



RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2003

WELCOME! To the Autumn edition of the DRTP Newsletter.

These Newsletters are produced to keep you informed about rural and Community Transport Issues. If you would like to contribute to future editions, please let us know. The deadline for the next edition will be **Friday 19th December 2003**.

In **this edition** you will find:

- Information on the DRTP
- Project updates
- Funding News (Focus on IT)
- Funding resources
- Community Transport News
- Contact Details

What is the Devon Rural Transport Partnership?

The Devon Rural Transport Partnership (DRTP) was set up to strengthen rural and community transport through giving support to new projects and helping to develop existing initiatives. Consisting of more than 30 community, voluntary and statutory agencies, the Partnership seeks to help to identify local transport needs and find appropriate solutions to those needs.

Update on the DRTP

During the initial phases of the Partnership there was a strong focus on developing new projects. This was largely achieved through funding from the Countryside Agency's Rural Transport Partnership Fund. As the Partnership has developed over the last four years, its role has become much wider.

The Partnership has taken on a strong strategic role, working to ensure that rural transport issues are a key element in national, regional and local strategies. The Partnership seeks to ensure that services are integrated and make the best use of available resources.

In addition to this strategic role, the Partnership continues to support community groups. These might be transport groups, parish and town councils or people in the community who want to improve access to services in their area. While all the Rural Transport Partnership funding for 2003 / 2004 has already been allocated in Devon, the Partnership is helping groups to develop projects that can best meet the needs of their communities and to find funding to make them possible. If you would like to discuss transport issues in your community or would like help with group facilitation or running Planning for Real exercises, please contact us.

Current areas of work

Community Plans: The Partnership is project leading the 'Access to Services' section of the South Hams Community Strategy and is also taking a lead role in Teignbridge developing a LEADER+ bid for research and development. The DRTP is closely involved with the Teignbridge, East Devon, West Devon and North Devon Community Plans and is also supporting Local Transport Partnership Officers in Mid Devon and Torridge who are carrying out similar types of work.

Wheels 2 Work: The Partnership is supporting 2 existing schemes in Honiton and Tavistock and will be helping to develop new schemes in North Devon and Torridge. These enable young people with no other means of transport to get to jobs through the loan of mopeds.

Car based schemes: Car Clubs, Fare Car Schemes, Car Sharing and Taxi Voucher schemes are all supported by the Partnership as possible solutions to rural transport issues.

Partnership working: An ongoing role is to continue to develop the Partnership and to ensure that as many organisations as possible are kept informed of transport issues.

Project work: Project work continues to be an important role for the DRTP. Some examples of projects are included in this Newsletter.

Project Update

The Rural Transport Partnership Main Fund has all been allocated for 2003/ 2004, meaning that few new projects will be supported this year. However, there are several projects across Devon receiving funding this year, which will total around £280,000.

These include Shopmobility schemes in Newton Abbot, North Devon and Mid Devon and Ring & Ride schemes in Honiton, Torridge, Ilfracombe and Exeter. For car based services, funding is being provided for the Bray Travel Project, Culm Car Scheme, Yarnscombe Taxibus and for an accessible car service driver in Crediton. Other projects funded include the Youth Employment and Transport Initiative (YETI), Devon Active Sports, Easy Going Dartmoor Tours, Buckfastleigh Vintage Bus and Totnes Town Bus.

In addition the Mid Devon Transport Group, Torridge Transport Group, Crediton and District Community Transport Association, TRIP Co-ordination Service, North Devon Community Transport Association Development Project and the Tavistock Area Support Services Development Project are all being supported by the Rural Transport Partnership Fund in 2003 / 2004.

Project funding has now been extended until March 2006. Limited funding will be available in 2004/2005 and it is anticipated that up to £250,000 will be available for the final year.

Delegated Fund

The Delegated Fund for 2003 / 2004 is now available. Up to £1,000 is available for small transport projects and no match funding is required. Projects must fit within at least one of the following criteria:

1. Assessing needs and resources and identifying gaps in rural transport provision
2. Improving services which have been pinpointed by assessing needs
3. Encouraging community involvement in local transport provision
4. Assisting the marketing of rural and community transport services.

