

Seend Community Bus report for the Village Meeting

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend this meeting.

I'm pleased to report that, after the much reduced service during the covid pandemic, from the 16th of May our shopping trips on Thursdays to Devizes via Sells Green, Seend Cleeve, Seend and Bromham will be able to resume. This has been made possible by our two new volunteer drivers, Rick Ellinger and Nick Jackson. The new Thursday timetable was included as an insert in the May edition of the Spotlight magazine. We also now have Donna Hodge who will volunteer when she is not working and has offered to drive the Salisbury run. Robin Thornton and his team of drivers continue to provide a very slick service taking children to Seend school every morning in term time. This now includes a pick up from Bulkington.

Pete Wallis, our chairman, attends regular zoom meetings with the local community transport team and keeps up to date with changes in regulations. We are able to continue offering the bus for private hire and still maintain our status as a charity providing it is only borrowed and driven by private individuals. We cannot offer the bus to commercial businesses as they would potentially be making a profit from our strictly volunteer non-profit making organization.

Our finances are in a very healthy condition partly due to the government decision that Wiltshire Council should maintain our bus pass refunds at the previous year's rate throughout lock down. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for their annual contribution and Wiltshire Council for their continued annual grant.

All this means that our next task will be the happy job of planning the purchase of a new replacement bus in the knowledge that with our strong band of volunteers who keep the accounts in order, maintain and drive the bus we can have this very valuable village asset on the road for many years to come.