

New Direction



**Newsletter of the West Cornwall & Isles
of Scilly Rural Transport Partnership**

Issue 1 Spring 2007

What is the Rural Transport Partnership?

The Rural Transport Partnership (RTP) is an alliance of local organisations working to improve local people's access to services and facilities in rural West Cornwall (Penwith, Kerrier and Carrick) and the Isles of Scilly. We work with local communities to help identify their transport needs and find new ways of meeting them.

The RTP employs a project officer, Tim Andrewes, and a part-time assistant, Lindsey Mayes, to co-ordinate the partnership's activities and work.

We offer:

- ❖ Grassroots solutions, based on identified need and community involvement
- ❖ Joined-up action that links transport operators, service providers and users
- ❖ A local focus, with knowledge and expertise on access issues
- ❖ Advice and support for community transport
- ❖ An active role in project development and support.

Plans for the Year Ahead

Our activities are guided by the Cornwall Local Transport Plan 2006-11, the County Council's key transport policy document. For the current financial year, we will be focussing development work on the transport needs of the Lands End area and the Lizard Peninsula. We will also be supporting Roseland Community Transport with the development of a new community bus service, and will be undertaking further work to develop shopmobility schemes in local towns.

We will continue to support existing projects and groups, hold our regular meetings and respond to requests for assistance from local communities.

New Transport Services in West Cornwall

Six Parishes Dial A Ride

This flexible transport service started in October for the parishes of Breage, Crowan, Germoe, Perranuthnoe, St Hilary and Sithney. It is operated by West Cornwall Community Wheels and provides travel opportunities for work, shopping, visits to the doctors and other places.



For more information, phone 01736 757364 or visit www.wccw.org.uk

Go! Penzance

Go! Penzance is a shopmobility scheme which allows anyone with a mobility problem, whether temporary or permanent, to access Penzance. Based at the Wharfside Shopping Centre, the scheme loans powered scooters and manual wheelchairs.

For more details, phone 01736 351792 or visit www.gopenzance.com

Lands End – Penwith College Service

West Penwith Community Bus has been piloting a transport service from St Levan and St Buryan into Penzance targeted at Penwith College students and others needing to get into town for the start of the working day. A return service runs in the afternoon.

For further information phone 0845 201 1359.

Grants Available

Funding is available from DEFRA's Rural Social and Community Programme to help develop the capacity of the community transport sector and to increase the involvement of local communities in transport issues.

The following items are eligible:

Developing the Community Transport Sector:

- ❖ Training for staff, volunteers and committee members
- ❖ Purchase of appropriate IT equipment and software where this will enhance their capacity
- ❖ Buying in of consultancy/advice on a range of issues, including the development of social enterprise models of delivery.

Community Involvement:

- ❖ survey and consultation work
- ❖ set-up costs for local groups and forums and associated staff costs
- ❖ parish transport guides and other publications.

This funding has been arranged through the Cornwall Local Area Agreement. For further information, please contact Tim Andrewes.

Timetables and Guides

The summer bus and rail timetables begin on 20th May. Some seasonal services have already begun and can be found in a special supplement to the winter timetable. Pick up copies from your local bus station.

Penwith District Council has recently published *Days out In West Cornwall by boat, bus and branchline*. A separate, summary timetable booklet accompanies the guide.

A guide to the Fal Estuary, Roseland and Falmouth has been published. Called 'A Cornish River', it contains information about local transport services, destinations and suggested days out. Again, a summary timetable booklet accompanies this publication.

Rural Transport Explained

A new factsheet has been produced by the RTP to describe the framework within which rural transport work is conducted in Cornwall. It is intended as an introduction for all those with an interest in rural transport and accessibility issues.

The document can be downloaded from our website (www.westcornwallrtp.co.uk) or can be requested from the office.

Young People Demand Cheaper Fares

Young people in Cornwall have started a campaign for affordable bus fares, called **Kernow Fair Fares**. Bus operators currently offer a discount for young people up to the age of 15, after which the full adult fare applies. This is seen as unfair, particularly on 16-18 year olds who are mostly in full-time education and are therefore not earning a wage.

The Cornwall Youth Forum has set up an on-line petition on the Prime Minister's website demanding action on this issue. You can sign up at:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/kernowfairfares>

The Youth Forum is also planning a protest day in Truro on Saturday 16th June, which is the start of the national Green Transport Week.

And in the pipeline...

Accessible Car project: a wheelchair-accessible 8-seater vehicle operated as part of Community Wheels' voluntary car scheme and available for hire.

Roseland Community Bus: a new community bus service for the peninsula.

For more information about these schemes, please contact the RTP.

Taking the Long View

You may sometimes feel that decision-making processes are unbearably long and drawn out. But if you think it's bad for you, spare a thought for this developer involved in the redevelopment of the area around King's Cross in London:

'When we were selected as developer for this, I had hair, I wasn't married, I had no children, I had a father, two brothers and a sister. I now have no hair, I'm married, I have two children, I've lost my father, I've lost a brother and we still haven't got planning permission.' (*Source: Local Transport Today*)

Quiz

Which prize-winning novel opens with the sentence?

'Subsidising public transport had long been associated in the minds of both Government and the majority of its public with the denial of individual liberty.'

Answers to Lindsey Mayes by 31st May. The first correct answer pulled out of a hat will receive a set of limited edition First Great Western coasters, commemorating their franchise bid. Who knows what they will be worth in fifty years' time?

Contact Us

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Deadline for Issue 2: 15th June 2007.

If you do not want to receive copies of this newsletter in the future please contact Lindsey Mayes on 01872 224234 or lmayes@carrick.gov.uk