



RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2004

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

These Newsletters are designed to keep you informed about the DRTP and other rural transport issues.

If you would like to contribute to future editions, please let us know. The deadline for the next edition will be **Friday 18th June 2004**

In **this edition** you will find:

- Information on the DRTP
- Update on Countryside Agency Funding
- Project Updates
- Community Transport Week
- Driver Training Days
- Funding & Resources
- Fare Car Schemes
- Contact Details

What is the Devon Rural Transport Partnership?

The Devon Rural Transport Partnership (DRTP) was set up in 1999 to improve transport for rural communities. It is made up of over thirty community, voluntary and statutory agencies. The Partnership works with communities to look at transport needs and the best ways to address these at a local level. It also works at a strategic level to raise the profile of rural transport issues.

Stakeholders Day

The Partnership held a Stakeholders Day on 11th March 2004. Individuals and organisations from across the county attended the day to hear about projects and to discuss rural and community transport issues. Feedback from a series of workshops held throughout the day will inform the Partnership's Action Plan and work programme for the next 2 years.

Key themes from the day included the expansion of existing schemes, such as Ring & Ride, Wheels to Work and Shopmobility. It was felt that these services should be available throughout the county. Another high priority was funding, in particular, a more sustainable approach to funding for rural transport schemes. It is intended to run another Stakeholder Day in March 2005.

Update on Countryside Agency Funding

On 15th March 2004 the Countryside Agency's budget for 2004/2005 was announced. The amount of funding allocated to the Countryside Agency is significantly lower than that anticipated in its Corporate Plan. This will have an impact across all of the Agency's funding programmes.

From 1st April 2004 applications to Vital Villages schemes will no longer be encouraged. The Vital Villages programme includes the Rural Transport Partnership Fund, Parish Transport Grant, Community Service Grant and Parish Plans Grants. All existing commitments, including 'formal' and 'in principle' offers, to projects will be honoured. Please note that funding from the Devon Rural Transport Partnership Delegated Fund should not be affected by these changes and that applications to this fund are still being accepted by the Partnership.

Funding for Rural Transport Partnership Officers will be available until March 2006. The Devon Partnership will continue to seek alternative sources of project funding and to work with communities to find the best possible solutions to transport needs. Options for continuing the work of the Partnership beyond March 2006 will be explored throughout the coming year.

The Countryside Agency will continue to monitor and evaluate the projects that have been set up and will now turn its focus to information gathering and dissemination via good practice guides, events and its website. See: <http://www.countryside.gov.uk/>

Project Updates

Walking Buses

Walking Buses are becoming an increasingly popular way to reduce congestion at the school gates and to promote healthy lifestyles for schoolchildren. A typical walking bus scheme will start from a collection point and follow a route selected to ensure the journey is as suitable and safe as possible. The Walking Bus follows a set timetable and adult supervision is provided through volunteers.

The benefits of Walking Buses include:

- Health Benefits through regular walking
- Improved awareness of road safety through controlled exposure to traffic
- Promotion of pedestrian skills
- Reductions in traffic congestion
- Improved air quality
- Time and cost savings for parents and guardians



Six schools in Mid Devon have been offered a grant of £500 each to support and develop walking bus schemes. The funding, provided by the Rural Transport Partnership Fund and the Mid Devon Primary Care Trust, will be used to purchase safety equipment, wet weather gear and lockers for those using the walking bus. It can also be used to provide incentives for pupils who take part in the scheme, such as certificates, stickers, badges or walkers' breakfasts.

If you would like more information about Walking Buses in Devon, please telephone 01392 382590 or e-mail rshelp@devon.gov.uk

Delegated Projects

In 2003/2004 the Partnership has offered grants to 19 projects from the Delegated Fund. The offers of funding have totalled £9,670.10 out of a potential budget of £10,000. Many of these projects are still ongoing and we will bring you news of them as they get off the ground or are completed. Here are some of the things that have been happening recently through projects supported by this fund.

Stannary Brass Youth Section and Youth Band: This project has now been running for 6 months and as a result of the grant young people have been able to take part in competitions across the county. The provision of transport also enabled young people to take part in auditions for the Devon County Youth Brass Band, in which they were successful. This has helped the members of the band meet new people and has opened up new opportunities for them as well as boosting confidence in their abilities as musicians.

Driver Recruitment: Exmouth & District Community Transport Group ran a press campaign to recruit drivers and had 14 applicants in response.

