

**Rural and Community Transport Development Project**

# **Voluntary Car Scheme Seminar**



**Thursday 18th October 2007: 0930 - 1230**

Education Room, Visitor Centre, Alnwick Garden, Alnwick NE66 1YU

## Voluntary Car Scheme Seminar - 18th October, Alnwick

Voluntary car schemes provide vital transport for people who have no other means of getting about. Volunteers are recruited, they drive their own cars, to provide lifts for people wanting to get to healthcare appointments, go shopping, meet friends and attend social gatherings. A volunteer coordinator is required to ensure the smooth running of the scheme.

It is proposed that a voluntary car scheme should be established, provisionally called Getabout Northumberland. The initial work has been undertaken by a Steering Group that includes Age Concern Northumberland, Help The Aged, Transport in North Northumberland, Wansbeck Council of Voluntary Service, and WRVS. The project is just one of number of initiatives being undertaken by the Rural & Community Transport Development Project team.

This Seminar will describe the function and operation of the proposed scheme, and includes good practice examples from elsewhere. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions, talk to the Steering Group Members, and make your contribution to the development of this exciting new transport service that will be of particular interest to people living and working in the more rural parts of the county.

### Who should attend this Event?

This seminar will be of interest to transport providers, passenger representatives, and social and health care professionals:

- Community transport and car scheme operators who run community-based transport services. Voluntary, charitable and community organisations providing front-line support and services to combat social exclusion and isolation. Infrastructure organisations providing support and assistance to the voluntary and social enterprise sector. Some of these organisations may wish to be involved in delivering the voluntary car scheme in their part of Northumberland.
  - Transport, social care and healthcare commissioners and purchasers, in the County Council, the District Councils, and the Care Trust, who want to underpin delivery of their services by ensuring there is always suitable passenger transport available for those that require it. Some of these organisations will want to make referrals to the voluntary car scheme.
  - User group representatives are especially welcome to attend this event to help design and publicise what needs to be a first class service.
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# Programme

**09:00 Registration and coffee**

**09:30 Welcome & introduction to the seminar**

Kirsten Francis, Rural Towns & Services Specialist Advisor, One NorthEast

**09:40 What is a voluntary car scheme?**

Outline of the principles and aims of a voluntary car scheme

Deborah Oddy, Associate, Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Ltd.

**09:55 Benefits of a voluntary car scheme - a practitioner's view**

**10:15 Questions and comments**

**10:25 Proposed Getabout Northumberland Scheme**

- the 'kitemark'
- who will be eligible to ride?
- who will coordinate the volunteers?
- paying for the new voluntary car scheme

**10:50 Questions and comments**

**11:00 Coffee break**

**11:15 Road safety and volunteers**

- Training for volunteer car drivers
- Insurance and other safety issues

**11:35 Journeys to health: the health sector's reliance on volunteers and their cars**

**11:55 Creating a viable voluntary car scheme in Northumberland**

Gary Brown, Chief Executive, Age Concern Northumberland

**12:05 Panel: What next?**

Questions and comments with the Getabout Northumberland Steering Group

**12:30 Close**

*Delegates may purchase lunch at the Pavilion Cafe.*

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## How to get there

**By train** [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Alnmouth is the nearest railway station (4 miles away) on the main London to Edinburgh east coast route. A taxi or bus can be taken from Alnmouth to Alnwick.

