



RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2006

WELCOME! To the Autumn edition of the Newsletter. These Newsletters are designed to keep you informed about the DRTP and other Rural and Community Transport issues.

If you would like to contribute to future editions, please let us know. The deadline for the Winter edition of the Newsletter will be **Friday 19th January 2007**

In **this edition** you will find information on:

- The DRTP
- Social Enterprise Service
- Delegated Fund
- Driver Training
- Community Transport News
- Funding and Resources
- Contact Details

Devon Rural Transport Partnership - Update

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Devon Rural Transport Partnership Newsletter. Our funding saga continues! We have submitted an Expression Of Interest to Devon Renaissance and are awaiting the result. If this is approved we then have to submit a full application by the end of November to catch the next round of decision making. Devon County Council have, I am glad to say, agreed to continue to fund DRTP until March 2008 but we do need to secure the other half of the funding before we can move forward.

Our Stakeholder Event in September was another successful day. We had a good attendance and some very informative presentations on Accessibility Planning and Car Clubs. Our revised Action Plan was also discussed. There was general agreement with the revisions proposed and some extra items were added. The finalised Action Plan will be sent out in the next few weeks. If you do not receive a copy but would like one, please let us know. Our next Stakeholder Event will be taking place in March 2007.

Devon Wheels 2 Work Community Interest Company is now up and running. Devon Renaissance funding has been approved and Devon County Council Local Transport Plan funding has been secured. There is a lot of work to be done between now and April 2007 when the official launch will be taking place, but progress is now definitely being made.

Work continues with the Peninsula Health Authority to try to come to an arrangement around transport to health that does not disadvantage the Voluntary Sector, makes cost savings for the NHS and does not leave patients stranded. This has been a long and complicated process which is becoming more pressured in order to meet the change deadline of April 2007. I will try to keep you

informed in future newsletters and advise you to keep an eye on local press to stay up to date.

You probably do not want to think about this at the moment but as the days are counting down and the next newsletter will not be out until January, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lynn Thornton
Devon Rural Transport Partnership Officer

South West Social Enterprise Service

From the beginning of October every social enterprise or potential social enterprise in South West England can access free business support. This is part of a pilot scheme being tested by RISE over the next three months. If successful, it will form the basis of a permanent service. Clients can expect an informed and friendly service, using up to the minute information, plus, where needed, the help of a qualified specialist business advisor.

For more details call: **(0845 603 8593)**

Delegated Fund

Grants Available! Apply Now...

Up to £1,000 is available towards small transport projects

Grants are still available from the Partnership's Delegated Fund. Up to £1,000 can be applied for and no match funding is required. Projects can include transport research, marketing and publicity or piloting new transport services.

This is the final phase of funding, so applications should be submitted as soon as possible and projects must be completed by the end of January 2007. For further details and to request an application form, please contact Amanda Denham (contact details on the back of this Newsletter). Some examples of projects that are already being funded are shown below.

Research

Cullompton Town Transport Survey - A transport survey being carried out by the Devon Gateway Trust to find out what people's transport needs are, both within the Cullompton area and for those wishing to link to the wider transport network. It is hoped that the results of the survey can be used to shape future transport provision in the town.

Marketing and Publicity

Leisurely Days Out Without The Car - Leaflets to promote the four community buses in the South Hams to walkers and visitors to the area. It gives information on a number of walks along the Dart Valley Trail and how to access them by bus.

Transport Guides for Mid Devon - Comprehensive local transport information leaflets that will encourage people to use public transport services and promote the services available.

Marketing/Publicity Project - Display boards for Ivybridge and District Community Transport Association, which can be used in local village halls,

supermarkets, fetes and other local points of interest to raise awareness of the transport facilities available.

Piloting New Services

Youth Bus - Provision of a mobile youth service in Teignbridge. The well equipped bus attends different venues on different nights of the week offering various activities to young people. The Partnership is funding the fuel costs of the project during the pilot phase.

Exeter Link Service - A pilot service using the Ring & Ride bus to provide a link from Shebbear Village to the bus stop at Halwill junction to enable people to catch the X9 bus service to Exeter. The pilot will run one day a month for three months.

