

FUNDING SECURED FOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS 2017-2020



VALUE UP TO £10K

- 01 BDGTS 'Good Friends' Project
- 05 Grandma's Attic 'Community Minibus' Project
- 07 Cerrig Friends 'Volunteer Car Scheme'
- 08 FCIL 'Breaking Barriers' Project
- 11 CAMAD 'Volunteer Car Scheme'
- 12 'Harlech Hoppa' Pilot Project
- 14 Hay Dial a Ride 'Bank Bus' Project
- 16 NPTCT 'Linking Up' Project
- 17 Walsingham Support 'Forge Fach Friends Luncheon Club'
- 19 Upper Amman Valley CT 'Rural Community Car Scheme'
- 21 Ystradgynlais Community Car Scheme 'YCCS Development' Project

VALUE UP TO £100K

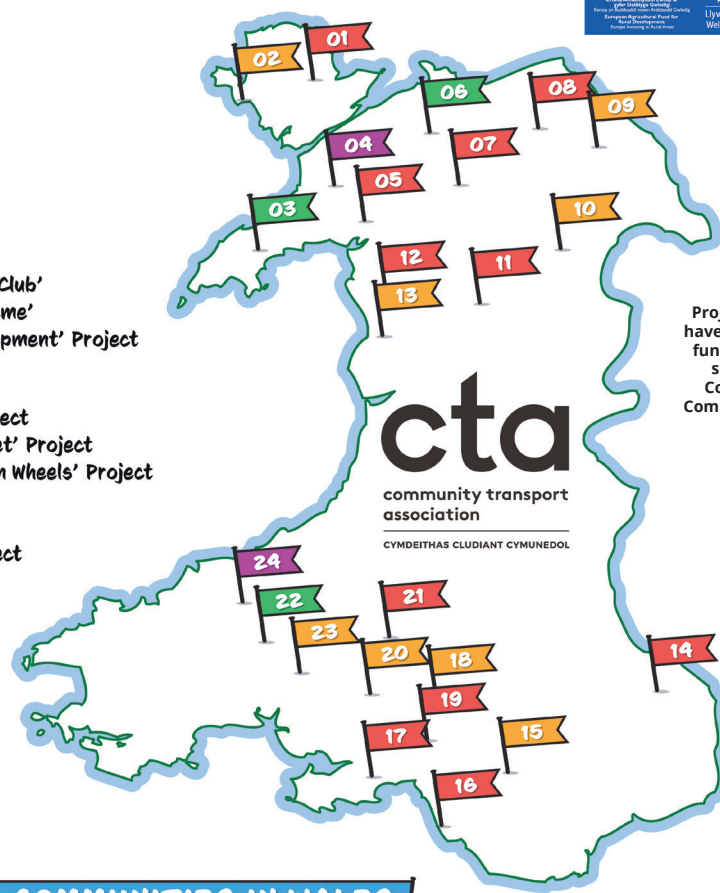
- 02 Morlo Gwelfor 'Dementia Friendly Community' Project
- 09 Welsh Border Community Transport 'Improving Fleet' Project
- 10 South Denbighshire Community Transport 'Meals on Wheels' Project
- 13 Abergynolwyn 'Electric Community Car' Project
- 15 Village & Valleys CT 'Valleys to Work' Project
- 18 Ystradowen Community Centre Luncheon Club Project
- 20 Dolen Teifi 'Our Opportunity to Travel'
- 23 Dolen Teifi 'Brechfa Electric Vehicle Pilot'

VALUE £101-£250K

- 03 O Ddrws i Ddrws 'Ways to Wellbeing' Project
- 06 CVSC 'Village Car' Project
- 22 Dolen Teifi 'Collaborative Communities' Project

VALUE £251-£500K

- 04 Partneriaeth Ogwen 'Green Valley' Project
- 24 Dolen Teifi 'Connecting Our Communities' Project



Projects that have received funding with support of Connecting Communities.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES IN WALES

Graphics: Scarlet Design Int. Ltd. 2020



GROWING COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES IN WALES

CTA's **Connecting Communities in Wales** project has been running since 2017. In that time it's worked with communities all over Wales to support existing community transport schemes to thrive and encouraged new ones to grow. Here, **Project Manager Alison Owen** looks at what the project has accomplished.

