

## Review of Community Transport Support Services available to Whitmore Parish

The following is an overview of the various Community Transport Support Services that currently exist for the benefit of people living in Whitmore Parish. All provide similar services but the remit and the extent of the coverage varies.

- **Rural Runabout (Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural Parishes Transport Scheme)** – Is a registered charity (wholly not for profit) whose purpose is to enable groups and individuals to address issues arising from the availability (or lack of) of public transport, rural and social isolation, access to education and cultural events, and participation in sport. The service comprises of a self-drive 12-seater minibus and is available for hire to anyone living in the Communities of
  - Chapel & Hill Chorlton
  - Maer & Aston
  - Whitmore
  - Balterley
  - Wrinehill
  - Madeley
  - Betley
  - Keele

Hirers must satisfy the criteria for hire, which includes suitability to drive the vehicle. All designated drivers must first attend driver training and be deemed competent to drive the vehicle.

The vehicle is normally kept at the Madeley Centre but is currently parked at Betley Village Hall due to ongoing works at the Centre. A separate Committee is responsible for the management of the scheme, which is currently chaired by Robert Bettley Smith, who is also the Chair of Betley Parish Council.

The cost of hire is;

- First 40 miles @ £1.00 per mile
- Next 40 miles @ 0.60p per mile
- All other mileage @ 0.40p per mile
- Minimum charge £2.50
- A daily rate of £20.00 will be charged for hire in excess of 2 days

The service is available by calling 01270 820007, or by emailing [ruralrunabout@yahoo.com](mailto:ruralrunabout@yahoo.com)

- **Border Cars** - This service can be used by anyone living in the operating area (see enclosed map) who doesn't have access to a regular bus service or who needs a little help in using a bus service because of disability or mobility difficulty. This service

allows anyone living in the operating area to travel within and to and from Market Drayton, Eccleshall or to one of three key interchange points of Baldwins Gate, Ashley and Loggerheads, where if required they can connect with a bus service to travel further afield. The service in Whitmore Parish is limited as the boundary for the service is the railway line and therefore excludes most of Whitmore, and all of Acton and Butterton but the operator has informed me that they have limited flexibility to include properties close to the border, e.g., Appleton Drive, etc.

The service operates on a dial-a-ride basis. Routes are plotted each day from the daily phone bookings, which allows the service to operate only when there are passengers, and to vary routes according to the daily needs. The service operates Monday to Friday from 7am to 5pm and includes taking passengers to and from the local doctors within the operating area but excludes hospital appointments outside of the area.

The cost of hire is;

- Adults  
£3.50 single or £5.00 return
- Children and concessions  
£3.00 single or £4.00 return

The service can be booked Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm by calling Mandy on 07743 456262. Bookings can be made up to a month in advance but no later than two hours before travel.

- **Loggerhead and Ashley Voluntary Car Scheme** – Although the name suggests otherwise this is a door-to door service available to the wider community including Whitmore Parish.

The service is aimed at residents who have a medical related appointment but no means of their own to travel to it. The term 'medical related' is wide and covers not only visits to the surgery and hospital, it also includes, dentist, physiotherapy, optician, and chiropody appointments. Most journeys tend to be local and short: covering the surgeries at Ashley, Market Drayton, and Madeley, but from time to time and as required include the main hospitals.

Put another way, it's easing the burden for many people who otherwise would have great difficulty or, find it impossible to travel to their appointment.

Drivers are all volunteers and are reimbursed at a standard rate, which the passenger pays.

The cost of hire is;

- A flat rate of 0.45p per mile.

The service is available by calling Una on 07523 512934.

- **Whitmore & District Active Living Group** – Is a volunteer run registered charity, which provides GP and hospital transport services, together with prescription collection for its members only. There is no charge for this service.

The service is available by calling David Harrison on 01782 681115, or Elena Sudlow on 01782 680311