

Action *with* Communities in Rural Kent



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Community Development Manager

Action *with* Communities in Rural Kent



(The Rural Community Council for Kent & Medway)

- One of a network of 38 RCC's countrywide
- A registered charity established in 1923
- We exist to encourage the development of thriving, diverse and sustainable communities
- We do this by helping communities identify and address their own needs

And by providing funding advice and other support for:

- Community Halls
- Community Led Planning
- Affordable local needs Housing
 - Rural Retail
- Rural Transport and Community Rail
 - New ideas!



“Research has shown that transport is the biggest concern for rural communities and the issue they most want addressed, - particularly having adequate transport to healthcare facilities.”

Former Chairman of the Countryside Agency, Dr Stuart Burgess Feb 2005.

Voluntary car schemes

Giving Kent a Lift

If you do not have access to a car, and other means of travel are unavailable or inappropriate, getting from A to B is not always as simple as it should be in Kent.

The bus may pass close by your house, but if your arthritis turns the walk to the bus stop into the equivalent of a double-marathon, you need personal door-to-door transport. You might occasionally book a ride on a Kent Karrier minibus. You can take a taxi, but the cost is too high to do that every time.

So, getting access to a car can make all the difference for you. If you cannot get a lift from family members, neighbours or friends, you could be really stuck.

This is where Kent's voluntary car schemes come in. Every week, we organise hundreds of lifts for people unable to get out of the house under their own steam. These are provided by our volunteers, using their own cars.

The transport we provide has a unique combination of characteristics:

- ▶ It is a very flexible system.
- ▶ It is cost-effective.
- ▶ It covers a wide range of journey purposes.
- ▶ It provides direct benefits to health and social care organisations, relieving them of a transport burden and improving attendance rates.
- ▶ It offers the personal touch, with volunteers performing many other valuable tasks besides driving.
- ▶ It is an efficient service provider, operating without difficulty across traditional boundaries.
- ▶ It underpins the delivery of other voluntary sector personal social services.

In this briefing, we describe the work of Kent's 23 organised voluntary car schemes in more detail.



David is a volunteer co-ordinator with the Ashford Car Scheme. He is also a user of the service which enables him to get home after his morning in the office.

Inside:

- What is a car scheme?
- What does it cost to run?
- Where does it take people?
- How many people use it?
- How flexible is the service?
- What are the wider benefits?
- Securing the future...

Community Transport Database

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website for Action with Communities in Rural Kent. The page title is "Rural Transport - Schemes Map". The navigation menu includes Home, News, Our Work, Events, Links, Contact Us, Membership, and Members. The main content area features a list of services under "you are in: Our Work", including Community Halls, Rural Housing, Rural Transport, Rural Access to Services Programme (RASP), Community Rail, Village of the Year, Rural Shops, Community Shops, Post Offices, Community Led Planning Grants & Funding, Funding Buddies, and FAQ's Parish Plans. Below the list is a map of Kent divided into districts, with a search box for "Enter your Postcode:" and a "Search" button. The map labels include Dartford District, Medway, Swale Borough, Thanet District, Dover District, Canterbury Council, Maidstone Borough, Ashford Borough, Shepway District, Tunbridge Wells District, Tonbridge & Malling Borough, Sevenoaks District, and Gravesham Borough.

You can download details of individual schemes

What is available?

Volunteer Car – Dartford District Volunteer Bureau Scheme

Dial-a-Ride – North West Kent Dial-A-Ride Service

Age Concern – Dartford

Darent Valley

Swanscombe & Greenhithe

Shopmobility - Bluewater

Volunteer Car Schemes

Do you live in rural Kent and Medway and need help getting around?

Are you without a car, disabled, elderly or find public transport difficult?

There are nearly 100 community transport schemes operating in the County to help you to NHS appointments, place of work or just to get to the shops or socialise.

Have you heard of

Dartford District Volunteer Bureau

Address : 33 Essex Road
Dartford

Postcode : DA1 2AU

Email : dartfordvb@care4free.net

Services : Volunteer Car,

Location : Dartford District,

Availability : Disabled, Elderly (over 65) who cannot use public transport.

Membership : Not Required

Charges : 40p/mile.

14 May 2011



The Rural Access to Services Programme is funded by SEEDA and Kent County Council in partnership with Action with Communities in Rural Kent, Medway Council, Church in Society and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Maidstone Borough Council representing Kent District Councils.