“For all our passengers, living in rural Wales is a blessing in so many ways,” Linda Hayward, Manager at Community Action Machynlleth and District told me. CAMAD, as it’s known for short, is a community transport provider based in Powys, the most rural county in Wales. “We’re fortunate to have the most beautiful countryside on our doorstep,” Linda continued, “but rural life brings with it some challenges. Getting from A to B can prove difficult for people who live in one of the outlying villages, where bus services are sparse or where people have mobility issues which require specialized transport. Transport can make all the difference in helping someone feel connected to their local community.”

Linda’s experience is one shared by

people in communities all across Wales. Reliable, accessible transport is absolutely vital to be able to access everything your community has to offer. But, far too often, that transport doesn’t exist for the people who need it the most. That’s where community transport comes in. Whether they’re local community groups running volunteer car schemes, organisations running dial-a-ride or registered community bus routes, CTA members work tirelessly to make sure that the people in their communities can access the transport they need.

These are the hard working, innovative, resilient, not-for-profit organisations that the CTA exists to support – and as well as through our usual work in Wales, since 2017 we’ve been doing this through the Connecting Communities in Wales Project (CCiW). The project was formed

in 2017 and received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government. The aim of the project is to support community transport in Wales, creating new partnerships, bringing funding into the sector and creating new transport networks that can connect people across Wales. We’ve brought together transport providers to facilitate partnerships, leveraged significant amounts of additional funding for the sector and brought new schemes and services to life.

It all starts with a conversation

In setting out to improve transport in communities across Wales, we needed

Case Study – The Bank Bus Project

One of the projects supported by Connecting Communities in Wales is Hay Dial-a-Ride’s **Bank Bus Project**. It’s a sad reality in rural communities across Wales that high street and over-the-counter banks are closing down. The popularity of online banking services means that there are less and less local services available to people. This has been the reality for one rural market town in Powys. In 2018, Hay on Wye experienced the closure of its last over-the-counter bank, something which caused a great deal of worry for local residents, particularly older ones, who relied on the service to do their banking, benefitting from the familiarity, re-assurance and face to face nature of the local bank. Many of these people would also be unable to easily access a car or public transport in order to get to other towns where these sorts of services still exist.

Recognising this need, and understanding that the closure of the Hay banks would have a detrimental

effect on many of its members, Hay and District Dial-a-Ride undertook a passenger survey and an initial pilot for their bank bus scheme. The pilot delivered a free of charge, door-to-door, accessible minibuss service from Hay to the nearby town of Brecon, enabling passengers to access face to face banking, amongst other essential services and social opportunities. After the pilot concluded, it was agreed that there was huge demand for a permanent community transport solution.

Working with the Connecting Communities in Wales team, Hay Dial-a-Ride developed a successful funding application to the Big Lottery Fund’s ‘Awards for All’ grant scheme to do just that, securing funding to continue the initial Bank Bus pilot. Since receiving this grant funding, the Bank Bus has continued to provide free trips for Hay Dial-a-Ride members to access banking and a range of other facilities and services in Brecon.

“The project is a life-line for many of our members,” said Lesley Moore, Chief Executive, “and is about far more than just accessing banking services. The project takes away a great deal of worry for those people who want to undertake their banking in a ‘traditional’ way. In addition, the project is a great way for passengers to meet up with old or new friends, go shopping, have lunch and of course have a chat on the vehicle. The Bank Bus also gives members something to look forward to, especially for those who are lonely and rarely see family or friends.”

“As an organisation,” continued Lesley, “we’ll certainly look for further funding in the future to continue the service. We’re aware of other rural communities who have lost their over-the-counter banks and we want to offer support and advice to assist community transport operators and organisations who wish to establish a bank bus project similar to ours.”

