



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2004

WELCOME! To the Winter 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 Spring edition of the Newsletter will be **Friday 1st April 2005**

In **this edition** you will find:

- Information on the DRTP
- Community Transport Week 2005
- Resources and Funding Information
- Feature on Car Clubs
- Contact Details

What is the Devon Rural Transport Partnership?

The Devon Rural Transport Partnership (DRTP) is made up of a variety of community, voluntary and statutory agencies. The role of the Partnership is to identify transport needs within rural Devon and to look at the most appropriate solutions to the gaps in provision.

Partnership Update

Further to the publication of the Rural Strategy and the re-organisation of the Countryside Agency, grants for the Rural Transport Partnerships previously given by the Countryside Agency will now be transferred to the Regional Development Agencies.

In Devon, this means that 50% of the Partnership's funding will come through the South West Regional Development Agency. The other 50% continues to be funded by Devon County Council. Funding from the Regional Development Agency is only guaranteed until March 2006, but negotiations have begun to seek funding to continue the DRTP beyond this point.

In the meantime, the Partnership continues with business as usual. Some of the types of work the Partnership gets involved with are outlined below.

Community Support

The Partnership works with voluntary and community groups throughout Devon. This may include improving existing services and making the best use of resources available, or helping to develop a new project. Support from the Partnership could be providing information about existing services, giving advice about setting up new schemes or help with identifying funding sources. Help can also be given with setting up research surveys to identify the best way forward.

Strategic Developments

At a strategic level, the Partnership works to keep rural and community transport issues high on the agenda. For those in rural areas, accessing services is a key priority. This includes getting to health appointments, shops, banks and leisure facilities. The Partnership identifies long-term goals for improving access to services in rural areas and works with other organisations to put procedures in place to enable this to happen, including seeking funding where appropriate.

Partnership Working

The key element of the Partnership is working with a variety of organisations that all have different interests and different roles in transport and service provision in rural areas. By bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, a co-ordinated approach can be taken to making the best use of resources in the county.

If you would like more information about the Partnership or advice about developing projects, please contact us using the details on the back of this Newsletter.

Community Transport Week 2005

Community Transport Week 2005 will be launched on Friday 3rd June with the Annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Events will be held across the county throughout the week to celebrate the successes of Community Transport Schemes and to promote Community Transport in Devon.

Nominations invited for Community Transport Volunteers

Would you like to say thank you to a special volunteer who has given freely of their time to support a Community Transport scheme? If so, we'd like to hear from you. This is your opportunity to nominate volunteers for the annual Community Transport Volunteer Awards.



Nominations are being invited for volunteers in a wide variety of roles. For example, they could be Voluntary Car Scheme drivers, bus drivers, office workers or committee members. From all of the nominations received, 12 volunteers will be selected to attend the Volunteer Awards Ceremony to be held on Friday 3rd June 2005. Each volunteer will be given a certificate to thank them for their hard work and to

acknowledge their achievements.

In addition, one volunteer will be selected to become the Community Transport 'Volunteer of the Year'. This Award will go to a volunteer who has been an exceptional volunteer working within a Community Transport capacity.

Above: Volunteers celebrate after receiving their awards at the 2004 Volunteer Awards Ceremony.

Volunteers are a crucial part of Community Transport Groups and in turn help provide vital services for people across the county. If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering, please contact us for further details.

Community Transport Week Events

Other events will be going on throughout the county to celebrate Community Transport Week. If your Community Transport Scheme is planning an event, however large or small, please let us know and we will help to promote it in our Community Transport Week publicity.

Ideas for events so far include a party to celebrate 15 years of the first Ring & Ride services set up in Devon and Awareness Raising events held by local groups within the areas they serve.

There is also some funding available through the Driver Training Project to run some training courses. If you know of any drivers that would like to take part in some training, please let us know. Training could include First Aid, Passenger Awareness, Minibus Emergency Evacuation Procedures or any other training needs identified as appropriate. Please let us know how many drivers would be interested, what types of training they would like to do and what days of the week or times of day would be most suitable.

