



Connecting Communities in Wales Newsletter

Issue No. 1 | July 2018

Welcome to the first issue of the Connecting Communities in Wales Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of our new information-sharing resource for across Wales, which we hope will provide useful and interesting information about the Connecting Communities in Wales project.

What is Connecting Communities in Wales?

In 2017, CTA secured £1.1 million to deliver a new project that aims to build a pan-Wales demand responsive transport network.

‘Connecting Communities in Wales’ will be delivered through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020, which is funded by the Welsh Government and European Union.

Over a period of five years, the project will bring together transport providers, facilitate partnerships and bring new initiatives to life. This project provides a unique opportunity to raise the profile of community transport and help operators realise their potential for the benefit of local communities.

The project will seek to develop a sustainable CT network through building the resilience and capacity of the sector and in doing so will make an impact on the programme outcomes of rural poverty, financial sustainability, climate change & environment, and in-work poverty and social exclusion.



We're keen for you and your organisations to be fully active in the content of this quarterly newsletter and welcome any suggestions for content or stories that we could include. To share your stories and contributions you can contact Connecting Communities Project Executive John Evans via johne@ctauk.org | 01792 844290.

Meet the team

Alison Owen, Project Manager

alison@ctauk.org



Alison has worked in the finance sector for over 30 years, joining the Voluntary Sector in 2006, and Community Transport in 2012. Alison is well aware of the pressures on Third Sector finances, understanding the difficulties faced when providing Community Transport Solutions in Rural Areas; where a lack of affordable, accessible transport can have a significant effect on the local economy. Alison's aim is to help develop a fit for purpose, integrated transport service that allows rurally and socially isolated residents the opportunities to access the jobs and services they need in a safe, secure and fully accessible manner

David Brooks, Project Co-ordinator South Wales

david@ctauk.org



David has been with CTA since 2014 where his role as a Support & Engagement Executive was to support and strengthen CTA members and promote high standards of practice in community transport. David is now the South Wales Project Co-ordinator within the Connecting Communities in Wales team and works with CTA members and a range of partners and stakeholders to source funding opportunities to develop community transport solutions that fill gaps

in current provision.



Michelle Clarke, Project Co-ordinator North Wales

michelle@ctauk.org



Michelle started work at the CCW Project in February 2018 and has really enjoyed meeting Community Transport providers and colleagues in health and social care who share a passion for supporting people who struggle to get out and about due to age, poor mobility, or ill-health. Her last role as Chief Officer in a carer's organisation included staff management; volunteer recruitment; securing funding; project management; monitoring and compliance; and general service development. Michelle hopes to use these skills to help support Community Transport providers who are providing such a valuable service for people in their local communities – the emphasis is all about bringing people together to network, share good practice, and work together to deliver new community transport initiatives.

John Evans, Project Support Executive

johne@ctauk.org



After a long career in South West Wales, helping businesses to prosper and supporting people into employment, John is well aware of the impact that insufficient transport provision can have on economic development, individual opportunities and communities.

John is now utilising his skills and experience to support CTA's Connecting Communities in Wales project. Based at the CTA Clydach office, John works with the project team across both north and south Wales.



Connecting Communities in Wales Activities

Transport Innovation Networks

Earlier this year, the Connecting Communities in Wales project team launched a series of Transport Innovation Networks (TINs) with five events across Wales. The events brought together around 150 attendees from the public, private and third sectors to discuss transport gaps and opportunities for new initiatives that will ensure better connectivity for those who are isolated across Wales. The aims of the TINs are to:

- Foster collaboration and develop new transport solutions
- Undertake Data collection and analysis
- Develop Co-operation Operations (Project Partnerships)
- Seek funding to develop new transport initiatives
- Deliver professional training and capacity building

The events were a huge success with 89% of attendees saying they thought the sessions were ‘good’ or ‘excellent’. The information gathered from these events is now being processed and will inform the direction of the project going forward. The team is now looking at opportunities to support organisations to develop new initiatives.

Community Transport Mapping Exercise

As you may remember, CTA have been working with the BRO Partnership to carry out a mapping exercise for the community transport sector in Wales. Following the TINs at the beginning of the year, we have been working with members to strengthen the data and this information is now with BRO to finalise the report. We hope to be able to share this very soon.

Project Evaluation

Wavehill has been commissioned to undertake a three-phased evaluation of the Connecting Communities in Wales Project – Baseline, Mid –term Review and Final. The evaluation is being carried out alongside the implementation of the project so that its findings can feed into delivery. Through effective monitoring Wavehill will support the Team to ensure the best outcomes when the project is completed.