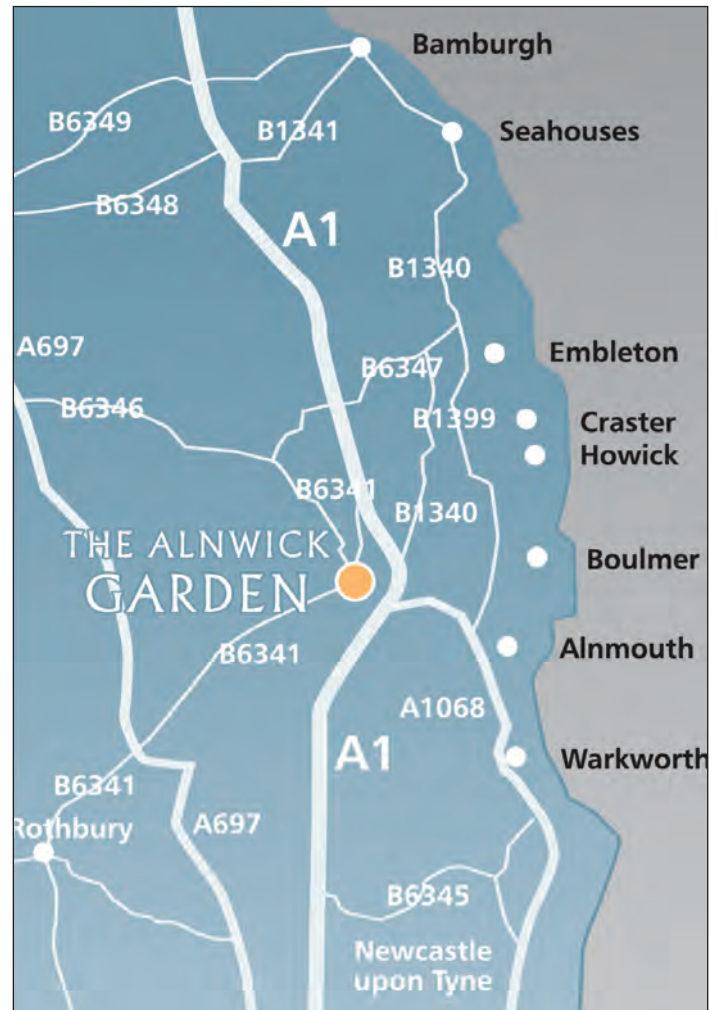
**By bus** [www.transportdirect.info](http://www.transportdirect.info)

There are regular bus services connecting Alnwick with surrounding towns.

**By car and coach** From the A1 take the junction signposted by the tourist information sign for The Alnwick Garden. The Garden is approximately 1 mile from the A1 junction, and is clearly signposted.

Cars and coaches access The Garden from Denwick Lane, where parking is provided.

**Parking** Delegates are allowed to Park in the Priority/Disabled Car Park as long as they tell Alnwick Garden staff that they are attending the Seminar. The Education Room is in the Visitor Centre.



## Rural and Community Transport Development Project

This Seminar is being organised by the RCT Project. Established in October 2006, the Project has been commissioned by One NorthEast, Northumberland Strategic Partnership and the County Council. After the Project team reviewed the current position, over 100 delegates discussed the findings at the CT Conference at Choppington in January 2007. The Project is now providing technical assistance and development support to rural and community transport across the county.

**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
COUNTY COUNCIL



### To contact the RCT Project team:

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## Booking Form

Education Room, Visitor Centre,  
Alnwick Garden, Denwick Lane, Alnwick NE66 1YU

Organisation

Address

Town

County  Post Code

Email

Please book places at the seminar for these delegates:

Delegate 1  Job Title   
Tel  e-mail

Delegate 2  Job Title   
Tel  e-mail

Delegate 3  Job Title   
Tel  e-mail

### Book your place

Delegates need to secure their place at the Seminar by booking beforehand.

#### How you can book:

**WEB:** Visit [www.ratransport.co.uk/news12.html](http://www.ratransport.co.uk/news12.html) to make an on-line booking.

**EMAIL:** [jen@ratransport.co.uk](mailto:jen@ratransport.co.uk) for the attention of Jen Taylor, RATC Administrator.

**FAX:** Fax your completed booking form to 0161 367 9242.

**PHONE:** Call 0161 368 6603.

**MAIL:** To Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Limited,  
Oxford House, Smithy Fold Road, HYDE, Cheshire SK14 5QY.

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