Resources

Computers for Rural People

Computers for Rural People is a partnership between the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC) and the Government Disposal Services Agency. It provides community groups and businesses with access to computer equipment at very reasonable prices. David Long, who has managed the scheme voluntarily since 2002, says easy, affordable access to IT for isolated rural communities enables them to keep up with the speed of change, change the way that they present information, or to access the internet. The scheme is not for profit but a £30 donation is made to ARC for each purchase made to help support the charity's work. For more information telephone David Long on 01295 788242 or Email: davidlong49@hotmail.com

IT for Communities

IT for Communities has been set up to link companies, employees and individuals who have professional IT skills with local charities and community groups. IT for communities aims to be a resource for the voluntary sector by providing advice information and resources on their website to help develop successful IT projects with volunteers. There is also an opportunity to submit online requests for volunteer support for IT projects. Your project will be circulated to the list of people wishing to volunteer and then the co-ordinator will contact you if there is a match. For more information visit the website at:

<http://www.itforcommunities.org.uk>

Funding Information

Awards For All Grants

Awards for All will be re-launched in England as a new £80 million scheme, with the upper limit doubled from £5,000 to £10,000 from April 2005. Awards for All England will also be piloting a scheme for smaller grants of up to £500, a scheme in which local people will be given the power to decide where the money goes.

Awards for All grants are available for projects which improve quality of life by supporting local projects that improve people's opportunities, welfare, environment or local facilities. For further information see the website at: <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/england>

Devon Rural Transport Partnership - Delegated Fund

There have been a large number of requests for funding from the Delegated Fund in the last couple of months. As a result, there is very little funding left in this year's fund, which runs until the end of March 2005. Therefore, if you have any project ideas, please contact us to discuss them before submitting an application. It may be possible to fund some very small-scale projects between now and the end of March.

Funding for the Delegated Fund for 2005 / 2006 will be available. However, as the Partnership does not have access to this funding yet, no offers of funding will be made at the present time. If you are thinking of a project, please get in touch. It may still be worth working on an application to ensure that it is ready for submission when the next round of funding becomes available.

All funding from the Delegated Fund must be spent and accounted for by the end of March 2006, so if you are thinking of running a project that may take a few months, please submit it as soon as possible. Projects that can be funded include research projects, pilot transport projects and publicity projects.

Car Clubs

What is a Car Club? Car Clubs are community based cars that are available for members of the Club to hire. The Car Club takes care of the insurance and maintenance of the vehicle, so all you have to do is book it and drive it. Charges for using the car are on a pay-as-you go basis and are based on the hours hired and the mileage driven.

Car Clubs are a great option for people who only need to use a car occasionally - maybe to visit friends, do bulky shopping, or to get to places with no public transport. They can also be used by families who occasionally need a second car. This provides an economic and environmentally friendly way of solving such problems.

So - What about Car Clubs in Devon?



A new not-for-profit social enterprise has been founded to provide car club services to both Exeter and elsewhere. The Car Club Co-op, named Co-Cars, is a company limited by guarantee and has been established as a co-operative consortium. This will enable local groups and organisations to apply for car club services. A Car Club Car has already been put in place in Topsham, with a dedicated space at Topsham Library and a 24 hour online booking system in addition to telephone

booking. This club was set up with funding from the Social Economic and Environmental Development Programme. Exeter City Council has earmarked another £30,000 to develop a Car Club scheme in Exeter, with possible locations being considered in Heavitree, the West Quarter and Alphington.

Although no further funding has been identified to develop Car Clubs outside of Exeter, the umbrella organisation of Co-Cars provides a structure through which Car Clubs can develop. If you would like to know more about Car Clubs or would like to register your interest in having a Car Club in your area, please get in touch or visit: <http://www.co-cars.org.uk>

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