



The logo features the word "Devon" in a stylized, black, serif font, with a yellow sunburst behind the letter 'o'. Below the text is a circular emblem containing a green landscape with a yellow sun, a white road, and a white wheel-like structure. Below the emblem, the words "RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP" are written in a bold, black, serif font.

RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2005

WELCOME! To the Winter edition of the DRTP 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 Spring edition of the Newsletter will be Friday 14th April 2006

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

- The DRTP
- Partnership News
- Becoming a Volunteer Driver
- The 5X30 Project
- Community Transport News
- Funding & Resources

What is the Devon Rural Transport Partnership?

The Devon Rural Transport Partnership (DRTP), consisting of variety of community, voluntary and statutory agencies, is a Partnership set up to address transport needs in rural Devon.

Transport needs within Devon can be very diverse, from people who need to access health services and medical appointments, through to people who have not got any transport to shopping and leisure facilities. It is recognised that providing access to a wide range of services can have a big impact on an individual's quality of life.

There is already a large network of Voluntary and Community Transport Groups across the county and the Partnership work closely with these groups as well as helping to develop new projects in areas which do not have any transport services.

As well as working with groups in the community, the Partnership also works with a wide variety of organisations that have an interest in, or an impact on, transport and access issues in the county. This helps to ensure that there is a co-ordinated approach to the development of projects and strategies across Devon and helps to prevent any duplication of work by different organisations.

Developing Transport Projects

Once a piece of research has been carried out and the transport needs of a community have been identified, appropriate solutions for addressing these issues can be developed.

There are a wide variety of options for improving access to services in rural areas. Getting involved with a transport project may not mean running a new bus service. It could include:

- Setting up a voluntary car scheme to provide journeys to local amenities, such as shops, banks or leisure facilities
- Using a voluntary car scheme to enable people to link with public transport services
- Investigating taxi-based solutions to enable people to link with public transport services
- Negotiating with an existing transport provider to see if their services can be extended
- Hiring a vehicle owned by another organisation which does not get used very often

The Partnership always seeks to make the best use of existing resources and to work with groups to make projects as sustainable as possible. Advice can be given on setting up projects and identifying potential funders. The Partnership also has a wide range of knowledge of other transport projects and can share this wealth of experience with those who are new to the sector.

If you would like to find out more about the work of the Partnership or would be interested in speaking to someone about the transport issues in your area, please get in touch using the contact details on the back of this Newsletter.

Partnership News

Delegated Fund

The majority of the Delegated Fund has been used up for this financial year, so if you are thinking of submitting an application, please contact Amanda Denham to discuss this first.

Next year's Delegated Fund should be in place by 1st April 2006. This funding will be available for small transport related projects and up to £1,000 will be available per project. All of the grants will need to be spent and accounted for by the end of March 2007. The criteria for next year are expected to be similar for those in 2005/2006, but have not yet been confirmed. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Driver Training Project

There is still funding available from the Partnership's Driver Training Project. This fund is in place to help meet the training needs of voluntary and community transport drivers across the county. A grant can be given for up to 75% of the costs of training, which can be either practical courses or more general training.

Drivers from a variety of different Community Transport groups have already benefited from the grants. These range from minibus drivers who do regular weekday bus journeys, through to Voluntary Car Drivers who give up their spare time to take people to health appointments or to shopping and leisure facilities.

Practical driving courses could include the Devon County Council minibus familiarisation course, or in winter, a particularly useful course is skid prevention and control. These are both provided by the Devon Drivers Centre at Westpoint.

Other relevant training courses include first aid and disability awareness. These types of courses are likely to be available locally, which is more convenient for

the drivers. To receive a grant, an application form must be submitted **prior to the training taking place**. If you are interested, please contact Amanda Denham for an application form.

Become a Community Transport Driver



Community Transport Groups across Devon rely on Volunteer Drivers

If you could spare a few hours a week to help take people to health appointments or on other local journeys, please get in touch. All of your travelling expenses will be reimbursed.

