



Community Minibus - Billingshurst Division

ENJOY A FRIENDLY DOOR TO DOOR SERVICE



registered charity no 1173818

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2020

Hello everyone.

I'm writing to you to explain where we are with Billingshurst Community Minibus operations, and to request your input as we consider how and when we might resume some limited operations.

Firstly, we know that everyone has been impacted by the current pandemic, some very much more than others. Our thoughts are with all of those who have suffered or continue to suffer the consequences of the virus.

We know how important the minibus is in providing much-needed social interaction, trips out and door-to-door shopping. Since withdrawing the service in March, we have kept up with official guidance and regularly reviewed options for restarting trips.

We are now in the process of doing a risk assessment, which will help determine what additional measures we need to adopt, when we restart operations. **Our current thoughts on how we might operate, which are subject to revision, are laid out on the back of this newsletter. Please take your time to read these.**

We are asking for all passengers to fill out a simple questionnaire (attached) and let us know of their preferences to travel, based on revised procedures.

In parallel, we will be asking all our crews of their availability and willingness to adopt the new ways of operating.

We know that the new travel arrangement will not suit everyone, but we need to be realistic about what we can do, whilst managing the risk of infection.

Note that we continue to maintain the minibus in good running order (thanks to Mark!), and have had a reversing camera fitted to assist our drivers!

Please ensure your completed questionnaire is sent to me at 10, Kingsfold Close, Billingshurst, RH14 9HG by 5th September.

Kind regards, Steve O'Dowd : Local Coordinator (Telephone 784428)

For volunteer, associate membership, donation or sponsorship enquiries email
billingshurst.minibus@btinternet.com or ring Steve on (01403) 784428



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INTERIM OPERATIONS

Destinations

We will operate within approximately 30 minutes drive (each way) of Billingshurst.

We will restrict ourselves to maximum of 3 hour outings.

We will focus on shopping / town centres, garden centres and potentially pubs with gardens.

Potential destinations will therefore include Horsham, Tesco Broadbridge Heath, Camelia Botnar and other garden centres.

Minibus Operations

The bus will have a no-contact thermometer, sanitising gel, cleansing wipes and disposable gloves.

Crew and passengers will have their temperature taken at the start of the trip and should sanitise their hands when boarding / re-boarding.

Anyone (including crew) with raised temperature or having had exposure to the virus or virus symptoms within the prior 14 days, must not travel.

Face masks must be worn by passengers and crew. When driving, the driver may choose not to wear a mask. We ask that those who hold exemption certificates do not travel with us.

Crew will use disposable gloves when assisting passenger with boarding or when handling bags or mobility aids.

Social distancing should be maintained on the minibuss. A maximum of four passengers should be carried unless two are from the same household. The escort will show each passenger where to sit.

Minibus Cleanliness

The crew will wipe down seats to be used and surrounding areas (including crew area) using sanitising wipes, before and after each trip.

Only essential items will be left on the minibuss, everything else will be temporarily removed.

Schedule and Booking

As our schedule will be dependent on demand and crew availability, we will publish this in due course.

We will operate no more than 1 trip a day.

We ask that booking and cancellations are made at least 3 days prior to the trip. We will not run trips with fewer than 3 passengers.

Ad-hoc trips

For passengers who regularly travel with the same group of friends, they can set up a 'Regular Travel Group' and request specific trips. This must of 3-4 people. They can then request a specific one-off trip. We ask for 2 weeks' notice for this. Passengers can only belong to one 'Regular Travel Group'.

Fares

We will change the fares process so that money is not managed on the minibuss. Options we are considering include payment collection in arrears, potentially monthly.