

Rushton Community Minibus



Report for RPC Meeting on the 18th March 2026 prepared by Mike Brightman. Agenda Item 25/26

The Minibus is in good working order with no issues, damage or faults. Current Mileage 44958

Moving Forward

The temporary extension to our Friday Shopping trip to pick up passenger from Rothwell continues. The numbers can vary so it is intended to continue the extended service. This will continue to run this as an experimental service with the options to make ongoing changes or withdraw the service if it is not beneficial to the operation of the Rushton Community Minibus.

Working with several groups on this project has also benefited our other minibus community and private hires services. It has also benefitted the Village Hall Film nights by increasing the audience attendance covering the costs to the benefit our parish.

Insurance Renewal

The Minibus insurance renewal is due on the 31 March. The annual drivers confirmation matrix has been completed for submission to the insurance company. The Parish Clerk is currently reviewing the insurance renewal and carrying out comparisons with alternative companies.

Grant Funding from Rural Community Needs Fund 2025

The Minibus was awarded £1830.00 in January 2025 to support the ongoing operations of the Community Minibus, building upon the foundations established by previous funding.

The funds were used to maintain regular minibus services, trial new initiatives, and update existing offerings, ensuring the service remains relevant and accessible for all members of our community.

The Grant has now been used, and the end of grant report has been completed and accepted. Thank you to Alex and the team from NCF for their help, advice and support with this grant, which is greatly appreciated by our community.

Minibus Passenger Survey 2026

Each year a passenger questionnaire is distributed to all our Minibus Passengers. The primary aim of this initiative is to gather valuable feedback regarding our service. By understanding how well the service meets passengers' needs, we can identify areas for improvement specifically in terms of comfort, accessibility and reliability.

The insights drawn from the questionnaire responses are instrumental in planning future routes, timetables, and activities. This process ensures that we continually adapt to the evolving requirements of our passengers and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the service.

The data collected from these surveys is critical in supporting our grant applications. It helps justify our funding needs and is used to demonstrate the impact of the funding in end-of-grant reports. This evidence is essential for maintaining and securing financial support.

In addition to informing improvements and supporting funding applications, the survey results provide evidence of the ongoing need for community transport in our rural area. This evidence is a vital in justifying the continuation of our annual grant from North Northamptonshire Council.

Please find attached the results from the 2026 passenger survey.