

Rushton Community Minibus

Report for RPC Meeting on the 20th November 2024 prepared by Mike Brightman. Agenda Item 11



The Minibus is in good working order with no issues or faults. Current Mileage 39495

We now have a new volunteer driver Martyn Owen having passed his Midas training on the 7th November.

The Minibus advert for the Northamptonshire ACRE has been approved and accepted for 2025 Transport Directory.

The Committee & Drivers meeting has not taken place as previously reported due to holidays and other commitments. We will be holding a meeting with the committee including the drivers to review the current minibus operation and look at some new ideas and suggestions for the future operation of the services. Date and time to be arranged.

Following the closeout of the NCF Rushton Community Minibus Funding Support Grant for 23/24 which contributed to the running costs for the Community trips between July 23 to August 24, we will continue to run these very successful and well supported trips funded from the Minibus income.

The regular monthly Community shopping trip to Rushden Lakes now picks up passengers from Rothwell (War Memorial) Passenger from this location are charged £5:00 for the return trip. We currently pick up between 2 and 4 passengers from this location and as the word is spreading it is anticipated that the passenger numbers will increase.

Currently all advertising and Minibus paperwork carries the personal phone number of the acting coordinator. For example, all incoming calls are currently taken by myself (even when I am sitting on a beach in the Canary Islands). Although I do not have an issue with this, the PC must consider that should I no longer be available how will anyone know who to contact. Having spent the last three years working to promoting the minibus particularly for private hire that is important to the Minibus income and more so if we lose our annual grant. I have also still experienced problems with people trying to contact us using my predecessors phone numbers particularly John Jefferies.

I would like to propose that we purchase a dedicated contract mobile phone that belongs to the Minibus (PC) allowing the current coordinator to hand over to another person when not available and more importantly to the next coordinator without losing the ability of regular customers to contact us, our current advertising to be relevant and not having to alter all our paperwork. The monthly cost for an all-inclusive call package will be between £5 to £7 per month and the purchase of a suitable handset of £250/300. Funded from the Minibus funds.