buses are parked up, the alarms can stay off for a while (well... some of them!), and it's time for our fantastic team of drivers and passenger assistants to enjoy a very well-earned summer break. A huge thank you to every single one of you for everything you've done this year. Whatever the weather, you've been there with a smile, making sure our passengers got to school safely each day. We couldn't do it without you. To all of the children, families and school staff we support – thank



you for letting us be part of your school journey this year. We hope you all have an amazing summer filled with fun, sunshine (fingers crossed!) and plenty of adventures. This evening, the WATBus team are swapping buses for glasses as we get together at HQ for a few well-deserved drinks to celebrate another successful school year. Here's to a fantastic summer... and we'll see everyone back on board in September!"

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075891804663>

Essex – New Minibuses for Epping & Harlow CT.

Epping & Harlow Community Transport reports that it was "delighted to officially launch our new minibus fleet at the Latton Bush Centre, marking an exciting new chapter for community transport across Epping Forest and Harlow. These latest additions to our fleet, made possible through the incredible generosity of **The Davison Trust, Essex County Council**, and our supporters, will help us continue providing accessible, door-to-door transport for people who might otherwise struggle to stay connected to their communities. We are also grateful to partners including **Epping Forest District Council** for their ongoing support of our community transport services.

We were honoured to welcome **Jackie Sully** DL MA, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, together with Councillor **Sue Livings** (Vice Chair of Harlow Council), Councillor **John Steer**, Councillor **Janet Whitehouse** (Vice Chair of Epping Forest District Council), **Robert Halfon**, Councillor **Stacey Preston**, our directors, volunteers, supporters and community partners. A very special thank

you goes to **David** and **Liz Davison** whose support through The Davison Trust has made a real and lasting difference to the people we serve. Most importantly, thank you to our amazing volunteers and drivers. Their commitment, kindness and dedication ensure that local residents can attend medical appointments, social activities, shopping trips and community groups, reducing isolation and helping people maintain their independence.



The launch was a fantastic celebration of what can be achieved when communities come together to support one another. Here's to many miles of community connections ahead!"

<https://www.facebook.com/eppingct> and <https://www.yourharlow.com/2026/07/21/epping-and-harlow-community-transport-unveil-two-new-minibuses/>. YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM37h06pgnE&t=31s>

Cheshire – New CT Provider Under Fire from Users. Recent changes to the CT service commissioned by **Cheshire West and Chester Council** have resulted in a number of disgruntled passengers who feel that the service availability is now restricting where and when they can travel. This is a result of the Council contracting with a new provider. The service is now called **Your Bus** and users have also been critical of the new vehicles being deployed, not feeling they are safe or sufficiently accessible. **Annette Lawrence** said: "They have what they call bus routes now where you're supposed to get to a bus stop, or if you want a bus at a certain time and it doesn't suit them, you don't get it. It's affecting vulnerable people, disabled



people. It's isolating people, it's stopping people from getting anywhere. It's all wrong and needs sorting out". **Chris Duggan** added: "I don't think that it's appropriate because I will try to book it a week in advance and I wanted it at the times that I would be going to the cinema and coming back. They said 'no we can't, you've got to go when we say', and I just thought it was a bit offish."

Deputy leader of the Council **Karen Shore** commented that the authority needed to get better value from the service: "Councils are in straitened times at the moment...This isn't a statutory service, we don't have to provide it, but we can see the value of it so we want to be able to make sure people who

need transport and can't access it are still able to access it. It's just not exactly the same as it was previously. If we just wanted to save money, we would've scrapped the service altogether. That's not what we've chosen to do because our values are that we want to support people in the community to be able to live independent lives". <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2mggdg0glo>

Yorkshire – A Tale of Two Charities. In order to clear up any confusion, **Ilkley and District Good Neighbours** (IDGN) and **Ilkley Community Transport** (ICT) wish local residents to understand that they are two separate and independent organisations. They were, however, once linked in the past. IDGN provides help with companionship, shopping assistance, social groups and dementia support. ICT operates a number of transport schemes, both for groups and individuals, including shopping buses from Addingham to Booths on a Friday morning, from Burley to Guiseley Morrisons on a Wednesday morning and from Menston to Guiseley Morrisons on Friday mornings. In addition, its minibuses are available for private hire by non-profit local organisations, social and special interest groups. Both charities hope that by highlighting the role of each organisation, local residents are better able to choose who to contact in their time of need.