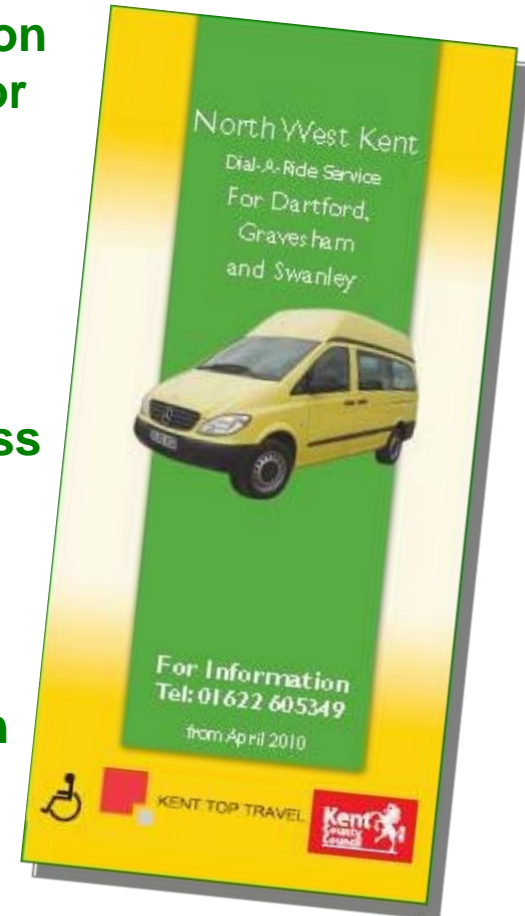
British Red Cross

Action with Communities in Rural Kent

www.ruralkent.org.uk

Dial-A-Ride

- Available to people with a medical condition that makes using public transport difficult or if you live in a rural area more than 500 metres from a bus route.
- Must register and be in membership (£5 per year).
- Will take you from your door to any address in Dartford, Gravesham or Swanley areas.
- Operates 08.00 – 18.00 Mon to Fri and 09.00 – 18.00 Saturdays.
- Can book same day or up to seven days in advance.





- Minibuses take clients to/from Day Centres.
- Age Concern Darent Valley – 12 seater minibus for Dartford Area for trips to Day Centres, shopping etc. Also available for Clients / Clubs /Day Centres to hire privately, either during the day Monday to Friday or particularly during weekday evenings and anytime at weekends. Hirers in Dartford area do not need to be in Age Concern age group.
- Contact 01322 666118 / 01322 668106 09.00 – 15.00 M-F or enquiries@ageconcerndarentvalley.org.uk

Shopmobility - Bluewater

- Shop Mobility provides free use of electric scooters, powered wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs to shoppers with disabilities, so long as you book in advance.
- To book the use of mobility equipment, please call Shop Mobility at least 48 hours in advance on 01322 427427, (availability can not be guaranteed if not pre-booked). On your first visit you need two forms of identity, one of which will need to be a printed address.



Community Buses

**“Section 19” &
“Section 22”
Small Bus Permits**

Allow non-commercial organisations to operate vehicles for “hire or reward” without the need for a PSV Licence.

Vehicles can be up to 7m in length with seats for 9 – 16 passengers.



Community Car Schemes

- **Volunteer drivers may convey up to 8 passengers at a time on a “not for profit” basis.**
- **Passengers may be charged a fare sufficient to cover costs.**
- **Needs an organisational structure – possibly a paid administrator.**



Wheels To Work

- Scooter loan the most common scheme.
- 6 to 9 months.
- Weekly contribution to maintenance costs.
- Compulsory basic Training.



Taxibuses

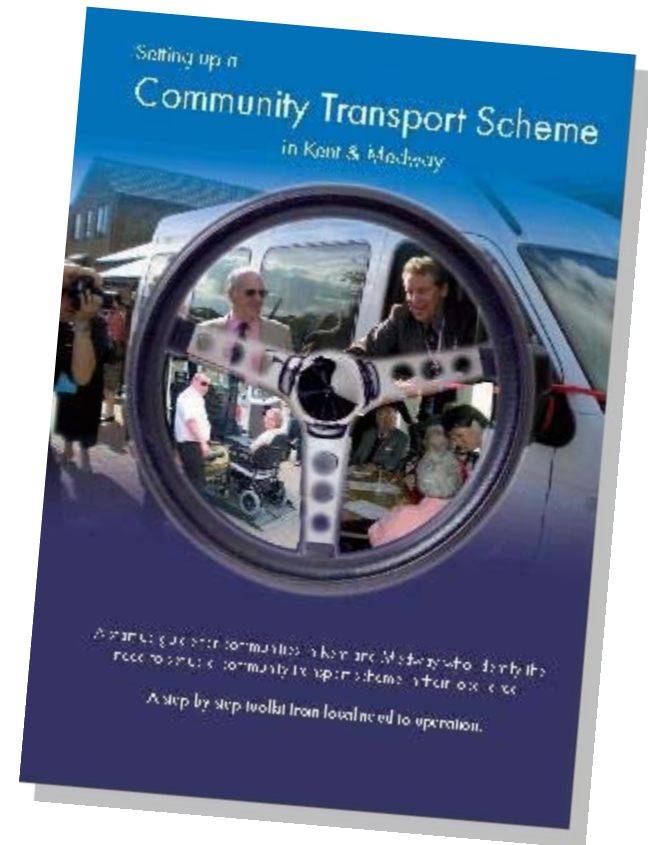


- Licensed taxi used on registered route with fixed stops.
- Must be run by licensed taxi operators.
- Available to general public.



