



# creating sustainable **community transport** in northumberland



# conference

wednesday 31st january 2007

choppington social welfare centre, fernlea drive,  
scotland gate, choppington, ne62 5sr



# Creating Sustainable **Community Transport** in Northumberland

**This free to attend conference is about the future of rural and community transport in Northumberland. You will hear about the current situation and proposals for change. You will then be able to discuss what happens next with colleagues from around the county and make your contribution to the next generation of rural and community transport services.**

## **Who should attend this Conference?**

Community transport operators and other voluntary and community organisations that use, need or run community-based transport services.

Transport, social care and healthcare commissioners and purchasers, in the County Council, the District Councils, and the NHS, who want to use rural and community transport to deliver better services.



Members of the previous Rural Transport Partnerships, Northumberland Strategic Partnership, One NorthEast, and others concerned with social and economic development, who wish to encourage and facilitate the creation of a sustainable community transport sector in the county.

## **Rural and Community Transport Development Project**

One NorthEast, Northumberland Strategic Partnership, and Northumberland County Council have commissioned external assistance with a thorough review of rural and community transport in the county.

An experienced team is undertaking the review, consisting of TAS Partnership Ltd. ([www.tas.uk.net](http://www.tas.uk.net)), Derek Halden Consultancy ([www.dhc1.co.uk](http://www.dhc1.co.uk)), lead by Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy ([www.ratransport.co.uk](http://www.ratransport.co.uk)).

This Conference will hear from the consultants about their findings to date, the results of transport surveys, site visits to community transport operators, and so on. The Project's proposals for what changes are needed to make rural and community transport in Northumberland sustainable over the long-term will also be presented to delegates.

The Project will then provide development support and other forms of practical assistance to enable the proposed changes to be implemented, with funding a technical assistance programme available until March 2008.

## Programme

- 09:00** Registration and coffee
- 09:30** Welcome and introduction
- 09:35** **Community transport in Northumberland today**  
Findings of the Rural and Community Transport Development Project  
*Richard Armitage, Managing Director, Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Ltd.*
- Case study: TINN (Transport in North Northumberland)**  
*Vee Robinson, Coordinator, Transport in North Northumberland*
- Rural Transport Partnerships in Northumberland**  
Peter Mogridge, DHC Ltd., and Kielder Youth Hostel manager
- 10:15** Questions and comments
- 10:30** **Creating sustainable community transport in Northumberland**  
What transport is needed?  
*Derek Halden, DHC Ltd.*
- Recommendations of the Rural and Community Transport Development Project  
*Richard Armitage, Managing Director, Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Ltd.*
- 10:50** Questions and comments
- 11:05** Coffee
- 11:25** **Discussion Groups**  
An opportunity for delegates to look at the current situation in their area, to discuss the proposals for the future, and to put forward other options or suggestions. Each Group will be facilitated by the consultants.
- Group A: West (Tynedale area)**  
**Group B: North (Berwick, Alnwick, and Castle Morpeth areas)**  
**Group C: South East (Wansbeck, and Blyth Valley areas)**
- 12:45** Lunch, plus Exhibition and Displays
- 13:30** **Themed Workshops**  
Delegates will look at the contribution of community transport to people's lives, and consider what needs to change in order for this contribution to be realised.  
Each Workshop will commence with a five-minute introduction by the consultants.
- Workshop A: Access to health care**  
**Workshop B: Access to social networks and leisure opportunities**  
**Workshop C: Access to work and training**  
**Workshop D: Access to childcare, education and lifelong learning**  
**Workshop E: Access to services and shopping**
- The Workshops will last 45 minutes, so they can be run twice.  
Delegates should indicate the two Workshops they wish to attend on the Booking Form.
- 15:05** Tea
- 15:20** **Paying for rural and community transport in Northumberland**  
Current issues and potential solutions  
*John Taylor, Director, TAS Partnership Ltd.*
- 15:35** Questions and comments
- 15:45** **What happens next?**  
Discussion with speakers, joined by:  
*Kirsten Francis, Rural Towns and Services Specialist Advisor, One NorthEast*  
*Sue Bevan, Rural Development Executive, Northumberland Strategic Partnership*  
*Richard Waters, Head of Transport, Northumberland County Council*
- 16:00** Close and go home.
-

# Creating Sustainable **Community Transport** in Northumberland

## Location

Choppington is on the A1068 17 miles north of Newcastle and just under 5 miles south east of Morpeth.

## Travel by public transport

If you are travelling to the Conference by train or bus calling at Morpeth rail or bus station we can arrange transport for you from the station to the Centre at Choppington. If you would like to use this service, contact Jen Taylor at RATC by Tuesday 30th January 2007. We will need details of your expected arrival time at the rail station or the expected arrival time and bus service number for those of you travelling to the bus station.

