

## WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Focus: Winter Preparedness

As we have moved into the winter months, it's important to remind volunteer drivers to look after their vehicles and prepare for colder weather.



Some of the ways drivers can be more prepared this winter and remain safe is by:

- Regularly checking traffic reports and allowing more time for journeys
- Keeping spare equipment in the car such as de-icer, a hazard triangle
- Keeping tyres in good condition
- Being more cautious when on the road
- Taking out breakdown cover

[More information on preparing for and driving safely in the winter can be found on the Buckinghamshire Council website](#), including an online winter driving training module.

## Buckinghamshire Community Transport Forum

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us at the first Buckinghamshire Community Transport Forum. It was lovely to see people from all across Bucks and gain insight into the community transport sector.

We will be planning to hold the next Forum in the new year and will send out invites closer to the date. In the meantime, if you have questions about the forums, contact Nosh at [nosh@communityimpactbucks.org.uk](mailto:nosh@communityimpactbucks.org.uk).

## Running your transport scheme



The Local Voluntary Sector Network forum is an opportunity for Bucks-based charities, voluntary & community groups, and social enterprises to share information and collaborate on the local issues that matter most.

Join us on Monday 4th December (6.30-8pm) at Aylesbury Multicultural Centre for the next networking forum. [For more information and to register, visit our Trainings & Events webpage.](#)

If you have any questions, contact Nosh at [info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk](mailto:info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk)

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## Funding Opportunity for Community Transport Schemes

The Cost-of-Living Resilience Fund aims to increase sustainability in social sector organisations by supporting them to deliver projects which build organisational stability and resilience to deliver.

Organisations must bring in over 33% of their income through trading activities, serve communities in deprived areas in England, and provide services to support people coping with the cost-of-living. These services may include debt and financial advice, warm spaces during winter, low-cost food provision, housing support, and transportation access. The fund will remain open until all funds are allocated, so eligible organisations are encouraged to apply promptly. [For more information and to apply, visit the Crowdfunder website.](#)

New funds are opened up regularly; to keep up-to-date with the latest announcements and for support on all aspects of funding, visit our [Funding pages](#), including [Local Funding Opportunities](#).

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## How to make sure staff and volunteers' wellbeing is prioritised

This week we are taking part in Safeguarding Adults Week (20th – 24th November) to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues and highlight how to prioritise the welfare and wellbeing of yourself and others.

Ann Craft Trust is running a programme of events through the week to help staff and volunteers look after their own wellbeing when supporting others. For more information on the events, [visit Ann Craft Trust's website.](#)

Also have a look at our online safeguarding resources and how we can help not-for-profit organisations in Buckinghamshire be safeguarding compliant by visiting [Safeguarding support for voluntary groups.](#)

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## Support for Community Transport Schemes

We offer bespoke support and advice to community transport schemes which are already running or new schemes looking to set up. For example:



- Developing needs assessments and online surveys
- Provision of exemplar policies, induction packs, and more
- Support with volunteer recruitment
- Processing of DBS applications and document verification service
- Specialist 1-to-1 advice sessions

If you would like more information on this service, please contact [transport@communityimpactbucks.org.uk](mailto:transport@communityimpactbucks.org.uk)

# Involving volunteers

## Should volunteer drivers receive free parking?

Volunteer drivers are at the heart of many local community transport schemes. They offer their time and vehicles to provide much needed services across Buckinghamshire. While some community transport schemes offer reimbursement of the various expenses, many are not able to, and a free parking incentive could be the way forward for volunteer drivers and community transport schemes. [This blog from Road XS discusses the potential benefits of a free parking incentive scheme for volunteer drivers.](#)

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## Beaconsfield Community Bus

The new Community Bus, run by Beaconsfield Town Council, was soft launched in August, and connects New Town, Old Town, and Holtspur.

They are currently looking to recruit volunteer drivers. Expressions of interest and any other queries can be sent to [projectsupport@beaconsfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:projectsupport@beaconsfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk).

## Other news

### Share your views on non-emergency patient transport services in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB) is about to redesign its non-emergency patient transport services and wants to hear from service users and/or their carers about what the new service should look like.

Non-emergency patient transport services provide free transport services for people who need to travel to or from hospital or a medical appointment but are unable to travel without specialist support - for example, for people with severe mobility difficulties or who need extra support during a journey.

If you, or somebody you care for, is a user of non-emergency patient transport, [the NHS would like to invite you to take the survey here.](#)

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### Keep an eye out: Community Transport Survey

We want to be able to better support community transport schemes in Buckinghamshire and, to do so, we need to find out what support you need.

Please keep an eye out for a short survey we will be sending you in January – your feedback will be really appreciated.

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