Community Transport Toolkit

- Is CT right for you?
- How do you assess the need?
- What are the legal requirements?
- How to find funding.
- How to draw up a business plan.
- Case studies.



Contact Us

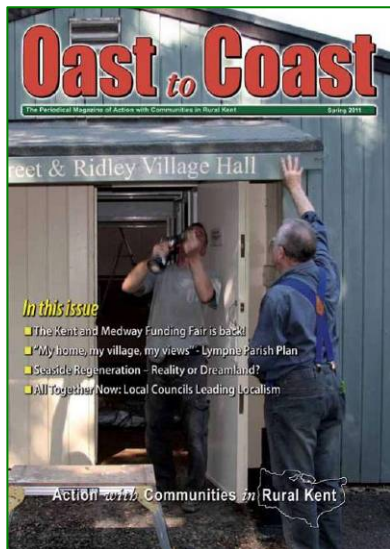
Action *with* Communities *in* Rural Kent

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Tel: 01303 813790

Email: info@ruralkent.org.uk



The Rural Community Council For Kent and Medway
Action with Communities in Rural Kent

High Contrast | Standard Text | Medium Text | Large Text

Home News Our Work Services Contact Us Professional Members

Welcome to Action with Communities in Rural Kent

What we do

- Provide direct advice and support to community organisations
- Stimulate community action, particularly voluntary action, and encourage good practice
- Develop and manage demonstration projects
- Provide professional support and advice to key service providers
- Raise awareness of rural issues and influence decision makers

Action with Communities in Rural Kent (previously known as Kent Rural Community Council) is an independent voluntary organisation (Registered Charity No. 212795). Membership is open to any organisation, community group or individual who supports our purpose. Benefits of membership include our monthly newsletter, 'Rural News' and our periodical, 'Oast to Coast' for news and information on rural issues, as well as invitations to participate in seminars, events and conferences at reduced rates, also one-to-one advice.

For more information on member benefits click here.

Village of the Year 2010
The Kent County Village of the Year 2010 award was presented to the village of Brabourne by the Kent County Council. The award is a recognition of the village's achievements in the past year. The award was presented to the village by the Kent County Council. The award was presented to the village by the Kent County Council.

Latest news We Are Moving!
From Monday 20th November 2010 after many years in Folkestone we are moving to Brabourne. Click here for more information.

Community Grants
Training money for community groups aimed at helping people to work. Click here for more information.

GDW&A Fund - Kent and Medway
GDW&A is a charitable trust established to help rural communities who are in with 100% of grant or assistance. Click here for more information.

NEW Parish Plans/East Kent Community Grant
The C&M Partnership Charitable Trust makes grants to parishes and churches to develop and improve the quality of life for local people. Click here for more information.

Funding across the Kent Peninsula
An EDV Community in Kent Peninsula is available to all communities across the Kent Peninsula and is aimed at supporting rural and urban parishes to meet genuine community needs. Click here for more information.

Kent Color Village of the Year 2008
The Color Village of the Year awards were presented to the village of Brabourne by the Kent County Council. The award is a recognition of the village's achievements in the past year. The award was presented to the village by the Kent County Council.

Rural Community Support 2008
The inaugural Community Resilience Awards were announced on September 1st. Click here for more information.

Bottom - Village of the Year 2008

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2011 Funding Fair

Registration is now open for the 2011 Kent and Medway Funding Fair.

It will be held on Wednesday 10 April 2011 at the Folkestone Academy. This is a free event, but the number of attendees is limited. To reserve a place please email info@ruralkent.org.uk or phone 01303 813790. Further details will be published shortly.

We're Going Digital!

The issue of Rural News will be the last one distributed solely by post. From March we will instead send a PDF copy to all members for whom we have email addresses.

We have been producing the newsletter much more regularly of late, and at a time of reduced funding we cannot bear the cost of printing and postage. It is not our aim to push printing costs onto our members and supporters and hopefully Parish Council Clerks and others can forward copies to their members via email. This will hopefully mean that the information contained in the newsletter gets to as many people as possible much sooner. Links to website and email address will also work.

Diary Dates

Saturday 12th March
K&M Planning Conference Latham Community Centre, 01303 24252 for more details.

Thursday 24th March
Low Carbon Community Network Event (Joint with Protect Kent) Singleton Environmental Centre All day event.

Wednesday 30th March
Kent Community Fair Partnership Annual Stakeholder Meeting, Lecture Theatre, County Hall, Medway 14.00 - 16.00

Wednesday 13th April
Kent & Medway Funding Fair, Folkestone Academy.

Don't miss it!

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www.ruralkent.org.uk