

## **Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 – Panel Hearings**

**Help the Aged – Tony Collins - Regional Development Officer**

### **Issues / Concerns**

- “84% of the population aged 30-60 have a driving license. We are a car driving culture”.
- Vision - ‘Older people are valued and involved’.
- Older people are - non polluters, non congestors, support local services, they are the future customers of public transport. Older people are not a problem, they are the key to sustainable development and the LTP’.
- More elderly drivers soon as the ‘baby boomers’ get older.
- Older people accept the need for change.
- Older people are ideal ‘target customers’ for Public Transport.
- ‘Get it right for the most vulnerable and the less vulnerable have a choice’.
- Applauded the Jurassic Coast Service as an example of an inclusive service.
- Community Transport is generally good, but it has a bad image. Could get better.
- Older people afraid of using public transport – ‘afraid of being marooned’.

### **Recommendations**

- Inclusion in the why we travel section not only a ‘journeys for work’, ‘Journeys for Leisure’ but also a ‘Journeys to services & social events’ (addressing the essential needs of those already most vulnerable to isolation).
- Effort should be focused around shifting the perception of community-based and public transport as a service for ‘them’ to a service for ‘us’.
- Need clean services and well trained staff.
- Rural communities to be encouraged to organise their own transport needs and supported in this.
- DCC should employ a travel plan officer equivalent across all the journey purposes, to pick up those not covered by school / Green Travel Plan officer.

### **Number one priority**

- “Get in right for older people and you get it right for everyone”.
- Devon County Council to employ an older peoples coordinating officer.