To discuss project ideas and to get an application form, please contact Amanda Denham (details at the end of this Newsletter).

Update on 2002 / 2003 Projects



Two further projects from last year's Delegated Fund have now been completed. The first is the **Green Transport Guide** produced by the Mid Devon Transport Group. 3,000 copies of the 16 page guide were produced on recycled paper and are being distributed throughout Mid Devon. The guide was produced to coincide with Green Transport Week and was promoted at events in Crediton, Tiverton and Cullompton during the week.

The second project was to put **vehicle signs** on 3 vehicles for TRIP Community Transport Association showing TRIP's charity number. The project aims to publicise the fact that TRIP is a charitable organisation and is not part of statutory services. It is hoped that this will improve TRIP's public image and aid fundraising efforts.

Update on 2003 / 2004 Projects

So far this year, six projects have been offered funding from the Delegated Fund:

Landeez - A project by North Devon Community Transport Association to have a team of trained volunteers available to transport and assemble all terrain wheelchairs.

New / Revised Timetable - A project for Ivybridge and District Community Transport Association to update its timetable.

Volunteer Recruitment & Support Day - TRIP Community Transport Association held a volunteer recruitment and support day to celebrate volunteering and to recruit new volunteers through a publicity campaign.

Senior Safety and Health Event - This was a project by Ottery St Mary & District Later Life Forum to provide free transport to the event. Unfortunately, nobody requested the free transport, but the event itself was a great success.

Stannary Brass Youth Section and Youth Band - This is a project to provide transport to enable young people, over the period of a year, to be involved with music at county level.

Autumn Excursion Programme - This is a project to provide transport for three excursions for members of Vision OM during the autumn.

Funding News

IT Equipment

The **Arthur Rank Centre** supplies refurbished, guaranteed computers at low costs to rural community organisations. Prices range from £170 to £450, including laptops. Contact IT Resources Manager David Long on 01295 788242

Awards for All provides funding for projects up to £5,000. Telephone: 0845 600 2040 or see www.awardsforall.org.uk

BT Community Connections provide free computers for community groups.
www.btcommunityconnections.com

BT is also offering charities and not-for-profit organisations in Devon the opportunity to build and maintain websites free of charge. The Community Website Builder, powered by ik.com, enables organisations to set up and manage a website. No technical expertise required. See www.communitykit.co.uk or call 08700 11 28 50

Catfish is an internet design company specialising in low-cost websites for the non-profit sector. They can increase internet presence or revamp existing sites. For further details contact Jane Horwood 020 8340 4321 / 07949 415270
Email: info@catfishwebdesign.com or visit <http://www.catfishwebdesign.com>

Computers for Charity is a non-profitmaking voluntary organisation whose aim is to promote access to Information Technology by community groups. See their website at: <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/graham.pitt/cfc/>

CyberArk Computer Recycling is a project where computers can be distributed to needy families, schools and charities.
<http://www.vinescentre.org.uk/CyberArk/cyberark.html>

IT for Charities is a directory of sources of discounted and recycled IT equipment for charities. It also includes links to useful advice. <http://www.itforcharities.co.uk/>

Microsoft Giving will provide a donation of up to 3 software packages to charitable organisations.

Telephone: 0345 002000 or write to Freepost SCO5171, Glasgow, G3 7BR.

E-mail: microsoftgiving@microsoft-contact.co.uk or look at the website

www.microsoft.com/uk/community

You should provide a brief outline of your project or organisation, including concise and factual information that will help show how the software will assist you and, where applicable, the software you require and your registered charity number.

Re-cycle IT! is a not-for-profit Social Enterprise based in Luton. They take computers donated by companies, refurbish them, install brand new software and make them available to community groups, charities and individuals. All computers are guaranteed and include the reassurance of good technical support. Telephone: 01582 492436

Funding Sources

Tesco Community Gift

Vouchers - Each Tesco store now has a number of Community Gift Vouchers to support local groups with their fundraising events, for example, for raffle prizes. Charities should apply in writing to the Customer Services Manager at their local Tesco store.