FEATURE CONNECTING COMMUNITIES IN WALES

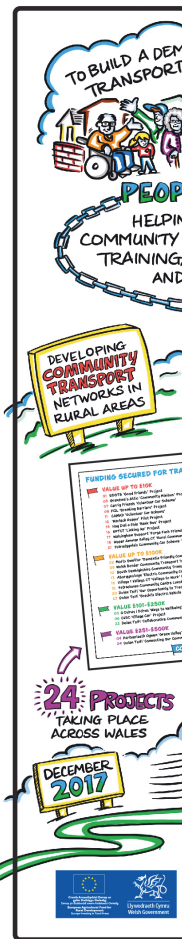
a good understanding, not just of where there was accessible and inclusive transport, but also where there wasn't. We knew where communities were doing it well; for years CTA has worked with inspiring charities across Wales who spend their days making sure that people can get to the places they need to go. To find

out where there wasn't that transport provision, and to identify the areas and communities that needed additional support, was a more difficult task, one in which we had to draw on the experiences and expertise of these local communities and groups. We started the project by facilitating a series of Transport Innovation

Network events across Wales, welcoming ideas from across the community and wider transport sectors. It quickly became apparent there was a lot of work needed to establish relationships to build new and innovative transport partnerships, linking up

additional stakeholders to investigate and nurture new ideas. Through the Transport Innovation Networks we encouraged people to work closely with community transport providers, other transport organisations, the wider third sector and Government.

We found that existing community transport providers had brilliant ideas to expand transport provision into less well served areas, but often lacked the capacity, resources and financial backing to embark on putting a new project or partnership in place. So we set about trying to turn those ideas into realities. We supported them every step of the way, from the inception of an idea, helping to turn it into something tangible, as well as looking for



Case Study – The Linking Up Project

Another of the projects that has benefited from support has been [the Linking Up Project](#). In September 2019, CTA member Neath Port Talbot Community Transport were approached by Birchgrove Community Centre and Birchgrove Older Persons Association who are based in the neighboring county of Swansea. The local community groups were concerned that they were losing their local public bus service, a loss that would have a devastating impact on the people who relied on it for getting to essential services and social opportunities in nearby Skewen and Neath. Older, disabled and vulnerable people in particular would be disproportionately affected by the loss of the service as they're less likely to own or run a car and would undoubtedly suffer greater levels of loneliness, isolation and a loss of independence.

Following a meeting with local stakeholders, including 85 concerned residents who regularly use the existing bus service, Neath Port Talbot Community Transport was asked to extend its Neath Town Rider accessible minibus services to serve residents in the affected communities. The Town Rider service would not only fill the gap left by the withdrawal of the public bus route but, with it being a door to door accessible service, would improve it.

With the support of CTA's Connecting Communities in Wales project, they set about looking for funding to cover the cost of running and extending the service. In January 2020, we'd identified an appropriate funder and supported the project to write a funding application to the Big Lottery Fund. As a result, NPTCT were delighted to hear they'd been successful, with an investment of

£10,000, enabling their Town Rider to start delivering journeys.

The Linking Up Project has subsequently made a real difference to the lives of service users, helping them access their communities as well as having the hugely positive social impact that community transport is known for. Individual wellbeing is a key part of the service, and it's been great to see people creating and reinforcing friendships made on the minibus, reducing loneliness and isolation and improving social interaction and connections.

"Our ethos," said Karen Long, General Manager, "has always been, if we can help people in local communities then we will, and we were happy to extend our support to people in Birchgrove, Glais and Lon Las to help them reach services in Neath and remain connected."



funding to make sure it had the resources it needed to make a real difference to people in communities across Wales. We often say that when it comes to putting in place exciting new projects, it all starts with a conversation, and over the last few years, we've certainly had a lot of them, with existing community transport providers wanting to expand their services, and with communities wanting help to set up brand new operations.

Leveraging funding for the sector

In what won't come as a surprise to many in the sector, one of the main barriers

to communities accessing new services was funding. We decided that, to hit our targets and support the projects we'd been talking to people about, we needed to look for extensive funding opportunities, which could bring about new services, but that could also help support community transport providers with core funding, giving them the resources they needed just to survive and secure their futures.

This is a resilient sector, and our members often have to do an awful lot with an awful little. But whilst this has become an expectation, with so many community transport providers running

on a shoestring, it doesn't make it right. Community transport needs strategic funding to continue delivering the frontline work it carries out in communities across Wales every day, connecting people with jobs, training, healthcare, reducing loneliness and isolation, and allowing people to access the services they need.

