



RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2007

WELCOME! To the Summer edition of the DRTP Newsletter! These Newsletters are produced 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 Autumn edition of the Newsletter will be **Friday 5th October 2007**.

In **this edition** you will find:

- Update on the DRTP
- Community Website Builder
- Volunteer Awards Ceremony 2007
- Community Transport News
- Introduction to Governance issues.
- How to contact us

Devon Rural Transport Partnership - Review

Welcome to the summer edition of the Devon Rural Transport Partnership Newsletter.

The last few months have been very busy for the Partnership. There has been a lot of work around transport to Health, which continues to be problematic. We are all trying to ensure that Community Transport groups are getting appropriate support and that passengers have access to the transport they need. There is still a lot to do but I hope that things will start to settle during the autumn. I would encourage any groups experiencing difficulties to get in touch with us.

We have been working with Adult and Community Services to look at transport issues for Carers. Following an event in the spring where Carers discussed the problems they have with transport, an Action Plan has been developed. The Plan will look at different transport initiatives around Carers and will be implemented over the next six months.

DRTP hosted an initial meeting to look into the possibility of developing Community Transport Devon. We had a good turn out for the event, which was facilitated by Jane Collings. There was a lively discussion about the pros and cons of forming some sort of association for Community Transport in Devon, and what this arrangement would offer. The next step, deciding if groups want to take Community Transport Devon forward, will be taking place after the DRTP Stakeholder Event on 12th September.

There have been some delays in getting the Capacity Building Fund up and running but it is now available. The £10,000 fund will need to be spent by March 2008 so we encourage you to come forward with your applications as soon as possible. The Fund is for research, training, pilot projects and marketing. Contact Amanda for more details.

The future of the Partnership post March 2008 is still very unclear. We will be affected by decisions of the South West RDA, Devon Renaissance and Devon County Council. We are hopeful that the picture will become clearer in the next couple of months and will of course give you an update in the autumn newsletter. In the mean time, if you want our help with a project get in touch and make the most of the Partnership while you can!

Lynn Thornton
Devon Rural Transport Partnership Officer

Community Website Builder

BT Better World and Recipero Ltd have launched a Community Website Builder. It allows registered UK charities, non-profit making organisations and volunteer led groups or organisations to build and maintain their own website free of charge. To see if your organisation is eligible and to view other websites set up through this scheme go to:

www.communitykit.co.uk

Volunteer Awards Ceremony June 2007

This year's Volunteer Awards Ceremony was held on Friday 1st June. The Awards Ceremony, run by Devon County Council, is held to recognise the excellent work of volunteers throughout Community Transport schemes in Devon.

Nominations were made by Community Transport Groups and passengers during April and May and from these the judging panel selected 12 volunteers to receive an award. Of the 12 winners, one person was selected for the Volunteer of the Year Award, given to a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to Community Transport in Devon.



This year's Volunteer of the Year Award went to **Gwyneth Welford (left)** from Diptford Community Car Scheme, who received a hamper of local produce alongside her certificate.

Gwyneth was nominated by Roger Burton who said:

"Mrs Welford has, for some 13 years organised and directed our car scheme in Diptford. There is no bus service in Diptford.

Always kind and helpful she has now stepped down to deputy co-ordinator but is still, in her eighties, active and a volunteer driver. She deserves all the recognition and thanks that a grateful village and parish can demonstrate."



Above: The Volunteer Award winners, pictured with the Vice Chairman of Devon County Council, Councillor Haywood, who presented the awards.

The other 11 volunteers who received a certificate from the Vice Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Haywood, included:

- **Laurence Bawn** - Driver for Okehampton District Community Transport Group
- **David Bowden** - Driver and Committee member for West Dart Bus
- **Anthony Doble** - Driver for Friends of Woodbury Surgery
- **Gordon Holmes** - A Trustee for North Tamar Community Transport Association
- **William Moody** - Driver and Escort for Newton Abbot & Teignbridge Community Transport
- **John Nobes** - Committee Member for Northern Devon Community Transport Association
- **Margot Samuel** - Co-ordinator for Tedburn Outreach
- **Isobel Waddle** - Volunteer Driver for Dartmouth Caring

Thanks go to Devon County Council and Bon Gout Delicatessen, Magdalen Road, Exeter, for supporting this event.