Volunteer Transport Service: The Imperial Venture Group in Exmouth has been offered a grant to start up a volunteer transport service in Exmouth. This will provide a service for registered patients to the Medical Practice and the Exmouth Community Hospital. The service is due to start in June.

Tea, Dance and Music afternoons: A grant has been offered to Ottery St Mary and District Later Life Forum to provide transport to its Tea, Dance and Music afternoons for the over 50s. These events are to be held monthly.

FUNDING AVAILABLE! Funding for 2004/2005 will be available soon. The funding can be used for research, service improvements and publicity material. Voluntary and community groups may apply for up to £1,000 with no match funding required. For further information and an application form, please contact Amanda Denham.

Community Transport Week 2004

Community Transport Week 2004 will run from Monday 7th June to Sunday 13th June. Community Transport Groups across the county are encouraged to hold events during this week to raise the profile of community transport in Devon, to promote their services to potential passengers and to encourage new volunteers. Please let us know if you are planning to hold an event during this week.

Other events being arranged for this week include a Volunteer Awards Ceremony and Driver Training Days. Please see below for more information on these events.

Volunteer Awards

Nominations are being sought for the 5th Annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Do you know of a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to voluntary and community transport in Devon? If so, why not nominate them for an award?

A Civic Ceremony will take place on Friday 11th June for the 12 selected finalists. At this event the Volunteer of the Year will be announced and will receive a special award for their achievements.

Nomination forms are available from the Community Transport team at Devon County Council. Telephone: 01392 382123. All nomination forms must be returned by Friday 14th May.



Left: Last years winners accept their awards from the Chairman of the County Council

Driver Training Days

A series of Driver Training Days are being held throughout the spring and summer. These are being supported by the Devon Rural Transport Partnership's Driver Training Project. Please contact Amanda Denham for a booking form. Spaces are limited, so please book early.

Support for other Driver Training courses is still available. Up to 75% of the costs of driver training can be funded. Funding is also available for recruiting drivers. Please contact Amanda Denham for details and an application form.

Community Car Scheme Driver Awareness Days

Tuesday 20th April 2004
Saturday 8th May 2004
Thursday 10th June 2004

9:30am - 4:30pm

This course has been specifically designed for drivers of voluntary and community car schemes. This one day course includes a practical driving session with a Devon Drivers Centre Instructor, a theory section on 'Driving Awareness' and a moving and handling session.

Lunch and Refreshments will be provided.

£12 per person

Minibus Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Saturday 12th June 2004

Session 1: 9:00am - 12:00pm
Session 2: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

This half-day training course is run by the Community Transport Association for minibus drivers. It demonstrates the principles of quick and efficient evacuation of a minibus under emergency conditions with passengers of limited mobility.

Refreshments provided.

£6 per person

Funding & Resources

Charity Commission Leaflets: The Charity Commission has updated some of its leaflets. These are CC21 'Registering as a Charity', CC22 'Choosing and Preparing a Governing Document' and CC37 'Charities and contracts'. These can be accessed at: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/ccpubs2.asp

Codes of Fundraising Practice: The Institute of Fundraising has published an updated edition of its Codes of Fundraising Practice. For further information visit the website: www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/info_codes.html

Rural Funding Streams - Have Your Say

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) wants to hear from people who are working close to the ground. Defra would like to find out the views of those in local communities and voluntary groups, including farmers, businesses and local councils regarding rural funding streams. A new website has been launched as part of Defra's drive to provide a clearer and simpler framework for grant and funding streams flowing into the rural economy. To contribute to the review visit: www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruraldelivery/funding/feedback.htm

Devon Rural Transport Partnership Newsletters

Thank you to all of you who responded to the comments section in our last Newsletter. The feedback we have received has been largely positive and your comments will help us to improve future editions of the Newsletter and make them more relevant to you as readers.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to respond and would still like to comment on any aspect of the Newsletter, please contact us using the details below.

Fare Car Schemes

Fare Car schemes operate like a bus service, with fixed arrival and departure times. However, journeys are only made if seats have been booked. There are currently 8 schemes operating in Devon. These are supported by Devon County Council and use local taxi operators to provide the transport.

New scheme: The Teign Valley Fare Car F14 started on Monday 1st March. This serves an area including Ashton, Bridford, Christow, Doddiscombsleigh, Hennock and Trusham and takes passengers to Bovey Tracey and Newton Abbot. The service is operated by Orchard Shuttle of Newton Abbot.
Tel: 01626 863000

Extended scheme: The F7 service in the South Hams has been extended to cover more parishes and to take people to Ivybridge and Modbury.
Tel: 01752 897474

Contact Us

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

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