Community Champions Fund - Applications are still encouraged but funds are expected to run out soon. Up to £2,000 can be granted to support new community initiatives which benefit the community and are managed by volunteers. Application forms and eligibility criteria can be found on www.southwestforum.org.uk by clicking on the CCF logo.

Parish Transport Grant funding is now available in Devon. Please contact us if you have ideas for developing a project.

Database

A **database** of funders that may support Community Transport projects has been compiled by the DRTP and the Community Transport team. If you would like help with finding a funder, please contact Amanda Denham.

Resources

Quest-net is the new home on the internet for everyone who wants to improve their local community. Groups need to join to access certain features of the website, but it is free to join. The site includes news stories, copy-right free articles to use in community newsletters and a series of information pages, including fundraising and getting people involved. Take a look at: <http://www.quest-net.org/>

Community Transport News

This is where you can find out what's happening in Devon. Amanda Denham visited North Devon Project Officer, Nick Curley and Crediton and District Community Transport Association Manager, Brenda Jackson, to get all the latest news. If you would like your organisation or project to be featured here in future editions, please let us know.

North Devon Project Officer

In post since May 2003, Nick Curley has taken up the challenge of developing transport projects in North Devon, including research and development, partnership working and publicity. Research work has included parish questionnaires and appraisals and an assessment of young people's transport needs. This research will form the basis of future projects, in particular a Wheels 2 Work scheme. Partnership working has continued to develop, with Nick taking on the role of administrator for the North Devon Transport Partnership and becoming increasingly involved in the Community Planning process. Publicity projects have involved the distribution of 6,000 travel and transport guides and a new website being set up for the North Devon Community Transport Association at www.NorthDevonTransport.com

Crediton & District Community Transport

Crediton & District Community Transport is continuing to develop and expand its services. Funding, from the Local Transport Plan, trust funds and local fundraising, has been secured for a new accessible car, which is due to be delivered in October. The service has been expanded this year to include a farmer's market bus, a Sunday service and a fortnightly service for Chawleigh. All the passengers are invited to a Christmas meal, which provides an opportunity to meet new people in a social setting. Such events are publicised through a series of newsletters produced for passengers in each area.

The voluntary car scheme continues to be very popular and Meals on Wheels are being provided four days a week on behalf of Devon County Council. New services are also being developed. Brenda is involved with the Market & Coastal Towns Initiative and research has identified the need for a community bus. This would be used by young people in the evenings and at weekends and would be available for hire during the day, when the Ring & Ride vehicle is not available. Fundraising and awareness raising has been very successful. Press coverage was gained by events raising money for the accessible car. In addition, a three day collection at Somerfield during Community Transport Week raised £400 and recruited new passengers and volunteers. E-bay sales are also proving to be a worthwhile fundraising venture. See <http://pages.ebay.co.uk/charity>

Contact Us

Devon Rural Transport Partnership
C/o Transport Co-ordination Services
Devon County Council
Matford Offices
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QW
[E-mail: D RTP@devon.gov.uk](mailto:D RTP@devon.gov.uk)

Website:

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/transport/public_transport/community_transport/partnership-2.htm

Lynn Thornton

Devon Rural Transport Partnership Officer
Tel: 01392 383222
[E-mail: lynn.thornton@devon.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.thornton@devon.gov.uk)

Amanda Denham

Deputy Devon Rural Transport Partnership Officer
Tel: 01392 382697
[E-mail: amanda.denham@devon.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.denham@devon.gov.uk)

For general enquiries regarding rural and community transport contact:

Karen Rose

Devon County Council
Rural and Community Transport
At the same address
Tel: 01392 382123
[E-mail: karen.l.rose@devon.gov.uk](mailto:karen.l.rose@devon.gov.uk)