



Annandale Transport Initiative



SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Annandale Transport Initiative is a charity providing community transport for community/statutory groups and individuals in need, in Annandale and Eskdale. ATI operates an affordable, accessible service under permit conditions which means that only our members may use our services.



New bus on its way....

We asked all our member groups if they would contribute towards the purchase of the replacement for Lockerbie SF54 DSU. We suggested that if 100 groups donated £100 each that would raise the outstanding £10,000 we need. We have been absolutely delighted with the response and have received £3,625 so far. Funding received so far is £27,500 from Annandale & Nithsdale Community Benefit Company, £10,000 from the Moffat Charitable Trust and £5,000 from Magnox. The cost of the bus is approx £55,000.

We also made an application to the Morrison's Foundation (the supermarket's grant making body) towards the replacement of the Moffat bus – this was at the time that we were having problems with the door. We are delighted to have been awarded £32,000 for this purpose. As we are still short of our target for SF54 DSU's replacement, the Foundation has agreed we can use some of their funding to complete the purchase providing we raise further funds for the Moffat bus replacement. A replacement bus has now been ordered and should be with us in about 4 months.

How can we help?

We offer a range of transport services to community groups and individuals. If you are unsure whether we can help with anything please call us to discuss your ideas. We always operate within our permit which means that hires can only be for constituted groups and for the activities of the group. Remember that even if people are members of the same group the hire must be for the purpose(s) of the group. For example the bus couldn't be used for a wedding just because everyone attends the same sports club.

Volunteer drivers

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in driving for ATI we would love to hear from them. Our volunteers drive for a whole range of activities from short runs and long days out to day trips and maintenance journeys. Drivers receive full training and all expenses are reimbursed.

Contacting ATI

Office opening hours are Monday - Friday, 9am - 3 pm

By phone - remember if the phone goes straight to voicemail it means we're already on a call. Leave a message and we'll call you back.

By email - info@atibus.org.uk we usually respond by the next working day.

In person - we share our office with D&G Handyvan service. Although the staff on the ground floor cannot deal with any ATI enquiries, they will call us down if you cannot manage the stairs. Sometimes the front door is locked because the Handyvan staff are out and the door bell is switched on. Please give us time to get down the stairs!

01576 203053

Driving standards

Although all drivers receive training every four years, sometimes drivers may need a reminder about some aspects of driving and looking after their passengers. This is particularly the case when using wheelchair restraints for example. We are happy to provide familiarisations at no extra cost if you feel you need a refresher - please contact the office.

Driver responsibility

The driver is responsible for the vehicle. On collecting the vehicle a full walk round check must be made and at this point any damage to the bus must be notified to the office. Groups are only responsible for the first £150 of damage.; the insurance excess is £250 There was a recent example when we were not informed by the driver or group about damage to the Annan bus of which the driver must have been aware. No one took responsibility for causing the damage. Because of this we will now have to strictly enforce the rule that if damage is found at the start of the hire, the previous group will be held responsible. We ask that all groups help us look after the community vehicles - we know the hard way how very difficult it is to get funds to buy them. Please report any damage to the vehicles - we know accidents can happen so please own up.

Individual transport

An area where we have seen an increase in use is by individual users. We have 2 community cars, both suitable for travelling in a wheelchair based in Lockerbie. These can be driven by a volunteer or a friend/relative can be trained to drive. Individuals can become members and use the vehicles to get out and about, join family events, visit the hairdresser, attend medical appointments, etc. The service does not act like a taxi and must be booked in advance because all drivers are volunteers. Individuals join as members and hires are charged by the mile, this is currently 45p per mile.

Annandale Transport Initiative 72-74 High Street Lockerbie DG11 2AA
Office hours Mon—Fri, 9 am—3 pm