Telephone: 01392 382123 to be put in touch with your local scheme.

5x30 Project

The 5x30 project, which covers 91 parishes across Mid and West Devon, has been set up to encourage and support people to be more active in their everyday life. Its name comes from the World Health Organisation's recommendation that you should do 30 minutes of physical activity at least 5 times a week.

The 5 project staff work with local communities to reduce barriers and develop physical activity opportunities. This includes providing information on what is already available and providing support for setting up new physical activity groups. Support is also given to individuals and groups to provide motivation and overcome barriers to getting involved in physical activity.

There are three support funds available from the project. These are a physical activity fund, a training fund and a transport and access fund. For more details on any aspect of this project, please contact the project co-ordinator. Tel: 01884 234930 E-mail: admin@5X30.org

Community Transport News

Royal Recognition



John Adcock from East Teignbridge Community Transport Association received an award from The Queen. A Volunteer of the Year Award was presented on 3rd November 2005 in recognition of John's voluntary work in Dawlish. John has been volunteering for 24 years and has been involved with several

organisations, including the Volunteer Bureau, East Teignbridge Community Transport and Age Concern.

John said "I had a wonderful visit and wouldn't have missed it for the world." In speaking with The Queen, John said that she was very interested in the services that Community Transport groups provide.

North Tamar News



The North Tamar Community Transport Association (NTCTA) has moved into new premises in Holsworthy. The organisation had outgrown its old office space due to an expansion in services. The new location has enabled the Wheels to Work scheme, which operates under the umbrella of NTCTA, to come under the same roof as the other operations, while also providing space for additional development.

The committee for NTCTA was set up in 1999 and began with operating a **Ring & Ride** service one day a week. Since then the service has grown considerably and has expanded to include Fare Car bookings and a Voluntary Car Service.



A full-time Ring & Ride service was introduced in 2001 and in December 2005 an event was held to celebrate the 8,000th passenger to use the scheme. The Ring & Ride service relies on grants and donations from a wide variety of sources. It has recently received a grant from the Tesco Charity Trust for £2,500. A certificate from the Trust will be presented to the Chairman of NTCTA, David Perkin, at an event in London in March.

Passengers using the Ring & Ride are given the opportunity to visit the store once a week. The Ring & Ride bus also takes people to other local shopping facilities and provides day trips further a field.

Voluntary Car Scheme passengers will benefit from the move, which will enable NTCTA to develop the scheme. An increased demand for the service has been recognised, particularly in relation to health journeys, which make up 50% of the journeys taken.



The **North Tamar Wheels** scheme has been set up to help young people gain access to work and training opportunities. The scheme loans mopeds, on a temporary basis, to young people with no other means of transport.

Each young person is given training to enable them to ride safely and receives safety equipment. Throughout their time with the scheme they are encouraged to save up for their own transport option so that they are able to continue in their work or training placement once the moped loan comes to an end.

The new premises provide a workshop area for moped maintenance as well as office space for the scheme.

For further details about NTCTA please call Janice Ruston on 01409 259001

Funding & Resources

Awards For All

Awards for All is actively encouraging groups, health bodies, parish or town councils to apply for funding.

Awards for All is a Lottery grants scheme aimed at local communities, which awards grants of between £500 and £5,000. To get a grant you need to show how you will meet at least one of the aims detailed below:

- 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, welfare, environment or local facilities, for example through voluntary action, self-help projects, local projects or events.

For an application form visit the website at www.awardsforall.org.uk or telephone **01392 849705**

Lloyds TSB

The Lloyds TSB Foundation has announced its priorities for 2006. For the South West the new priorities are:

- To support charities whose work helps address disadvantage in rural areas
- To support the development of charities whose work addresses the needs of diverse communities
- To support charities who wish to undertake evaluation of their work in order to improve efficiency, to inform the direction of their services, to demonstrate the outcomes of their work and to demonstrate the impact of their work to other grant givers.

For further details please contact the South West Office on **01823 444032**, visit the website at: www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk or e-mail trevor.smale@lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

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