Community Transport News

Launch of Devon Wheels 2 Work

Devon Wheels 2 Work was launched on 17th April 2007 at the new workshop and office premises at Halwill Junction near Holsworthy. The county wide project has been formed from the merger of Westden's Getting There Project, TRIP Community Transport Association's YETI project and North Tamar Community Transport Association's North Tamar Wheels. The scheme has also moved away from focusing on young people and can now support people between the ages of 16 and 65.



Devon Wheels 2 Work is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company which loans out scooters to individuals to help them get to work. Loans last for a period of three months and scheme users pay a weekly contribution towards the hire of the scooter. Those who join the scheme must also work with staff to develop a plan to obtain their own transport at the end of the loan period. Everyone must complete a Compulsory Basic Training Course and attend regular safety checks.

Since the launch, the project has already supported 45 people, helping them to access employment opportunities. The project has recently been successful in

obtaining a grant of £25,000 from South Hams District Council to provide Wheels 2 Work services in the District.

For further information about Devon Wheels 2 Work, please phone on 0845 0944 308 or e-mail: admin@devonwheels2work.co.uk

Shopmobility Taster Days in East Devon

A series of Shopmobility Taster Days were held in Seaton and Axminster over the summer. The Taster Days gave people who have never used Shopmobility the chance to have a go on a scooter. For regular Shopmobility users, the events provided an opportunity to explore a different town.

The events were organised by TRIP Community Transport Association in Honiton and Exeter Community Transport Association in partnership with Devon County Council and the Devon Rural Transport Partnership.

Shopmobility schemes loan out motorised scooters and wheelchairs to anybody with mobility difficulties. Shopmobility can help a wide range of people, from those with permanent disabilities, through to those recovering from an injury and even pregnant women.

If you enjoyed the Taster Days or missed the opportunity to try out Shopmobility, there are several schemes in Devon. Exeter Community Transport Association, which provided the scooters for the Taster Days, is currently based on Deck F of the King William Street Car Park in Exeter. In September they are moving to a new purpose built centre in Paris Street, which has access from the new Princesshay car park or from a bus drop off point directly outside the Shopmobility centre.

In addition, there are Shopmobility schemes in Honiton, Tiverton, Barnstaple, Newton Abbot, Paignton, Teignmouth, Torquay and Plymouth. Devon County Council is working with community groups to develop Shopmobility in other towns across Devon. To find out about Shopmobility schemes in Devon, please call the Community Transport Team at Devon County Council on 01392 382123 or e-mail comtrans@devon.gov.uk

An Introduction to Governance Issues

Governance is a word coming up time and time again in the voluntary and community sector. So, what is governance all about? What does it mean for your organisation and where can you find out more?

What is Governance?

One dictionary definition describes governance as: *"a method or system of government or management."* Governance is essentially about ensuring that an organisation is run properly and effectively. It encompasses a wide variety of issues, but the key elements are the organisation's values, the strategy for taking the organisation forward and making sure that the managing committee is working effectively.



What does Governance mean for your organisation?

Depending on the set up of your organisation, those responsible for governance will be referred to as Management Committee Members, Directors or Trustees. Their role is to look at the long-term future of the

organisation, rather than getting involved with day to day management and operational tasks. They need to have a good understanding of the organisation, how it is set up and its key aims and objectives. They need to make sure that accurate financial accounts are kept and that the organisation is operating legally. While the management committee members do not necessarily have to carry out all the tasks themselves, they do need to make sure that the tasks have been completed and that income to the charity is being used effectively to fulfil its purpose.

Where can you find out more?

Governance issues will be covered in more detail in future issues of the Newsletter, for example, the roles and responsibilities of Trustees, policies and procedures that organisations need to have in place and monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the committee. However, if you would like more information in the meantime, there are a range of publications available to download free of charge from the Governance Hub. Go to www.governancehub.org.uk Training sessions are being planned for Community Transport Committee members. If you are interested, contact Keith Taylor on 01392 383394. www.governancehub.org.uk

Contact Us

For further information about the DRTP or any of the articles mentioned in this Newsletter please contact us using the details below.

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