

Brixham Town Council

Report No:	21-2020		
Report Type:	Public		
Title:	Brixham Bus Network		
To:	Full Council	Date:	25.06.20
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Purpose of Report

To update Members following the resolution at the Full Council meeting held on 2nd June 2020 and to provide details of alternative methods of transport to enable a Council debate.

Resolution:

1. Contact the local MP, Mr Anthony Mangnall, to gain his support.
2. Contact Torbay Community Development Trust to discuss areas where a bus service doesn't exist.
3. To request Torbay Council includes the Town Clerk in all future meetings with the bus service providers.
4. Carry out a questionnaire on the Town Council social media sites, website and in the July edition of the Signal newsletter.

Update

The Town Clerk has emailed MP, Mr Anthony Mangnall, Torbay Community Development Trust and Torbay Council in accordance with the resolution. In addition, a Brixham Bus Network questionnaire is available online and the same questions have been put into July Brixham Signal.

Brixham Bus Network Questionnaire

The online version is available to view on <http://tinyurl.com/y8d5j955> and the questions were emailed to members and Torbay Council prior to going live.

Additional questions were suggested by Torbay Council and whilst they were seen to be valid suggestions, the email was received after the Brixham Signal had been sent to the printers and it was therefore too late to make any changes. In this respect, it was felt that it would not be best practice to make any changes to the online questionnaire.

The additional questions suggested were:

- At which stop do you board the bus?
- At which stop do you get off the bus?
- Do you use a Concessionary Bus Pass?
- Are the bus stops conveniently positioned for your use? If not please add further comments box?
- Are the waiting facilities at the bus stop adequate? If not please add further comments box?

Q.10 Should include Kingswear so that we know if people are using the bus for school/work in Dartmouth and returning home by bus.

Also, Dartmouth Community College should be included within any consultation.

At the time of writing this report, the online form had received 106 responses.

Community Car Schemes

Community car schemes are one of the most flexible forms of community transport and make a significant contribution to the movement of passengers.

Community car drivers use their own vehicles to carry those unable to use conventional transport to pre-booked destinations, most frequently medical appointments, in exchange for a specified mileage charge. An escort may travel with a passenger for a charge. Passengers book a journey in advance with the scheme co-ordinator who matches up the travel requirement with the drivers available.

The volunteer driver picks up the client from their home, takes them to their appointment and brings them back home.

Devon County Council has a list of community car schemes. As an example, Ilfracombe has a Community Car Service:

The Ilfracombe Community Car Service is for people who require transport to medical appointments outside of Ilfracombe. The volunteer driver uses their own car to pick up the client from their home, take them to their appointment and then bring them back to their home.

The journeys are charged at 45p per mile and the passenger will pay the total amount at the end of the journey. They will be issued a stamped receipt for their records (or earlier if being reimbursed by the NHS for travel costs). The service is currently part funded by DCC and The League of Friends of the Tyrrell Hospital.

Similar schemes are run in Tavistock, Oakhampton, Ivybridge and Totnes.

Councillor Giles has contacted Sustainable Frome, who currently run the car scheme in that area and here are the brief bullet points that he was obtained from Frome:

- **The scheme** - as per the press release circulated it is aimed at people who struggle to access things that they need due to physical disability, lack of resources or lack of services.
- **The set-up** - Frome Town Council were initially met with considerable blowback from local taxi firms who thought the Council were trying to compete with their businesses. After discussion the companies were satisfied that this was not the case.
- **Sustainable Frome** - took over the scheme in February 2019.
- **Funding** - partly from Frome Town Council, a local Health Centre, and partly from supportive local businesses but funding availability has been under pressure in recent times.
- **Journeys** - mainly within the boundaries of Frome. All journeys are pre-arranged by phoning the number provided for the purpose and then a volunteer is matched to the requirement (this echoes the way that the Torbay Community Helpline operates across a range of areas including transport provision).
- **Somerset County Council** - for some journeys passengers are able to use their concessionary bus passes, which are subsidised by the County Council.

- **Costs** - the main costs are 1 x paid volunteer for 20 hours per week @ £10 per hour, plus fuel support for the volunteer drivers.
- **Charges** - residents using the service pay a nominal rate of £2 per journey.
- **Popularity** - the scheme is used but to what extent was not available in this phone call. Hopefully this will be included when I am receipt of the e-mail that has been promised.