<https://www.ilkeychat.co.uk/post/two-charities-highlight-their-community-roles-to-avoid-ongoing-confusion>

Central Bedfordshire – Future CT Use of Blue Badges.

DfT guidance now indicates that Blue Badges should not be issued to community groups not connected to the care sector or involved in caring for an individual and some issuing authorities have concluded that CT services fall outside of this eligibility. This has called into question the use of the badges by **South Beds Dial-a-Ride** and **Buzzer Buses**, both of whom have held organisational badges for many years.



Central Bedfordshire Council feels it cannot now renew badges for the CT operators, placing them at risk of parking penalties in some of the locations where they need to pick up or drop off passengers. A Council debate explored this matter and councillor **Jane Gibson** said "We could lose this important service if they (transport providers) incur penalties for parking without a Blue Badge because the individual forgot their badge. Buzzer Buses Limited in Leighton Buzzard has had Blue Badges for nearly ten years. It's not misused them in that time. These are charity organisations designed to

transport disabled people. The drivers are trained to park safely.” However, the Council felt obliged to withhold the Blue Badges from the CT operators.

South Beds Dial-a-Ride vice-chair **Gloria Martin** said: “Only issuing transport organisational Blue Badges where there is also care provided would disqualify the three dial-a-ride schemes run by independent charities in this county, all of which you financially support. We rely on these Blue Badges, which are key to our services. Not issuing an organisational Blue Badge is an appalling, unsympathetic decision, which shows a clear lack of support for those outside your care and many within it. We care by using drivers with enhanced DBS checks, specialised passenger assistance skills, minibus training and dementia awareness, and by reporting safeguarding issues. We’re only talking about a dozen organisational Blue Badges. Although we encourage passengers to carry their own badge, not all of them do.”

<https://www.lutontoday.co.uk/news/politics/council/compromise-for-central-beds-community-transport-groups-denied-blue-badges-under-government-guidelines-8822749>

Scotland – Grant Aid for Highland CT Operators. **Highland Council** has posted: “Community groups and organisations across Highland are being invited to apply for funding through The Highland Council's **Community Transport Grant Scheme**. The scheme supports community-led transport services that help people access healthcare, employment, education, shopping and social activities. Across the Highlands, community transport plays a vital role in reducing isolation, supporting independence and ensuring residents can reach the services and opportunities that matter most.”

Chair of The Highland Council's **Economy and Infrastructure Committee**, Councillor **Ken Gowans**, said: “Community transport is about much more than getting from A to B. It connects people to opportunities, reduces social isolation and helps ensure that residents can access the services they need to lead full and independent lives. We are fortunate to have dedicated community transport organisations working across Highland, often responding creatively to local challenges and needs. This funding recognises the essential role they play, and I would encourage all eligible groups to submit an application and help us continue investing in these important community connections.”



Peter Fenton, Co-ordinator for **South West Ross Community Car Scheme (SWRCCS)** said: “The Highland Council’s Community Transport Grant has supported SWRCCS for many years, being the main funder since 2005. The funding is vital to enable us to provide the transport service in this particularly remote and rural part of the region. Not only getting people to the places they need to be, but supporting residents to engage with local communities through

volunteering as telephonists and drivers using their own vehicles. The grant not only enables these services to happen but also supports the staff to focus on the work rather than scrabbling around looking for further funding to cover the costs.” Organisations are encouraged to contact the Integrated Transport Team if they would like to discuss a potential application or have any questions about the scheme. Contact details are included in the guidance and application documents. The Council welcomes enquiries and is happy to provide support to applicants throughout the process. Applications must be submitted by Friday, 4 September 2026. <https://www.highland.gov.uk/news/article/17386/investing-in-connections-highland-council-launches-community-transport-grant-funding-for-2027-2030>

Scotland – Volunteer Drivers required in Clackmannanshire.

Based in Alloa, the **Clackmannanshire Economic Regeneration Trust**

(CERT) requires additional drivers for its community transport service which assists residents to access essential appointments. Journeys commonly include regular weekly trips to the Beatson’s Cancer Hospital, lunch clubs for older people, and GP or dental appointments. CERT commented: “Our drivers play a crucial role in supporting some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Whether it’s a hospital appointment or simply getting to a lunch club for some company, every journey makes a real difference.” Drivers are reimbursed at 55p per mile to cover fuel costs and can choose flexible hours to suit their schedules. Potential volunteers should contact

briony.lindsay@clacksregen.org.uk or call 07521 428 296.