Through working with organisations across Wales to develop fundraising strategies and put in bids, both for core funding and for new and exciting projects, we've secured £1.8 million for the community transport sector in Wales, beyond the initial funding from the Welsh Government.

Training and support

In addition to supporting organisations to form new projects and partnerships, we also undertook an assessment of the sorts of training that community transport providers in Wales might benefit from. Organisations told us that as well as the usual driver training like MiDAS facilitated by the CTA, they'd also benefit from

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Case Study – Our Opportunity to Travel

The **Our Opportunity to Travel** project is another example of how Connecting Communities has helped fund new community transport schemes in areas where a community was struggling. In the summer of 2018, after delivering a MiDAS training course for a group of volunteer drivers, the trainer and development manager of Dolen Teifi Community Transport, Rod Bowen, was approached regarding the lack of affordable and accessible community group transport in Ammanford, South Wales.

Rod was told that the main barrier that people in the Ammanford area face when trying to access social and other opportunities was not just the lack of a community transport service, but that there was a lack of affordable and accessible public transport in the first place, which only increased the need for community transport.

From there, Dolen Teifi began to consult with key individuals,

community groups and other stakeholders in Ammanford, as well as the CTA's Connecting Communities in Wales team. We were able to support Dolen Teifi to scope out a project which would fill this gap in community transport provision, as well as to help develop and write an application for funding to the Big Lottery People and Places grant scheme.

In November 2018, the Our Opportunity to Travel project was awarded £98,000 over an 18 month period which enabled the purchase of a fully accessible minibus and also enabled Dolen Teifi to employ a part time development officer to oversee and develop the project.

Since then, the project has made a hugely positive difference for community groups and organisations from across the Ammanford region. Groups for younger people such as the Scouts and Brownies have benefited from the project, as well as groups aimed towards supporting

older people such as residential homes, sheltered housing and care homes, the local Women's Institute, Stroke Society and Deaf Blind Club.

The project has made group travel affordable by having a dedicated minibus for the community in Ammanford, helping people to travel together in a way that wasn't possible before. It's also meant that Dolen Teifi hasn't had to bring in minibuses from other areas where they deliver projects, such as Carmarthen and Llanelli which, in the past, hasn't proved to be viable due to the significant distances involved.

Having an affordable and accessible minibus within easy reach means that groups are not hindered by a lack of transport and this has enabled vastly more journeys to take place, enabling community groups to visit events, attractions and to reach the people and places they love. This, in turn, has reduced loneliness and isolation and made a real difference for service users.

wider forms of training such as first aid, governance, health and safety, financial skills and dementia training. We worked with the Alzheimer's Society to develop a train the trainer scheme for those working in transport, helping them to better understand the needs of someone living with dementia and giving them the tools to cascade that training to other staff and volunteers, ensuring that those delivering services on the front lines are prepared to effectively deal with issues associated with dementia. We've facilitated training for over 150 people and connected with over 100 organisations to look at developing these ideas and building training partnerships to inspire change and growth throughout the sector.

Of course, as has been the case with almost every project in every sector,

all across the UK this year, this came to somewhat of a halt, with the focus of the project team, and of the CTA team as a whole, turning towards supporting our members as the country went into lockdown. As things begin to re-start, and as the projects and organisations we've supported begin to play the important role of re-connecting their communities, we'll be continuing to offer these sorts of opportunities to people working across the sector.

Communities coming together

We're incredibly proud of the work we've done as part of this project, and prouder still of our partners and the community transport providers we've been working with, whose passion and dedication to provide for their communities has seen new

projects spring up all across Wales. The project has encapsulated CTA's vision of communities creating and sharing their own accessible and inclusive transport solutions. We'll continue to champion, connect, support and grow a thriving community transport movement across all parts of the UK. The case studies here showcase a fraction of the communities that have taken the initiative to look for new ways to connect people, and you can find more examples on our website at cta.uk.org/cciw.



MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Connecting Communities in Wales head over to cta.uk.org/cciw. If you'd like support from CTA for something similar to what we've shared here, we'd love to hear from you at hello@cta.uk.org.