Support and Advice

Below is a summary of the projects the team are currently working on with partners across Wales, for volunteer expenses, training costs, staff costs, one-off events, transport, equipment, running costs, and/ or small capital projects. Applications focus on bringing people together and strengthening relationships, improving the places and spaces that matter to communities, or enabling people to fulfil their potential.

North Wales

Awaiting Outcome

Benllech Good Turn Scheme: £ 10k Big Lottery, Awards for All –Running costs to develop existing CT services

Gwelfor Community Centre (Holyhead): £ 10k Big Lottery, Awards for All & £5k Santander Discover Grant to pay for transport provided by Mon Community Transport as they don't have their own CT.

Centre for Independent Living, Gwynedd (Porthmadog): £ 10k Big Lottery Awards for All, £ 10k Morrisons Foundation, £ 10k The Foyle Foundation - Running cost to enable them to continue to provide CT services.

Currently in Development/Feasibility/Investigating

Ogwen Valley & National Trust – Potential Partnership

Penparcau (Aberystwyth): already got a minibus, would like to enhance services.

Meeting with CTO's and Third Sector Organisations to establish need, gaps in services etc. Very positive feedback, working to build partnerships to develop and enhance existing provision.

Quarry Villages CT: access to employment and services eg: healthcare.

South Wales

Awaiting submission to C.S.C.D.S (Co-operation & Supply Chain Development Scheme)

Llandysul a Phont-Tyeli Ymlaen: "Collaborative Communities" – £ 199k - purchase 2 x Minibuses for Group Hire, running costs, Co-Ordinator

Preseli Rural Transport Association: "Wheels to Work Wales" – £ 400k. To purchase 50 scooters, initially in Pembs, Swansea where there are existing schemes at capacity, to expand into Carmar, Ceredigion and NPT. Monmouth and Powys have shown an interest for Stage 2, with Stage 3 taking it into North Wales. Running costs, Staff at Stages 1 and 2, Training and Safety etc.



Currently in Development/Feasibility Stage – Various Funders

“Access to Primary Care” - Neath Port Talbot Valleys Areas (DANSA & NPT) –Wind Farm & Others

Purchase 2 x Electric Cars for Vale of Neath and Afan Valley, to operate Volunteer Driven access to Primary Care Appointments in Cluster Surgeries.

“Access to Hospital” – Brechfa Wind Farm Community Fund

Purchase 2 x Electric Cars for Alltwalis and surrounding area, to operate Volunteer Driven access to Glangwilli and Prince Phillip Hospitals. Awaiting Grant Criteria, have engaged with Hywel Dda for support eg: Charging Points at the Hospital.

Vale of Glamorgan – Develop Car Scheme – Access to services, possible link to Bridges

Energy Group of Sustainable Energy Wales – Minibus for access to Healthcare, using renewables – Porthcawl Area – R.D.P. Bid for funding to do a Feasibility Study - Partner with Cenin Renewables

Bridges Car Scheme – Monmouthshire

Project Co-ordinators to build upon existing Car Scheme provision in Monmouthshire to reduce isolation, currently operating in Monmouth, will establish NEW Schemes in Abergavenny and Chepstow.

If you have an idea you would like to develop with us, please contact your Regional Co-ordinator:

South Wales: David Brooks david@ctauk.org

North Wales: Michelle Clarke michelle@ctauk.org



Connecting Communities in Wales Planned Activities

Transport Innovation Networks

We will be holding the next series of TINs (Transport Innovation Networks) during the autumn.

Please note the dates and venues in your diaries:

South Wales: Liberty Stadium Swansea, **Tuesday 18th September**

Mid Wales: Elephant & Castle Hotel Newtown, **Tuesday 9th October**

North Wales: Conwy Business Centre Llandudno Junction, **Tuesday 16th October**

Further details and agendas for these events will be sent out in due course.

Volunteers Needed

We are currently running a recruitment drive on behalf of members across Wales for volunteer drivers to address the current shortages being reported across the country. The Community Transport sector need drivers who could offer a few hours per week to support services run by CTA members, and to help build and develop new transport initiatives in the future. CTA offers great support and training, and we will advise and signpost any enquiries to the most appropriate service in their area.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in volunteering for their local community transport providers they can get in touch with John Evans johne@ctauk.org | 01792 844290.

To share your stories and contribute to future editions of this newsletter, please contact:

John Evans, Project Support Executive

johne@ctauk.org | 01792 844 290

