

# Rushton Community Minibus



**Report for RPC Meeting on the 21 May 2025 prepared by Mike Brightman. Agenda Item 14/25**

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The Minibus is in good working order with no issues, damage or faults. Current Mileage 41163

The Minibus insurance was renewed on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, with a small annual increase from last year many thanks to Meg for her negotiation skill in reducing the initial renewal price.

## **Minibus Accessibility**

As previously reported about the difficulties that some of our passengers have in boarding and aligning the minibus. A number of solutions were discussed, and it was agreed to look at fold out steps with handrails proving evenly spaced multiple steps. The search and discussions are ongoing.

## **Annual Grant**

I am pleased to report that we have received our annual grant for this year of £ 3450.00 This grant from NNC that has been received on an annual basis since 2010 when the management and ownership was handed over to Rushton Paish Council. Over the last two years we are required to produce monthly statistics detailing the number of passengers carried. The issue here is should our current passenger numbers continue to fall, under future annual review there is a possibility we could lose (or reduce) this grant. This grant represents about a third of our annual running costs.

## **Passengers Numbers**

The passenger numbers for our registered shopping trips have fallen this year reducing the concessionary income for year 24/25 by approximately £600.00.

## **Moving Forward**

With the falling numbers of passengers, I have been considering how we can increase the numbers. Meeting regularly with a number of groups in Rothwell I have been able to attract a number of passengers to use some of our services. This has been successful in steadily increasing the passenger numbers to our monthly "Rushden Lakes Trip" and we also have interest in our regular Friday Shopping Trips to Asda & the Peel Centre in Corby.

Rothwell Town Council are in support of my proposal to extend our Friday Asda Shopping route to include Rothwell with an additional stop at Tesco Corby. We will run this for a trial period in July to see if its viable and we can attract sufficient number of passengers. From the initial calculation this will add approximately £1000/1200 in concessionary fares and is like to create additional interest in our other services

Any changes to requested routes needs approval from Office of the Traffic Commissioner & NNC Bus & Rail

In a meeting with NNC Bus Rail these revisions and solutions where out lined and received support from them to move these ideas forward. I will be meeting with them again in with the next couple of months.

## **Note-**

**Providing service to the residents of Rothwell or any other areas is to ensure that we can maintain our services for Rushton Parishioners and financial support for our Minibus is our number one priority!**