

Rural West Partnership



Rural West Taxicard: 2008 pilot scheme

Do you live in the rural west of Castle Morpeth borough and find it difficult getting from A to B? Would it make a difference to have some help meeting the cost of taxis? If so, you may be eligible to join **Rural West Taxicard**. Rural West Taxicard helps people in rural areas with mobility difficulties, or those without access to a car or public transport, to travel independently.

This pilot scheme is available to eligible Castle Morpeth residents living in the pilot area. It is similar to the taxi voucher scheme that ran in Whalton in 2003-05. Instead of vouchers, each service user gets a Taxicard that fits in a purse or a wallet.

Can I join Rural West Taxicard?

Look on the next page at the list of parish councils in the Rural West Taxicard area: do you live in that area? If you do, now check whether you are eligible on the Application Form (enclosed). If you are, then just complete the Form and send it in with a recent passport-size photograph.

The Rural West Taxicard pilot will be free to the first 100 eligible residents that apply. They will each receive a Taxicard, with their photo and name printed on it, together with their copy of the the Taxicard Handbook, containing a list of accredited Taxicard drivers and their telephone numbers.

Who is backing Rural West Taxicard?

The Rural West Partnership is promoting **Rural West Taxicard**. It is one of a set of transport improvements being promoted by Advancing Castle Morpeth, your Local Strategic Partnership. If you want to talk to a Council officer about the scheme, we will be happy to give you their contact details.

More information

If you have any questions, please ring me on **0845 458 1850**. I work for Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Ltd. which is helping to set up the pilot scheme. I will be pleased to hear from you and to help you with any aspect of **Rural West Taxicard**.

Yours sincerely

Jen Taylor (Administrator)

RATC Ltd. - on behalf of **Rural West Partnership**

More details overleaf...



The **Rural West Taxicard** will be organised as follows:

- The pilot area focuses on the rural west of Castle Morpeth, covering 14 parishes:
 - Belsay
 - Capheaton
 - Hartburn
 - Heddon-on-the-Wall
 - Longhorsley
 - Matfen
 - Meldon
 - Netherwitton
 - Stamfordham
 - Stannington
 - Thirston
 - Tritlington and West Chevington
 - Wallington Demesne
 - Whalton
- Eligible residents need to complete an Application Form and send it in with a recent passport-size photograph
- The Taxicard issuer, Concessionary Solutions Ltd., will conduct a residency check on the Electoral Roll
- Taxicards will be issued to the first 100 eligible residents that apply
- Each service user will receive a Taxicard, with their photo and name printed on it
- In the Taxicard Handbook, service users will find a list of accredited Taxicard drivers and their booking lines
- The service user (or their carer or friend) will book a taxi
- When the taxi journey has ended, the driver will put the Taxicard in a card reader and deduct the Taxicard payment from the card; the remaining cost is paid in cash.

And it is literally as easy as that.

We will be evaluating Taxicard carefully, in order to help decide whether to expand the scheme. This evaluation will include contacting some users by post. All service users will be encouraged to provide us with feedback about any aspect of the service.

For further details, visit the RATC website:

<http://www.ratransport.co.uk/rwtaxicard.html>

Or ring, e-mail or write to: Jen Taylor (Administrator), Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Ltd., Oxford House, Smithy Fold Road, HYDE, Cheshire, SK14 5QY
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