

Seend & District Link Scheme – Summary for the Parish Council

It goes without saying that the last couple of years have been extremely difficult for Link scheme clients and our volunteers as adjustments were made because of Covid.

The support of the Parish Council has been of extreme importance and its donations have helped keep the finances of the scheme whole during a period where journeys were well down and correspondingly so were donations from clients.

The value to our local community is immense and we had one instance recently where a client had become stuck in their bath and the police were alerted by one of our link drivers, who when after repeatedly trying to unsuccessfully contact the client became worried. The police were able to attend and help the individual.

In the last year, our volunteer drivers travelled 2370 miles (+29% vs 2020) and gave up 254 hours of their time. Travel to district hospitals was up 43% and community hospitals +350% so the increased importance of our local health facilities is evident.

In total we now have 12 drivers, 1 coordinator, treasurer and chair. The shape of the driver team has changed as we recognised the need to recruit younger drivers to be there for the future. This has been very successful and we have recruited 8 new drivers in the last 18 months all of whom helping to lower the age profile of the group and help futureproof the scheme.

Overall, the scheme remains ready to continue to provide a hugely valuable service to our community and once again I sincerely thank the Parish Council for their support.

Garry Reason

Chair, Seend & District Link Scheme