



RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2002

WELCOME! To the first in a new series of newsletters from the DRTP!

The newsletters will be published four times a year and will give you information on the DRTP and other Rural and Community Transport issues. If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please ensure the relevant material is sent to us by **Monday 10th February 2003** in time for publication in March.

In **this edition** you will find:

- Information on the DRTP
- Project updates
- Community Transport News
- Information on funding
- 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 DRTP is particularly keen to assist community and voluntary groups to identify local transport needs and address them in the most appropriate way. This may include better co-ordination of existing projects, or developing new and innovative transport schemes to serve local communities.

Funding Extended!

Funding for the DRTP is provided by the Countryside Agency in conjunction with Devon County Council. Following the first 3 years of the DRTP, funding has been extended for a further 3 years, until March 2005.

Funding Available!

There are 2 funds available for transport projects through the DRTP. You could apply for funding for projects similar to those in this newsletter or use ideas of your own. Contact us for further information and an application form.

New Staff

Following the first 3 years of funding Mark Goodman, the Partnership Officer, left to go to a new job. It was decided that in addition to filling the Partnership Officer post the Assistant post would be increased to full time and would become a Deputy Officer Post. This was due to the amount of projects being developed in Devon. The new staff began in post on 2nd September.

Lynn Thornton is the new Partnership Officer. Lynn previously worked in the Rural and Community Transport Team at Devon County Council.

Amanda Denham joins Lynn as the Deputy Officer and has recently graduated from Exeter University.

Main Fund

The DRTP main fund is available for specific transport projects costing over £1,000. Projects may be eligible for up to 75% of their total costs, with the rest of the money needing to be raised from elsewhere.

Partnership funding is primarily for revenue costs, however, an element of capital funding may be considered as part of a larger project if the whole project fits with the objectives of the Partnership.

Main Fund Projects 1999-2002

Between 1999 and 2002, £2 million was spent on projects through the Main Fund with nearly £900,000 being contributed from the Countryside Agency.

Research: Three research projects were undertaken through the Main Fund - **Bray Travel Club**, a taxi sharing scheme for the **Bere Peninsular Pilot** and the **North Devon Transport Research Project**.

Improving services through meeting identified needs: Ring & Ride schemes were extended in Totnes and Dartmouth, Honiton, Tavistock, Okehampton and Ilfracombe. **Shopmobility** was extended at Newton Abbot and a centre was provided for **Mid Devon Shopmobility**. CREDITON and District CTA introduced a **wheelchair accessible car service** and the **Culm Valley Voluntary Car Scheme** employed a co-ordinator.

Other projects were for **bike carriage on buses**, the **Yarnscombe Taxibus**, the **Dart Valley Pleasure Craft**, the **Axe Valley Ring & Ride Computer Project** and the development of **Tavistock Area Support Services**.

Sustaining Local Transport Initiatives: Two projects were undertaken - one for transport co-ordination through **Torridge Transport Group** and the other for a **CREDITON and District Local Transport Partnership**.

Developing and Sustaining Local Transport Partnerships: Developments involved the **Mid Devon Rural Transport Partnership**, **TRIP Community Transport** and a **local transport co-ordination project**.

Marketing: Marketing projects carried out were for **Community Transport Week 2000/01**, the **DRTP newsletter** and the **Buckfastleigh Tourist Vintage Bus Project**.

Training: Subsidised places were provided for community group members to attend the national **Community Transport Association Conference**.

Project Updates

Update on Main Fund Projects

The **Computer Project** which was set up to supply Community Transport groups around Devon with computer equipment is now in its final stages. John Yendall, who has been installing the equipment, is prepared to continue this work outside of the project itself. Several groups have taken up this opportunity and if anyone else is interested they should contact John direct. Tel: 01395 268011
E-mail: ChrysalisBSL@aol.com

Funding has now been confirmed for the **YETI project** - Youth & Employment Transport Initiative. This will include the employment of a development worker in East Devon to work up a trial moped loan scheme for young people needing access to training and employment opportunities. This worker will also investigate and develop a menu of transport options for young people throughout Devon.

The **Active Sports project** has also received confirmation of funding. This project will involve the use of local Ring and Ride buses, as well as commercial vehicles where necessary, to provide transport to after-school sporting activities for young people across Devon.

Future Projects

The DRTP is preparing an application for a **Driver Training and Recruitment Fund** to help voluntary and community transport groups expand their pool of drivers and offer training opportunities that correspond to recommendations of good practice. If you have any ideas about types of training or recruitment campaigns for Volunteer drivers, please let us know. The DRTP is also considering the compilation of a **Best Practice Guide**.

Four project applications from groups across Devon have recently been submitted to the DRTP for consideration.

Delegated Fund

The DRTP Delegated Fund is for smaller projects costing up to £3,000. However, due to the limited amount available in the Delegated Fund, applications for no more than £1,000 are preferred. For projects under £1,000 up to 100% of costs can be considered. For those over £1,000 up to 75% of costs are eligible, with the remainder needing to come from other sources.

Funding for the Delegated Fund for 2002/2003 is now available. There is £10,000 available for transport projects up until March 2003. There have been several applications for so far, these include research projects, purchasing fundraising equipment and providing transport to activities for various groups of people.

