

Annandale Transport Initiative



Summer 2017

NEW MINIBUS



The latest edition to the fleet arrived in January. It's a VW Crafter with 16 passenger seats and an inboard lift. We have fitted an auxiliary battery which is turned off at the end of every hire to try to avoid batteries going flat when things are left on. Once again we'd like to thank our funders - ANCBC, Moffat Charitable Trust, Magnox, Morrisons Foundation and our member groups for their donations. We greatly appreciate the support and hope our users will enjoy the minibus for years to come.

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The team at Marks & Spencer's Gretna Outlet have chosen ATI as the local charity they will raise funds for this year. We are thrilled to receive their support.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Board are considering a name change to better reflect what we do. The front runner is Annandale Community Transport (ACT). Although we operate in Eskdale and may potentially extend to Dumfries, Annandale is the origin of the service. If you have any thoughts on this change or designs for a new logo incorporating a minibus we would love to hear from you.

FUNDING AWARDED

The amount of funding that ATI could apply for from A&E Area Committee, was reduced from £50,000 to £20,000. Whilst we are delighted to have received the maximum grant available ATI is left with a potential shortfall this year of £11,600. We continue to apply for funding from various sources

PETITION

The petition received a fantastic response and attracted over 3,000 signatures. ATI will be presenting the petition to the Leader of the Council and arguing the case for community transport to receive central, 3 year funding. Thanks to all the community for your support.

VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to drive a minibus or community car for the benefit of the community please get in touch. We will provide training and out of pocket expenses. There are a range of driving opportunities including group hires, individual journeys and day trips. Volunteers can drive as and when it suits them and select journeys they're interested in. We are most grateful to our volunteers for all they do - over 3000 hours in 2016!

Annandale Transport Initiative

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Office hours Mon—Fri 9am—3 pm

Company number 200686 Charity number SC 029660

COMMUNITY CAR NOW BASED IN MOFFAT

We now have a community car based in Moffat for use by individuals. It can accommodate a passenger travelling in a wheelchair and 2 other passengers. Individuals can become members of ATI and use the vehicle either with a volunteer or their own trained driver. Journeys can include medical appointments, social visits, recreational outings to the theatre, etc and to link up with other transport. The vehicle can be used for a few hours or a few days, subject to availability. Contact the office for more information.

PUBLIC SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Dumfries and Galloway Council, the NHS, and community organisations from across the region are set to join forces to tackle the challenges many people face accessing transport services. For those who do not drive or have access to a car, getting about when public transport is not physically accessible, convenient or affordable, can be a major challenge. This includes many older people, those with a disability or lower income, vulnerable people and many young people too. The evidence suggests that as a result many people in our communities become isolated and their health and wellbeing suffers

This partnership between the public authorities and community organisations will ensure that scarce resources are spent in the best possible way and that we recognise and support communities to meet their transport needs. It will be about recognising that social transport services for the most vulnerable in our community are designed from the bottom up and not top down. ATI is taking part in the partnership and hopes to work together to achieve improved transport provision.

DONATIONS

We were delighted to receive donations of £500 from Annan Hale & Hearty and £200 from Barbours Ltd. We are most grateful for this support.



Coordinator Irene Kirkland receives a cheque from Joe Massie of Annan Hale & Hearty.

HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

We are receiving increasing numbers of enquiries about transport for hospital appointments - this follows a change in Scottish Ambulance Service criteria. We can take passengers to hospital, including in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle., using a volunteer driver and community car. Passengers should provide plenty of notice to allow time to find a driver. ATI does not have the funding to provide free hospital transport but keep costs as low as possible.

VEHICLE KNOW HOW

All drivers are reminded to ensure that if they are driving a vehicle unfamiliar to them they should contact the office to arrange a vehicle familiarisation. We are also happy to provide refreshers for operation of the lift and passenger/wheelchair restraints if required.

If you have any questions about vehicles or suggestions about the information provided please get in touch.