

Rushton Community Minibus



Report for RPC Meeting on the 20th May 2026 prepared by Mike Brightman.

The Minibus is in good working order with no issues, damage or faults. Current Mileage 45530

Vehicle Roof.

Last year, the issue of the rust patch on the roof was raised, and a quotation of £1,200.00 was provided. At that time, no decision was made regarding the approval of this repair. Unfortunately, the rust has since worsened and is now spreading above the front windscreen. During the period of heavy rain earlier this year, a leak occurred in the roof, although it is not possible to confirm whether this was directly caused by the rust.

NNC Community Transport Grant 2026/27

All monthly and annual passenger statistics for 2025/26 were completed and submitted on time, as required for the ongoing partnership in providing a community transport subsidy. However, we have yet to receive confirmation regarding the subsidy amount for 2026/27.

The subsidy is determined by the number of passengers carried on our registered shopping routes and our claim for concessionary fares.

Any loss or significant reduction of this subsidy would have a considerable effect on our ability to cover running costs in the coming years.

The Future of the Community Minibus Service

The Parish Council must carefully review and decide on the long-term sustainability of the Rushton Community Minibus Service.

Currently, there is limited support for the service within the Parish.

To maintain passenger numbers, we have temporarily extended our routes to include Rothwell. Given ongoing uncertainties, the Council should consider whether making this extension permanent is appropriate.

Although the minibus is now 17 years old and has been well looked after, the number of advisories noted on recent MOT certificates is increasing. These are being monitored during the regular 8-week safety checks, but inevitably repairs will be required, and other issues may arise in future.

We have a substantial fund available to replace the current vehicle with a newer model if necessary.

In recent years, the minibus has successfully funded itself by registering additional routes which has enabled us to claim concessionary fares securing community grants, running numerous community trips, and promoting private hire.

However, this success has resulted in a significant administrative workload of 8–10 hours per week. All tasks are presently managed by the Coordinator, supported by Joy, without any additional backup. This has become a year-round responsibility, requiring commitment 7 days a week.

The Council should consider contingency plans for the operation of the minibus service should the current Coordinator become unavailable or decide not to continue in the role.