<https://www.alloaadvertiser.com/news/26433522.urgent-call-volunteer-drivers-support-vulnerable-residents/>



Scotland – Extra Financial Support Announced for Buses including CT Operators. Transport Scotland

has announced support of “up to £3.5 million for operators, particularly SME and community transport operators, to help maintain bus services and limit fare increases.” **Stephen Flynn**, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport, said: “The services provided by bus operators and community transport operators are absolutely critical to keeping Scotland moving and allowing people to access essential goods and services. Fuel makes up a significant portion of bus operating costs, and this increase in costs poses real risk to services, fare increases and potential network collapse – particularly for quieter routes, rural and semi-rural areas and community transport organisations who operate on thin margins. I’m pleased that the **Scottish Government** is able to offer additional support at this time and provide what I hope is some much needed assurance to transport operators and passengers alike.”

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/news/protecting-bus-services/>

Somerset - North Somerset Community Transport Grant.

Funding for CT services has been made available from **Quartet Community Foundation**. The grant "provides financial support to local transport schemes that help residents with limited mobility access affordable and accessible transport services. The grant offers funding of £20 to £500 for community transport groups and volunteer-led car schemes supporting essential journeys, including medical appointments, shopping trips, and community activities...The programme supports local organisations that provide transport solutions for people who may experience difficulties using conventional public transport because of:

- Limited mobility.
- Age-related challenges.
- Disability.
- Health conditions.
- Transport accessibility barriers.

The grant helps community transport providers maintain reliable services and respond to unexpected operational costs."

<https://www2.fundsforngos.org/transportation/rfas-north-somerset-community-transport-grant-united-kingdom/>



Wiltshire – Melksham CT Raising Funds for New Bus. An appeal has been launched by **Melksham Area Community Transport** to raise £50,000 to replace an ageing vehicle in its fleet. **David Hogg**, chair of the CT, said: "We take the elderly shopping, we pick them up door to door on our wheelchair accessible bus, which also has room for shopping trolleys. We also take them to their social clubs. So quite often, that's the only social interaction that these elderly people enjoy..." He said the charity's aim is to "continue to do that for as long as possible...There are a lot of lonely older people, in fact, a lot of lonely younger people as well, but particularly the elderly, who rely on us to take them shopping and also to their social clubs, you know, to relieve their isolation or their feeling of isolation. We're not actually looking to buy a new bus, which would cost probably £100,000 or £120,000. We're looking for a good secondhand bus with at least another sort of 15 years of life, and we think we can get one of those for about £50,000."

"We're a non-profit charity, so we can't charge exorbitant fees, but we are allowed to make enough to cover our costs. But actually to squirrel away enough to replace a bus is a bit of a challenge. So we rely on philanthropic organisations to support us." The CT has already received £10,000 from the **Friends of Melksham Hospital**, and local fundraising events are planned such as an event with the **Melksham Music and Drama Group**. There is also a **GoFundMe** page



<https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-to-replace-one-of-our-buses> and donations can also be made at the **Melksham Tourist Information Centre**. <https://www.hellorayo.co.uk/greatest-hits/salisbury/news/melksham-community-transport-bus-appeal>

Sussex – CT Sussex Salutes its Book A Bus Service Drivers.

CT Sussex benefits from an ongoing social media profile effort (such as its 'High Five Friday' posts) and has recently highlighted the drivers of its two Book A Bus Flex services, posting: "This week, we'd like to recognise the outstanding drivers operating the **97 and 98 Book-a-Bus Flex** services, delivered by CT Sussex on behalf of **West Sussex County Council**. We're proud to receive such positive feedback from passengers, highlighting the kindness, professionalism, and care our drivers provide on every journey. Comments such as 'I always feel safe' and 'Your driver is a very caring person' demonstrate the positive impact our team has on the people who rely on these services. Community transport is about much more than getting passengers from A to B. It's about helping people maintain their

independence, access essential services, and stay connected to their local communities. A sincere thank you to all of our Book-a-Bus drivers for your dedication and commitment to delivering an exceptional service every day. Your work truly makes a difference." <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ct-sussex/posts/?feedView=all>

Greater London – Waltham Forest CT Benefits from £800k Motability Funding.

