



Okehampton District Community Transport Group

September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Consideration of the Ring & Ride and Community Car Services in your Parish Precept.

The Okehampton District Community Transport Group (ODCTG) exists to serve the older or more disabled members of our community by providing them with the means of getting about when they are unable to use either their own or public transport. We are very proud of our service, which has been in existence for 30 years.

Our Ring & Ride fifteen-seat minibus, which can cater easily for wheelchair passengers, does daily trips to and from Okehampton from different locations each day. All our passengers tell us how grateful they are for this service. For some it is the only day they get out of the house to meet other people.

When the lockdown started we stopped our Ring and Ride and Lifestyle trips but continued to offer our volunteer car scheme and wheelchair accessible vehicles as we were lucky enough to still have some volunteers who were willing to continue despite the restrictions. This has meant that our clients (and many new clients) have been able to attend urgent appointments with our volunteers, many of whom had been in isolation for several weeks or months themselves, meaning it was much safer for them with our service rather than using public buses or taxis.

Due to the increase in demand we now have two wheelchair accessible vehicles which are used for visits to doctors or hospitals, and also to supplement the minibus for other trips.

For those who prefer a more personal one-to-one service to get them to the doctor's or hospital or any social visits there is the Community Car Scheme which is provided by volunteer drivers using their own cars. Again our passengers express their appreciation of this service without which they would have great difficulty. As so many of our clients are in rural locations we run up a lot of 'dead' miles which we need to pay the driver but which the passengers do not pay for, to try and help those who find it difficult to pay for transport out of their income.

In 2016 we purchased a 15 seater minibus which we are using as a community bus, available to groups as well as our own lifestyle trips. The trips run each Saturday and we also have weekday trips on different days to try and suit more clients. It is regularly booked by groups such as the Parkinsons, MS Group, local Church and youth groups. We keep the costs as low as possible, just covering our costs, however we do need to obtain funding for the ongoing insurance and regular servicing costs.

The demand for our car scheme continues to increase each year putting our service under pressure. We currently have over 1600 individual clients registered with our scheme plus we provide assistance with local care homes and facilities. In the year



Okehampton District Community Transport Group

2019/20 we carried 3807 passengers on 6248 journeys. The majority of these journeys were for health appointments and some for social/domestic purposes. Our wonderful drivers clocked up 109,561 miles and over 10,300 volunteer hours! Our car scheme cost £26000 to run last year, this is after fares paid by passengers has been taken into account.

We cover a very rural area of approximately 274 square miles with transport out of our catchment area to healthcare appointments.

We currently have 589 clients registered in your area, some of whom use us on a regular basis for the Ring and Ride shopping bus, for Wheelchair Accessible Transport, our Volunteer Car Scheme and lifestyle trips

This year has been very difficult so far with all our fundraising events being cancelled, our fares much reduced but with the same overheads such as office rent, insurance etc.

We have also had to send drivers long distances to collect clients due to so many of our drivers not being available during the pandemic which has increased our dead mileage claims.

We would like to request £1000 to enable us to continue offering our services at our current fares to enable as many people as possible to be able to afford our transport.

Devon County Council and West Devon Borough Council currently provide funding to ODCTG, although DCC have not increased this in over 10 years and WDBC cut the grant by 50% last year and there are no guarantees that this funding will be available in future years. We do appreciate that in the present financial climate your Council may find it hard to finance all it wishes to do, but it is also now that we desperately need your support more than ever if we are to keep up our vital services. The general increases in all costs and especially the seemingly unstoppable rise in that of fuel means that our services are running at a loss. If your Council has supported us in the past, our most grateful thanks and the hope that you will be able to continue to do so. If not please, please, try and help us this year.

Our budget is closely monitored by Devon County Council and they have approved our business plan for the forthcoming year. Our accounts have been filed with the Charity Commission on time every year and are available to view online.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and to consider our request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to know more about us or you would like one of us to come and do a presentation at one of your meetings.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sue Wonnacott
Manager

**OKEHAMPTON DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP
YEAR 1ST APRIL 2019 TO 31ST MARCH 2020**

**RECONCILIATION
BROUGHT FORWARD**

33814.31

RING & RIDE

INCOME 74118.53
EXPENDITURE 74213.32
-94.79

PEUGEOT

INCOME 4109.55
EXPENDITURE 3052.25
1057.30

CITROEN

INCOME 4401.90
EXPENDITURE 3091.95
1309.95

NEW BUS

INCOME 6236.55
EXPENDITURE 11651.04
-5414.49

COMMUNITY CARS

INCOME 5126.12
EXPENDITURE 1091.24
4034.88

RECEIPTS NOT CREDITED 47.00

CHEQUES NOT DEBITED 1260.94

ACCRUALS 52035.00

PREPAYMENTS 0.00

NAT WEST 87956.09

34707.15

0.00

INCOME EXPENSES

RING & RIDE

R&R funding DCC 15606.00 27760.25
R&R funding WDBC 6533.00
School run 17637.21 5166.96
Fares 4935.00 22171.49
Bus Fuel 3235.59
Bus Repairs 3001.17
BSOG 692.40
Other Funding 11932.67
Seamoor Lotto 338.00
100 CLUB 2446.00 750.00
Donations 14018.40
Office 12127.86
Sundry -20.15

Total Ring & Ride 74118.53 74213.32

PEUGEOT/FORD

BSOG 150.00 0.00
Insurance 1176.05
Fares/Expense 3959.55 1876.20
Total Second Bus 4109.55 3052.25

CITROEN

BSOG 150.00 0.00
Insurance 1082.36
Fares/Expense 4251.90 2009.59
Total Citroen 4401.90 3091.95

NEW BUS

Grants & BSOG 0.00 0.00
Insurance 2929.68
Fares/Expense 6236.55 8721.36
Total New Bus 6236.55 11651.04

COMMUNITY CARS

Mileage 5126.12 1091.24
Sundry 0.00
DCC 0.00
Total Community Car 5126.12 1091.24

TOTAL 93992.65 93099.81
892.84

CHQS NOT CLEARED

HMRC
Fuelcard
WDBC
Expense claims * 6

BACS 738.72 P West
DD 343.27 J Norman
BACS 70.06 D Wills
BACS 108.89

DEPOSITS NOT CLEARED

22.50
5.00
19.50

47.00

1260.94
0

West Devon Community and Voluntary Services

Email: info@westdevoncvcs.org.uk
www.westdevoncvcs.org.uk



The Ockment Centre
NORTH STREET
OKEHAMPTON
EX20 1AR

Tel: 01837 738133

Okehampton Town Council

17th September 2021

Dear Sirs

In our role as providing support to voluntary and community groups and communities across West Devon we are very much aware of the continuing and increasing need for subsidised transport service.

We therefore fully support Okehampton District Community Transport's request for funding support.

ODCT are a vital organisation in our area. We are aware of the huge rise in loneliness and isolation since the beginning of the Pandemic, and ODCT have helped to keep - particularly elderly people and those with disabilities - connected to key health & social care services and community services.

Their dedicated band of volunteers continue to offer an important and affordable service to those who have problems with their mobility, and for anyone cannot use the limited public transport that is available.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Chief Officer

Supported by: West Devon Borough Council
Registered Office: The Ockment Centre, North Street, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1AR
Registered Company Number 6115797. Registered Charity Number 1119730



West Devon CVS is a partner in A Devon-wide partnership building vibrant, healthy communities