Delegated Fund projects 2001/2002

In 2001/2002 funding was provided for a total of 17 projects through the Delegated Fund, totalling £9,613.01

Transport: The **Torrington Youth Project**, **Parracombe Sports Bus** and the **Active Sports Project** provided transport for young people to social or sporting activities. One project provided transport for people over 50 to attend a Health Fair. The **Chawleigh Community Car Scheme** was set up and launched in June 2002.

Publicity: Leaflets were produced for **North East Dartmoor Transport Information** and for **Okehampton Ring & Ride**. A **South Molton and District "Out and About" guide** and an **Exeter Shopmobility Publicity Campaign** were also funded, as well as a series of **newsletters for Northern Devon Community Transport Association**.

Research: Projects carried out were a **transport needs evaluation in Ashburton** and the production of an **evaluation form for the Disabled People's Travel Club**. A **'BRICK' survey** looked at 3 parishes in the South Hams and as a result a Fare Car is planned for the area as well as a further survey for other parishes. The **Torrige Fare Car Research Project** has resulted in the launch of Fare Car in Holsworthy, with a further 2 being planned for Halwill 'North' and 'South'.

Training: Training projects were undertaken by Tavistock Community Transport Association for a **Driver Training Assessor** and by Totnes Community Bus to provide some **volunteer training**.

Volunteer Support: A Christmas Volunteer Event was held to support and encourage volunteers working for transport schemes in East Devon. The event was also used as an opportunity to recruit more volunteers and to publicise community transport.

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.

Community Transport News

Launch of new Shopmobility

The **Mid Devon Shopmobility** centre at the Phoenix Lane Car Park, in Tiverton was officially opened on 29th November. The centre will provide an accessible base for Shopmobility and new offices for Tiverton & District Community Transport Association (TDCTA). It will also host a mobile unit and scooters for servicing Cullompton and Crediton. A trial service will be provided in Honiton weekly until Christmas. The project is being funded by the DRTP and the Lottery. For further information please contact TDCTA - Tel: 01884 242099

Other Shopmobility News

Exmouth & District Community Transport Group has employed a development worker to establish a Shopmobility scheme for Exmouth and East Devon. In **Newton Abbot** and **North Devon** opening hours have been extended to include Saturday opening and **Exeter** Shopmobility has undergone a building extension to increase the office space and house more scooters and a meeting room.

Volunteer Awards 2002



An outstanding number of nominations were received for the fourth Volunteer Awards Ceremony, held in September 2002. Volunteers from a variety of Community Transport Schemes attended the ceremony to receive awards for their contributions as drivers, fundraisers, committee members and co-ordinators. The Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Mary Strudwick presented the awards and thanked the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. The 'Volunteer of the Year Award', given to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to Voluntary and Community Transport, this year went to Robin Wilson of Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride. Robin has undertaken several roles as a volunteer and the judging panel felt that Robin had shown the range of what a volunteer could achieve.

The Volunteer Awards Ceremony is an excellent opportunity to commend the efforts of committed local transport volunteers who enable the operation of Community Transport schemes in Devon. If you know any volunteers who deserve recognition for their work, then please nominate them to receive an award next year. The Civic Reception will be held as part of Community Transport Week in 2003.

Volunteers Awarded in 2002

Trevor Canham

Vice-Chairman, Freedom Wheels, Exeter

Stan Causley

Volunteer Driver, Teignmouth and Shaldon Age Concern

Brian Cosford

Transport Representative and Co-ordinator on behalf of Chagford Parish Council

Michael Finch

Volunteer Driver, Dartmouth Caring

Barbara Jones

Secretary, Coleridge Community Bus

Alan Knight

Volunteer Driver, Westbank League of Friends

Blondell Lilley

Exeter Community Transport

Val Royle

Chairman, Honiton TRIP

Robin Wilson

Management Committee, Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride

Philip Wilton

Volunteer Driver, Hospiscare

Stan Wyatt

Former Chairman, Newton Abbot and Teignbridge Community Transport

Community Transport Week 2003

Community Transport Week 2003 is now being planned for the last week in June. The event will include a conference with training on Wednesday 25th June, driver training on Saturday 28th June and a celebration of Community Transport on Sunday 29th June. Other local events will be happening across the county throughout the week to raise the profile of Community Transport in Devon. If you have any ideas for Community Transport Week 2003 or you would like to be involved, please contact us or get in touch with your local Community Transport group.

Funding News

'Community is Key' Fund - This is a pilot fund available until February 2003. It is aimed at community groups who wish to develop projects for those whose circumstances make it difficult for them to gain employment. Projects must help those who are disadvantaged due to social or economic circumstances. Any locally based group with a bank account working on a not for profit basis can apply. 100% of projects costing from £500 to £2,000 can be eligible, with up to £1,000 for capital costs. Projects could include identifying need, providing activities or services that address barriers to gaining employment or activities that increase the skills, motivation or confidence of people seeking employment. This fund could potentially be used as match funding for DRTP projects.

For more details: Tel: 01392 383 681 or E-mail: grants@rcc.org.uk

Useful Resources

<http://www.access-funds.co.uk>,

<http://www.charitiesdirect.com>,

<http://www.funderfinder.org>

Funding Ideas

If you know of any other grants that may be suitable for other readers or if you have any success stories that you would like to share, please let us know and we will include the information in our next edition of the newsletter.

Fundraising

We would also like to hear about ideas for fundraising, so if you have had any successful events or if you have any ideas that you would like to share, then please let us know.

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: DRTP@devon.gov.uk](mailto:DRTP@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)