## Travelling by Rail

The rail service to Morpeth is limited and the station has not been made fully accessible. Disabled people cannot access the northbound Platform.

Morpeth Station is about 5 miles from Choppington. There are direct rail services to Morpeth from Newcastle Central Station.

The 07:58 train from Newcastle stops at Cramlington and gets into Morpeth at 08:21. There is a direct train from Newcastle at 08:41 arriving in Morpeth at 08:55.

There is one early morning direct train to Morpeth from Chathill (07:22), Alnmouth (07:34), Acklington (07:42), Widdrington (07:49), Pegswood (07:55) arriving in Morpeth at 08:00. There is one evening return service to these locations that leaves Morpeth at 17:36.

There are trains from Brampton, Haltwhistle, Bardon Mill, Haydon Bridge, Hexham, Corbridge, Riding Mill, Stocksfield and Prudhoe to Newcastle Central from where you can get a train to Morpeth.

## Travelling by Bus

### To Choppington

X32/3 runs twice hourly Newcastle - Bedlington - Choppington - Ashington - Newbiggin or Cresswell. You can leave Newcastle Haymarket bus station stand Q on route X33 at 0840, or you can leave Ashington bus station on route X32 at 0842, and arrive at Choppington in time to register.

The 342 runs hourly direct to Choppington, from Freeman Hospital, Four Lane Ends Metro,

Killingworth and Cramlington. You can leave Freeman Hospital at 0756 or Cramlington centre at 0832 to be in time to register.

Buses on route 343 start from Whitley Bay (although you will have a slow journey!).

The 343 and 447 bus services run to Choppington. Both services are hourly.

The 343 calls at Cramlington, Bedlington, Choppington, Guide Post, Stobhill and Morpeth. The 08:14 or 9:05 from Cramlington Town Centre, or the 09:02 from Morpeth will get you to the Centre in time to register.

The 447 calls at Morpeth and Bedlington.

The 09:16 from Morpeth or Bedlington will get you to the Centre just in time to register.

### To Morpeth

The 505 Bus leaves early morning from Berwick Rail Station at 06:41 calls at Scremerston, Beal, Belford, Warenford, Alnwick Bus Station, Felton Stag's Head and arrives at Morpeth Bus Station at 08:20.

### Return journey

The 343 bus service is hourly at two minutes past each hour from Morpeth Bus Station, twelve minutes past the hour from Guide Post, or thirty three minutes past the hour from Cramlington Town Centre.

The 447 bus service is hourly at sixteen minutes past the hour from Bedlington Station to Morpeth Bus Station.

The 505 is an hourly bus service on the hour. The 17:00 from Morpeth Bus Station calls at Felton Stag's Head, Rasher-cap, Alnwick Bus Station, Warenford, Belford, Beal, Scremerston arriving at Berwick Rail Station at 18:47.

### Planning your journey

Contact traveline 0870 608 2 608 for information by phone on all routes and times, and [www.travelinenortheast.info](http://www.travelinenortheast.info) for enquiries through the internet journey planner. For journeys on the internet site type "Choppington (centre)" as your destination.



# Creating sustainable community transport in Northumberland

Wednesday 31st January 2007 Choppington (near Morpeth)

## BOOKING FORM

Organisation .....

Address .....

Town .....

County .....

Post Code .....

Tick if you want information about car sharing the journey to the conference?

Please book places at the Conference for these delegates:

Delegate 1  Job Title   
Tel  e-mail

Delegate 2  Job Title   
Tel  e-mail

Delegate 3  Job Title   
Tel  e-mail

Which sessions that the delegate(s) wish to attend

### Discussion Groups

A: West (Tynedale area)

B: North (Berwick, Alnwick and Castle Morpeth areas)

C: South East (Wansbeck and Blyth Valley areas)

### Themed Workshops

A: Access to health care

B: Access to social networks and leisure opportunities

C: Access to work and training

D: Access to childcare, education and lifelong learning

E: Access to services and shopping

**Delegate 1    Delegate 2    Delegate 3**

**(TICK ONE ONLY PER DELEGATE)**

                                          

                                          

                                          

**(TICK TWO ONLY PER DELEGATE)**

                                          

                                          

                                          

                                          

                                          

If you have questions about getting to the Centre or wish to inform us of your personal requirements, please call us straightaway.

**Return to:**

**Jen Taylor, Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Limited, Oxford House,  
Smithy Fold Road, HYDE, SK14 5QY. Fax: 0161 367 9242**