A grant of £811,860 has been awarded by **Motability Foundation** to **Community Transport Waltham Forest** to support its **Get Up and Go** services in Waltham Forest and Newham over the next three years. It will provide door-to-door accessible services for individuals and group transport in both boroughs. The new funding will enable new activities including a **Time Together Club** in Waltham Forest, **Accessible Heritage Tours** in Waltham Forest and Newham working with a local historian, and **Age Exchange** as well as providing

transport for SEND children attending holiday clubs in Newham. **Helen Tredoux** Director said: "Community Transport Waltham Forest like many voluntary sector organisations has faced funding cuts and threats of closure of our vital services and this investment enables the organisation to continue and



grow our services and provide parity between our services in Waltham Forest and Newham.”

Chair of the CT **Paul Leslie** added: “The Motability Foundation grant will contribute to our deep commitment to serving local communities through our Get Up and Go Services. The positive impact of our Get Up and Go Services extends beyond individual journeys, helping to strengthen communities, improve wellbeing, and tackle loneliness and exclusion.” Motability Foundation is also currently funding a two-year feasibility study led by Community Transport Waltham Forest (2025–2027) to explore and test innovative new models of community transport across Haringey, Hackney and Enfield (see <https://ctwfstudy.org.uk/>). <https://walthamforestecho.co.uk/2026/08/04/local-disability-transport-service-secures-811k-grant/> and <https://www.london-now.co.uk/news/26436044.motability-foundation-gives-transport-charity-near-1m/>

Cumbria – Volunteer Drivers Sought in Millom. St Mary's



Hospice in Millom, has appealed for volunteer drivers in Millom: “Could you spare a little time to help someone stay connected to their community? We're looking for Volunteer Drivers to support people in and around Millom to get to places where they can socialise, take part in activities and stay connected. For many people, transport barriers can lead to loneliness and isolation, but a simple lift can make a huge difference. If you'd like to find out more about becoming a Volunteer Driver, we'd love to hear from you. Please call us on: 01229 444407.”

<https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/26434449.millom-drivers-needed-help-people-stay-connected/>

Bedfordshire – 35 Years of the Ivel Sprinter Community Bus.

The **Ivel Sprinter** community bus, which is operated by **East Beds Community Bus Ltd**, is celebrating 35 years in service. The bus serves the Biggleswade and Sandy areas with two vehicles. A profile in **Biggleswade Today** comments: “In an era where rural isolation and commercial transport cuts frequently impact local communities, one East Bedfordshire voluntary transport provider is celebrating over three decades of resilience, community spirit, and continuous service. [It] continues to stand as a definitive blueprint for community-led infrastructure. Formed as a non-profit organisation with charitable status, the service has evolved from a single-vehicle emergency transport link into a multi-route regional network operating six days a week...Today, the Ivel Sprinter operates a flexible ‘hail-and-ride’ policy within an approximate 20-mile radius of Biggleswade and Sandy...To sustain this vital regional asset and support underutilised weekly routes—such as the



Monday service to Bedford and the Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday morning links to Sainsbury's in Biggleswade—the organisation is issuing an open invitation for new volunteers. Rota commitments are highly flexible, requiring as little as one drive per month. For current route timetables or detailed information regarding volunteer opportunities, please visit the official Ivel Sprinter website: <https://www.ivalsprinter.org.uk/>."

<https://www.biggleswadetoday.co.uk/your-world/from-grassroots-rescue-to-regional-lifeline-the-remarkable-journey-of-the-ivel-sprinter-community-bus-8838898>

Norfolk – Donation Keeps Community Minibus on the Road.

An ailing minibus operated by disability charity **Dereham Meeting Point** has been kept on the road following a £5,000 donation. The cash has enabled essential repairs to the minibus, primarily the fitting of a new engine. The donation was provided by **Make Your Mark**, a charity that uses the mental health benefits of motorcycling to build a support network, fundraise, and spread goodwill. Donations were also received from **Dereham Day Charity** and the **Alan Boswell Charitable Trust**. Dereham Meeting Point manager



Shonette Mooney said: "We are absolutely overwhelmed by the kindness that has been shown to us. Our minibus is far more than just a vehicle, for many of our members it is their link to friendship, companionship and the outside world. Without it, many simply wouldn't be able to attend the centre."

<https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/26445341.5-000-donation-helps-restore-dereham-minibus-road/>



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