

Dorset Community Transport

Blandford based community transport organisation 'DCT' is proud to offer safe, reliable, affordable, friendly, accessible transport to a wide range of community organisations and individuals with limited mobility across the DT11 area and throughout Dorset. They operate a large fleet of minibuses, many of which are accessible for wheelchairs, with a maximum capacity of 16 passengers. These are available approximately 9.30am–2.30pm school days and anytime evenings, weekends and school holidays. All drivers are DBS checked, have specialist minibus training, are First Aid trained and are uniformed. To find out availability or how to book call 01258 287980 9.30-2.30 Mon-Fri) or visit dorset@ectcharity.co.uk

Raising Kerbs

Dorset County Council is looking at options for putting in place 160mm raised kerbs at the East Street bus stop to help elderly or infirm passengers board and alight buses. As this will be a long term solution with the kerbs in the conservation area needing to be specially made in Purbeck stone the costs could become expensive particularly if other solutions are looked at for traffic in Blandford Market Place. The raised kerb in West Street is sometimes obstructed by inconsiderate parking. Enforcement action is being considered.



DT11 FORUM community partnership

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Update on withdrawal of Stourpaine School Bus

In December 2013 parents of Durweston and Blandford School pupils were threatened with the withdrawal of the school bus—the service was to be terminated in February 2015. The decision has been appealed due to the huge amount of supporting evidence which was presented to Democratic Services explaining why the proposed route is too dangerous for children to use and can't be relied upon due to issues with flooding. Dorset County Council agreed to keep the bus running until a decision has been reached. Democratic Services walked the route in early March. We have been advised the Committee will be meeting at the end of April so we hope to have a decision then.



BUS2GO GROWS!

The Community Company Bus2Go which has started to alleviate the isolation of living in rural areas by offering days out at reasonable prices continues to grow with the opening of its office (kindly provided by Spectrum) and a new website—www.bus2godorset.org

Due to the increase of passenger numbers a lot of trips are now requiring 2 or 3 minibuses so they are looking for more on board volunteers to look after the passengers. If you can spare some time to volunteer please contact Margo on 01258 837749 or 07917298321



Damory Upgrade Their Fleet

Damory are currently in the process of upgrading their fleet with newer vehicles. 5 brand new buses have been purchased for use in and around Dorchester with further new buses due later



this year for the Blandford area. However, of immediate interest to those in the Blandford and surrounding area is the arrival of some mid-life buses which will replace the oldest buses in Damory's fleet. Adam Keen, Operations Manager for Morebus and Damory said: "These newer vehicles are small enough to be easily manoeuvred around the lanes of rural Dorset, yet they are large enough to be fully DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant with the ability to carry wheelchairs, pushchairs etc. The buses in question are known for their reliability and have been used by our Sister company 'Southern Vectis' on the Isle of Wight to great effect. I look forward to seeing them in use in and around Blandford"

The Dorset Community Transport Directory has been updated and can now be viewed on-line at: www.dorsetforyou; just type in "Community Transport Directory". Information and contact details for the different schemes and the area and type of trips they cover are listed in the publication. If you know of a scheme that would like to be included, or are aware of any changes or updates that need to be made please contact: Erica Pretty e.pretty@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Marsh and Ham Bus Terminal Proposal

North Dorset District Council is considering a request to convert the coach parking space on the Marsh and Ham to a bus terminus, relieving the pressure on East Street. Visiting coaches will be redirected to the 4 spaces available on the Langton Road car park.

Proof of demand needed for a Blandford to London Coach Service

National Express might be persuaded to provide a coach service from Blandford to London if demand can be proven. If achieved, National Express could provide an 035 coach service leaving early in the morning to get to the Capital and back in a day. Please contact Julie in the DT11 Office in Nightingale Court to support this proposal.