

Community Bus for Bodmin – Trial period – Key information for potential users

A trial period of six months will start on the 23rd March 2020 for a Bodmin Community Minibus. It will be operated for this period by Andy Lyle, of Concern Wadebridge, who already runs Concern Wadebridge's own minibuses.

The objective of this is to run a bus for a trial period to see if we could sustain a Community Bus in Bodmin in the longer term.

The minibus is only available to non-profit making community and voluntary groups who hold a valid Section 19 Permit or is a member of Concern Wadebridge. Membership can be arranged simply on payment of £32.50 annual membership fee.

The buses

There are three buses that can be used

They are:

- 16-seater minibus – also can be 1 wheelchair and 12 seated passengers or 2 wheelchairs and 10 seated passengers. Driver for this bus needs category D1 on their licence and needs to have wheelchair training (given by Concern Wadebridge)
- 16-seater - Driver needs to have D1 on their licence
- 8-seater – can also be 1 wheelchair and 5 seated passengers. Driver needs category B on their licence plus wheelchair training.

The most appropriate bus that is available will be selected for your booking. We recommend that you book as soon as possible to ensure that you get the bus that is best for you.

The buses are based at the Concern Wadebridge site at The Betjeman Centre, Southern Way, Wadebridge. If you have your own driver this is where the bus will be picked up and dropped off.

The cost

There is a yearly group membership fee for Concern Wadebridge of £32.50.

There is a hire charge of £65 which covers the whole day. If you need to have the bus outside of these working hours (9.00am – 5.00pm) you will need to make special arrangements to pick up and drop off.

There is an additional mileage charge for the first 150 miles of 35p a mile. This increases to 50p per mile for trips over 150 miles. Please note that this is dependent of price at the pump and can vary.

Please also note if the minibus is going further than Exeter, this must be agreed prior to booking.

The process

Step 1. Contact Carol Randall on carol.randall2013@gmail.com or call on 07921 279930 with the details of your booking . We will need to know

- Dates and times
- Destination and purpose of trip
- pick up/drop off points
- do you need a driver? If not, is your driver registered with Concern Wadebridge?
- How many passengers and if any are wheelchair users or need to carry mobility equipment e.g. walkers

If there is a minibus available, you will then be sent a minibus booking form which you will complete and send back to Carol Randall

Step 2. Carol will confirm with Andy Lyle at Concern Wadebridge and forward the minibus booking form to him.

Step 3. Andy Lyle will confirm directly with you and arrange pick up /drop off and all other details. He will also send you any additional paperwork that might be necessary.

Step 4. You go out and have a great time in the bus. If you have a volunteer driver please be friendly as he is giving his time to help you.

Step 5. An invoice will be sent to you. Please pay it promptly.

Drivers

Finding volunteer drivers is one of the biggest challenges associated with running a community bus service. If you, or anyone you know would like to be a volunteer driver please contact Carol Randall for more information (see contact details below).

We would also urge organisations who would like to use the bus on a regular basis, or for extended trips, to provide their own driver.

The advantage of an organisation having their own drivers(s) is that we can guarantee that they can have the bus when they need it (assuming that it is not being used) as we won't be constrained by having to find a driver for them.

If an organisation has its own driver, they can also use the bus for more than one trip, or for a longer trip, during the day. The daily hire charge of £65 reserves the bus from 9am till 11pm (please see below regarding pick up and drop off outside of working hours). There is an additional mileage charge of 35p per mile but finding a volunteer driver to do more than one trip in a single day, or for a long period, may well be difficult. If you fancy staying for an extra hour or so at your destination you can if you have your own driver but not if you have a volunteer driver.

So, you can book a bus more easily, save money and be much more flexible if you have your own driver.

Finally

Please read the Concern Wadebridge Minibus Policy very carefully so that you are fully aware of your obligations and liabilities and what you need to do. If you do not have a copy of this document, please contact Carol and she will send you one.

Contact details : Initial contact : Carol Randall at carol.randall2013@gmail.com or call/text on 07921 279930. Andy Lyle at Concern Wadebridge will confirm contact details to use for him as necessary.