

# COMMUNITY TRANSPORT NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2019

## *First edition*

**'A new newsletter for existing and pondering Community Transport operators'**

Oxfordshire County Council supports the development of a strong and sustainable community transport sector. This newsletter will be published regularly to highlight any news from Oxfordshire or Nationwide regarding community transport updates.

## **What is Community Transport?**

Community transport (CT) is safe, accessible, cost-effective, flexible transport **run by the community for the community**. It meets the needs of people who cannot access cars, taxis or buses, and provides a lifeline in both rural and urban areas.

We already have many community transport services in Oxfordshire and demand for this type of transport is likely to increase.

## **County Council News**

John Charlton joined the Community Transport Team on 1 April 2019. This is a new position which has been created to provide additional support and advice, to encourage new approaches, and to help support sustainable community transport in Oxfordshire.

In his role, John will be helping provide advice on setting up new or expanding existing community transport services, evaluating and paying CT grants and providing administrative support on Oxfordshire Comet; the Council's own transport service.

## **Community Transport Directory**

In June 2014 a directory of Community Transport Providers was created by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, with some help and funding from Oxfordshire County Council.

We have now up-dated this directory and it be published on our website shortly. The directory will be in two formats an alphabetical list and a split of providers by their District Council area.

## **County Council Website**

The Community Transport webpages are being updated. These pages will provide advice on setting up new Community Transport schemes, start up grants and how to apply for assistance with driver and passenger assistant training costs.

## **Grants to keep drivers and passengers safe**

Driving carries some risks and it's important to make sure you do what you can to reduce these, so:

- drivers learn about defensive and winter driving, passenger safety and manual handling
- passengers are re-assured they will be driven safely and comfortably
- your group can show it has taken care.

Grants are available this year to contribute towards the cost of 'Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme' (MiDAS) and PATS training. Training is also available for volunteer car drivers. Drivers refresh their MiDAS training every four years.

The 'Passenger Assistant Training Scheme' has general modules and others, such as how to help someone in a wheelchair or children with special needs.

To find out more or discuss other training needs, get in touch with John Charlton at [communitytransport@oxfotrdsire.gov.uk](mailto:communitytransport@oxfotrdsire.gov.uk).

## **Other organisations providing advice**

Community First Oxfordshire can provide advice and support on Community Transport:

Community First Oxfordshire  
South Stables  
Worton Park  
Witney  
OX29 4SU  
Tel 01865 883488

Website: <https://www.communityfirstoxon.org/get-in-touch/>

Community Transport Association provides further information on Community Transport. Social Enterprise UK can provide detailed information on Social enterprises. Both of these organisation are membership based and details of their membership can be found at [www.ctauk.org](http://www.ctauk.org) and [www.socialenterprise.org.uk](http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk).

## **Parish Transport Representatives meetings**

Meetings are held 3 times a year and provide an opportunity for Parish Representatives the opportunity to discuss public transport in their area and to hear from guest speakers on transport issues.

The meetings are held at County Hall, Oxford and the dates for the next meetings are:

3 July @ 1pm

29 October @ 1pm

## **Further additions**

If you have anything you would like to include in this newsletter or have any questions about Community Transport please contact John Charlton, tel: 07776 997 319 or Shirley McAneny, 07825052780. Both can be E mailed at [communitytransport@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitytransport@oxfordshire.gov.uk).