# SHEFFIELD HOSPICE LAUNCHES TRANSPORT SERVICE

St Luke's Hospice, in Sheffield, has introduced a free community transport service, in partnership with charity SCCC. This was made possible by a generous donation from long-time supporter and volunteer Gilly Edwards, whose contribution funded a fully accessible minibus, enabling patients, carers and families to travel easily to the hospice and social prescribing sessions.

Since launching in September, the door-to-door service has helped people access to St Luke's care and enjoy day trips. It has also removed a major barrier for people across Sheffield who would have otherwise struggled to access the support offered by St. Luke's.




## FUNDING POWERS GREENER TRANSPORT

Three community transport operators in Oxfordshire have received grants to upgrade their vehicles.

West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) was awarded a total of £138,605 towards the cost of converting two diesel minibuses into fully electric vehicles, install EV charging equipment and fit internal and external CCTV camera systems on all its vehicles.

First and Last Mile, a volunteer led company, received £1,536 to convert a minibus passenger door and step from manual to electric operation to improve efficiency and accessibility.

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Business Development Manager
richard.betts@gmcoachwork.co.uk
**Call 07483 604728**

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## SURREY TRANSPORT REACHES FURTHER

The Surrey Connect community bus has extended its services to offer transport where regular bus routes are limited. Funded by Surrey County Council, the service already operates seven days a week in areas including Tandridge, Farnham, Cranleigh, West Guildford and Reigate, charging fares based how far passengers travel. The service carried more than 97,000 passengers in 2025 and forms part of the council's wider investment of £6.3 million in funding for low and zero-emission community transport vehicles.




*If you no longer wish to receive Together in Transport or prefer to receive the digital version - email emma.cooper@gmcoachwork.co.uk*

TOGETHER *IN TRANSPORT*

*UPDATES, INSIGHT AND NEWS FROM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT*

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# NEW COMMUNITY BUS LAUNCHED IN WOKING

A new community bus service has been launched in Surrey to help residents stay connected and reduce social isolation.

Woking Borough Council worked with local organisations and voluntary groups to make a bus available that will provide transport to events and activities, particularly supporting older residents. The vehicle was donated by Woking Community Transport, with £4,500 in start-up funding from the North West Surrey Alliance, and will be operated by the charity Silver Friends.



## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES FOR TEN YEARS

Bramley Elderly Action recently celebrated ten years of partnership with First Bus at their depot in Leeds. Over this time, First Bus have provided £70,000 in fuel and maintenance for the charity's minibuses, enabling more than 3,250 low-cost journeys and covering 50,000 miles across West Yorkshire.

Over the last decade, the partnership has enabled BEA to increase transport for local clubs, while also reducing social isolation among the older population.




## DRIVING CHANGE THIS MARCH



Welcome to the March edition of Together in Transport. In this issue, you'll find updates on the latest funding opportunities available, along with news and stories from across the Community Transport sector in the UK.

As always, we love hearing from the organisations and people who make this sector so special. If you have a story or update you'd like to share with us to feature in a future edition, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to get in touch and drop me an email.

*Emma*

Emma Cooper
**Editor**

emma.cooper@
gmcoachwork.co.uk

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TOGETHER *IN TRANSPORT*

## FUNDING FUELS TRANSPORT GROWTH

Down Community Transport and Newry and Mourne Community Transport have expanded their services after securing £200,000, supported by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. They have each purchased a new minibus and recruited an additional driver with the funding from the UK Prosperity Fund. Together, the organisations now operate nineteen minibuses and have provided 3,400 journeys for almost 11,000 passengers over the last year, helping to promote community wellbeing in the district.

# GET A FUNDING BOOST

**Multiple grants are open now to support running costs, staff training, and transport needs for community organisations across the UK.**

**Morrisons Foundation**
Grants of up to £10,000 for registered charities in England, Scotland and Wales - Applications welcomed from charities with an income of less than £1 million

**NFU Mutual Funding for Rural Community and Education**
Grants ranging from £1,000 to £75,000 - Submission deadline of 24th April 2026.

**People's Postcode Trusts**
North of England, East of England and Scotland: Applications welcome from 25th March to 1st April

**The Coalfield Community Capital Grants programme for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust**
Grants of £500 to £7,000 are available for costs including repairs, refurbishments, energy efficiency measures, and equipment purchases.

**The Moondance Foundation (Wales only)**
For registered charities, community groups, CIOs, CICs and not-for-profit who have operated for over 2 years.

Applications always welcome




## PASSENGERS LEFT STRANDED BY CANCELLATIONS

Londoners with mobility challenges have criticised Transport for London (TfL) after repeated cancellations to its Dial-a-Ride service left passengers stranded.
The door-to-door minibus scheme, launched in the 1980s for disabled and older residents, is becoming increasing unreliable, according to its passengers. One long-time user said cancellations are increasing and the new app-based booking system is inaccessible for some older people.

## SPONSOR OF MIDAS DRIVER OF THE YEAR

GM Coachwork are delighted to be sponsoring the MiDAS Driver of the Year at the Community Transport Association CT26 Awards.

The award recognises an outstanding driver who has excelled in their role and celebrates someone who always provides a safe and reliable service, upholding the values of MiDAS.

**Got a story?**
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## £63K FUNDING DELIVERS COMMUNITY MINIBUS

The new Largs Thistle Community Minibus is set to transform the opportunities for local schools, community groups, and organisations in the Scottish town. The project was made possible thanks to a £63,000 grant from the Community Investment Fund (CIF) at North Ayrshire Council.

Tiffany Irvin, from Largs Thistle FC, who led the scheme, said the bus will be an asset for the community and will transform the lives of young people locally, by giving them more opportunities to take part in education and sporting events.




## HELP KEEP LYME LINK MOVING

Lyme Link, a valued community transport service in Lyme Regis, is seeking volunteer drivers and assistants to help keep the bus running for residents.

The service provides pre-booked journeys to medical appointments, shops and social activities, helping those without transport or living in more remote areas. Working alongside Lyme Town Council, the voluntary service helps reduce isolation while ensuring people can access essential services.

To find out more or get involved, email Enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01297 445175.

## POVERTY ALLIANCE SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF CONCESSIONARY BUS TRAVEL

The Poverty Alliance, in Scotland, is supporting calls to extend concessionary bus travel to more Community Transport services. The organisation says that many people on low incomes are unable to access concessionary travel, particularly in rural areas where transport options are limited.

This proposal aligns with the Community Transport Association's manifesto, which is urging the next Scottish Government to expand the National Concessionary Travel Schemes to include suitable Section 19 services. The move aims to improve accessibility for older people, disabled passengers and rural residents who currently face limited travel options.