



Community Transport for Mansfield – We Need Your Help

OUR VISION

CT4N Charitable Trust is the new name for Nottingham Community Transport – a charity that provides a range of accessible low-cost transport options for the local community, including the Easylink (Dial a Ride) service and transport for community groups. We now want to expand our services as we believe the community would benefit from a transport scheme enabling greater access, enhancing social inclusion and connectivity. It is important that the Mansfield community is involved in the development of a transport service that meets its needs. For this we are seeking to engage with any individuals or community groups in Mansfield to develop an effective and sustainable project.

THE ISSUES

We have already started working with local community groups in Mansfield. In April, we launched a pilot project in Mansfield, as part of the Mansfield Community Champions Scheme, to provide transport for people to attend Covid vaccinations. As part of our initial work, it has become clear that transport is a barrier. If suitable transport is not available, then people will find it difficult to access the services required. There are also areas in Mansfield and the surrounding area where the frequency and accessibility of existing bus services can be an issue for people accessing key services.

We feel with our experience, we could help bring about change to address some of these issues and offer transport as a solution to the problems that are currently being experienced. We aim to encourage participation from the public and voluntary sectors, backed up with supporting evidence from within the community.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT?

Community transport is a service that is provided by the local community in response to a need that is not currently available. In particular, it can offer small scale solutions to meet the mobility needs of individuals and a wide range groups, in the community and voluntary sector. The other advantage is that community transport is licenced differently to other bus services, which means they are simple to introduce and operate.

A typical community transport scheme will generally consist of one or more of the following elements:

- Voluntary car scheme - a local pool of drivers available to take people on pre-arranged journeys, with drivers receiving payment based on mileage.
- Dial A Ride - door to door service designed to meet the needs of passengers who find it difficult to use mainstream public transport.

- Minibus Group Travel - sharing community owned minibuses available for hire by a wide range of community groups ranging from youth clubs to senior citizens clubs.
- Community buses - similar to a scheduled bus service but to meet local demand which might not be financially viable to a commercial bus operator.

Some community transport schemes are also creative in their local community and have been known to provide 'Wheels to Work' mopeds to help people get to and from work, mobile health clinics, and the collection of unwanted furniture and electrical items, which are recycled to help benefit people in the local community.

WHAT CAN COMMUNITY TRANSPORT OFFER?

Our focus is on the provision of an accessible community transport service, which can offer the following benefits:

- It can give individuals and groups greater independence to improve the well-being and quality of life in addressing social isolation and loneliness, life expectancy, as well as both physical and mental health.
- It can provide training opportunities for volunteers, which can reduce the overall cost of providing transport.
- Provide access to employment opportunities for people living in the local area, especially if people do not have access to a car.
- Bring people together to strengthen the local community, particularly in some of the more rural areas of Mansfield, including Warsop.
- Provides a voice for local people regarding transport issues. This can relate to public transport provision generally and the frequency and accessibility of existing bus services.

HOW DOES COMMUNITY TRANSPORT CONNECT PEOPLE?

A community transport scheme should be available to the community to meet needs that are not currently being met. The benefits of connecting people have been proven to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. This is achieved by:

- Providing transport for older people, or those with a disability to primary and secondary healthcare.
- Reducing social isolation by providing access to essential services and facilities.
- Giving local people the ability to access schools, libraries, shopping, social clubs and community events, including day trips.
- Providing transport for community groups of all ages, to undertake social and recreational activities, assisting them in achieving their objectives.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

If you feel that a community transport scheme for Mansfield could make a real difference, then please help us by completing our survey, which can be found on the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CT4NMansfield>

For any further details please contact us by email mansfield@ct4n.co.uk or phone 01623 573800.