**Ashbury Community Bus Service**

We can report good news: the Parish Council has arranged for a replacement to the shopperbus service.  It will take over from 1st April 2020, when the current service ends. The APC will be working with UBW (the Uffington Community Bus Association), using the minibus owned & managed by them.  The service will run locally between our parish and Swindon centre on Friday afternoons, and will accept pensioners bus passes or will cost £5.80 return – the same as the current shopperbus.

We would strongly encourage all current users — or anyone that feels this service might be of use —  to inform a member of the council or ring either Peter Cowx [710 251], James Reade [710 208] or Cliff Davies [710 712] as soon as possible to receive a registration form and further details.

**How others can help:**

**Volunteer drivers** are needed to operate the service.  To avoid imposing too much on peoples’ goodwill a minimum of 5 drivers would be ideal.   Drivers should be over 21 and hold a D1 [minibus] permit on their driver licence.  (Most regular licenses grant this automatically.  You can check the list in point 9 at the bottom of your license to see if yours does.)  There are some additional, very straightforward, requirements for volunteers over 70.

We also need 5**non-driving assistants**. The key requirement for assistants is a cheery personality.  Their main tasks will be (1) to assist less able users of the service to access/exist the bus and (2) complete a simple journey log for record purposes.

Full support and ‘training’ will be provided for all volunteers and we will also be making a demonstration run or two to familiarise volunteers with the route.

Although everything is in place, the service will not be able to start unless people step forward and volunteer to help.  If you are willing to volunteer in either capacity, or even to join the organising sub-committee, please get in touch with Peter, James or Cliff as above for more complete details.  Once we have a list of drivers we will hold a meeting to explain things thoroughly.