

## SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Focus: Community Transport Week

#### Community Transport Week – 16th-21st October 2023

Community Transport Week will celebrate the essential support Community Transport schemes provided their local communities throughout the UK. The week is the ideal time to highlight the work of your volunteers, drivers, and everyone who strives to provide alternative transport options.

For news on special events and public campaigns taking place during the week, [check the Community Transport Association events page](#). We will also keep you updated on news and stories from around Buckinghamshire.

### Running your transport scheme

#### Ultra Low Emission Zone expansion across all London boroughs



From 29 August 2023, cars, motorcycles, vans, and other specialist vehicles (up to and including 3.5 tonnes) and minibuses (up to and including 5 tonnes) will need to meet the ULEZ emissions standards or pay a daily charge of £12.50 when driving within the zone.

If you drive a petrol vehicle over 16 years old or a diesel vehicle over 6 years old, you need to check to see if you're affected. [Visit TfL's website to use its simple online vehicle checker](#).

Some drivers and vehicle types qualify for a grace period (temporary exemption) from the ULEZ. This applies to 'disabled' and 'disabled passenger vehicle' tax class vehicles which have an extension until 24 October 2027. Additional grace periods for wheelchair accessible vehicles and those on certain disability benefits have also been introduced. [To find out more, visit \[tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/discounts-and-exemptions\]\(https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/discounts-and-exemptions\)](#).

#### Funding opportunities

Have a look at two funding opportunities for Community Transport schemes:

- Motability offers a new grant programme to help charities and voluntary organisations to support people with disabilities by awarding funding to develop, expand, and improve community transport options. [For more information and to apply, visit the Motability Community Transport Grants webpage](#).
- The National Lottery Awards for All England offers grants between £300-£10,000 for new and existing projects that improve and support local communities. [For more information and to apply, visit the National Lottery Community Fund website](#).

#### Meet the Funder with the Shanly Foundation

If your organisation is looking to apply for funding with the Shanly Foundation and serves Buckinghamshire, join us for our next FREE Meet the Funder event on 27th September (12pm -1pm) where you will hear about the foundation's grants, find out what makes a good grant application, and have the opportunity to meet your local Shanly Foundation funding officer. [To find out more information and to book your place at the Meet the Funder webinar, visit our Training and Workshops page](#).

#### Save the Date - Local Voluntary Sector Network Forum



Local Voluntary Sector Network forums were set up in 2022 to enable Bucks-based charities, voluntary & community groups, and social enterprises to share information and collaborate on the local issues that matter most.

The Forum for North Buckinghamshire will take place in-person on Tuesday 5th September (6.30-8pm).

The Forum for South Buckinghamshire will take place online on Thursday 7th September (6.30-8pm).

[For more information, and to register your interest for the upcoming forums, please visit our Local Voluntary Sector Network webpage](#).

### Involving volunteers

#### Volunteer Managers' Network Meeting – The Importance of the Psychological Contract

Come along to our next Volunteer Managers' Network event on 28th September 2023 (10 - 11.30am) to learn about 'psychological contracts' - the unwritten agreement between employee and their employer that describes informal commitments, expectations, and understandings – and how it can play a part in recruiting, managing and retaining volunteers.

We will be joined by HR expert and coach Alexandra Smith who will also be taking questions on any volunteer management issues you may be facing. [For more information and to book, visit Eventbrite](#).

#### Volunteer Driver and Co-ordinator case study

Starting as a volunteer driver for the Aylesbury Community Transport Scheme in early 2020, Fiona resumed her driving duties when Covid restrictions eased in mid-2021 and took on the coordinator role 6 months later.

Fiona has expressed that the flexibility of the role, and the chance to meet people face-to-face are what attracted her to the role and would recommend others to volunteer too. [To read the full case study visit the Case Studies page on our website](#).

Please do share Fiona's story to anyone who is thinking of becoming a volunteer driver but would like to know more about what is involved.

#### Concerns for older drivers

The BBC has recently published an article that shows there has been an increase in people contacting the DVLA with concerns about a driver's ability. The BBC Freedom of Information request shows that reports have almost doubled with nearly 49,000 calls to the DVLA in 2022 compared to 26,000 calls in 2021.

Many believe there should be more assessments carried out when renewing an older person's licence, whereas there are others who believe that older people are misrepresented in the data and have the autonomy to self-assess their driving skills as they get older. [You can find more data and the full article on the BBC News website](#).

### Other news

#### Approved Mileage Allowance Payment Rate

Earlier this month, MPs from across the UK met to discuss the petition for the need to increase the current HMRC approved mileage allowance rate of 45p per mile. The petition raised over 41,500 signatures, including support from members of voluntary and community groups.

The rate has not been changed since 2011 despite fuel prices having risen by 16% since it was set. [The full debate transcript can be read here on the UK Parliament website](#).

#### Community Impact Bucks' mailing list

At Community Impact Bucks we produce regular bulletins to help not-for-profit organisations in Buckinghamshire keep up-to-date with the latest guidance, funding opportunities and useful advice.

If you would like to receive our free weekly bulletin, *Bucks Charity News*, [sign up to our mailing list](#).