Driver Training - Grants Available!

Grants available for up to 75% of the costs of training for Voluntary and Community Transport Drivers...

Voluntary and Community groups can apply for a grant of up to 75% of the costs of driver training. Eligible training can include practical training or other relevant courses. Practical training could be taking the Devon County Council Minibus test, PCV driving or a Skid Prevention and Control course. Other training could be a first aid course or disability awareness training.

Whether you want to train newly recruited drivers or provide additional training for existing drivers, please contact Amanda Denham for further details and an application form (contact details on the back of this Newsletter).

The fund will be ending next year, so please submit your applications as soon as possible. Please note that no part of the training should take place before you have received an offer letter and that training should be completed by the end of January 2007.

Community Transport News

Funding Success in Torridge

Torridge Community Transport Association (TCTA) has been making good use of the grants available from the Devon Rural Transport Partnership. Six volunteer drivers have been funded by the Driver Training Project and have completed the Devon County Council minibus test. This has increased the pool of drivers available for the minibus.

In July, support from the Delegated Fund enabled TCTA to hold a promotional event for the Voluntary Car Service. Around 30 cars met at Torrington Commons Car Park and were bedecked with balloons before joining a convoy to the 1646 Historical Centre. Volunteers and staff enjoyed a tour of the site and a buffet as part of the event. The day raised awareness of the services offered by TCTA and attracted publicity in the local papers.



Shopmobility Taster Days in Dartmouth and Kingsbridge

Shopmobility Taster Days were held in Kingsbridge and Dartmouth in September. Powered scooters and wheelchairs were provided by Exeter's mobile Shopmobility Unit for the events. In each town, the first event was marked by a Shopmobility Challenge, in which local dignitaries participated.



The Taster Days are part of a project to purchase a mobile Shopmobility Unit for the South Hams. The unit will visit Totnes, Ivybridge, Kingsbridge and Dartmouth one day per week. The scheme will enable people with limited mobility to hire a wheelchair or scooter for the day while they are visiting the town centre. A £2.50 returnable deposit is charged for the service.

So far the project has financial support from Devon County Council's Local Transport Plan and South Hams District Council. An Expression of Interest has been sent to the Lottery's Reaching Communities programme. It is hoped that the project will be start next spring. For more details, please contact Zoë Harris on 01626 203050 or Amanda Denham (contact details on the back of this Newsletter).

Funding & Resources

Funding and Finance Pack

The Sustainable Funding Project (SFP) has produced a new Introductory pack on Funding and Finance. The Pack consists of six guides which contain practical information on a specific area of funding or finance.

The six guides cover Sustainable Funding, Financial Management, Fundraising, Trading, Procurement and Contracting and Loan Finance. They can be downloaded free from the SFP website at www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sfp/Introductory-Pack

ICTHub Knowledgebase

The ICT Hub Knowledgebase is designed to help small and medium sized community and voluntary sector organisations access the benefits of information technology. It is an online source of practical help, information and independent advice.

The Knowledgebase can be used for help with developing websites and databases, ICT policies and strategies, accessibility for disabled people, support with software or hardware and how to set up and manage networks. To find out more visit: <http://www.icthubknowledgebase.org.uk/>

Awards for All

Awards for all offer grants of **£300 - £10,000** to not-for-profit organisations. It supports projects that:

- **Extend access and participation** by encouraging more people to become actively involved in local groups and projects, and by supporting activities that aim to be open and accessible to everyone who wishes to take part.
- **Increase skill and creativity** by supporting activities which help to develop people and organisations, encourage talent and raise standards.
- **Improve the quality of life** by supporting local projects that improve people's opportunities, health, welfare, environment or local facilities.

Awards for All are currently looking for more applications to address the South West region's priority area of '**improved skills for running small community groups**'.

This could include:

- Training in fundraising & committee roles
- Marketing or volunteer support
- Obtaining professional support.

For more information go to the website at www.awardsforall.org.uk or telephone **0845 600 20 40**

Contact Us

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