

Welcome to the CTA Northern Ireland e-bulletin for December 2009

CTA Northern Ireland News

Launch of Dial a Lift and Assisted Rural Travel Scheme

From 1st December the community transport organisations funded by the DRD's Rural Transport Fund began delivering a new door to door service for people living in rural Northern Ireland. Dial a Lift provides individual transport services for rurally isolated individuals who are unable to access conventional modes of public transport.

The scheme was piloted for over 18 months by 3 CT organisations: Rural Link, Down District Accessible Transport and Roe Valley Rural CT. Their successful delivery of alternative services for individuals led to the roll out of services across rural NI.

The commitment and investment by DRD into CT delivery of services is welcomed at this time of uncertainty and financial difficulty in Northern Ireland.

Running parallel and in partnership with Dial a Lift service is the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTs). Funded by DARD the scheme provided subsidy to enable rural dwellers holding a SmartPass to travel for free (over 60s) and half fare (disabled persons SmartPass). The scheme will run as a pilot until March 2011. It is hoped the success of this Assisted Rural Travel scheme could lead to CT inclusion in the Concessionary Fares scheme.

Investors in People success

17 rural CT organisations have successfully completed Investors in People. Their IiP awards will be presented to representatives on 13 Jan 2010 in Belfast Castle. This is the first time so many charitable organisations from the same sector (transport) have achieved the award. By working together each Rural Community Transport Partnership was able to share in management training courses organised through CTA with the DEL IiP delivery body. Joining the RCTPs at the awards ceremony will be Keith Halstead, Chief Executive of CTA, Seamus McAleavey Chief Executive of NICVA and Richard Wheeler, NI & Scotland Officer for GoSkills, the sector skills council.

CTA NI MiDAS Driver of the Year. Christine Mealiff of Easilift is confirmed as the CTA NI MiDAS Driver of the Year 09/10. Christine collected her trophy at the CTA MiDAS Driver of the Year Gala Finale held 27th November 2009 in the Silverbirches Hotel, Omagh. First runner up was Kieran Dougan of Out & About. Both the winner and first runner up are invited to take part in the UK MiDAS Driver of the Year competition in Manchester at Access10 on Tuesday 25th February.

2009 Semi-finalists included: George Moore of Lagan Valley Community Transport. Sharon McBride Armagh Rural Transport, Ivor Martin of Roe Valley Rural Community Transport, Patricia Bowker of Rural Link and Vivian Judge of Rural Lift for SW Fermanagh.



Pictured L-R:
CTA NI MiDAS Driver of the Year Awards:
1st runner up Kieran Dougan Out & About,
Winner Christine Mealiff Easilift,
Gerard Galvin CTA and Kevin Quinn of
competition sponsors Loughshore
Autos / PVS



L-R: Semi Finalists Patricia Bowker of
Rural Link, Ivor Martin Roe Valley,
Kevin Quinn of Loughshore Autos / PVS
& competition sponsor, George
Moore of Lagan Valley and Sharon
McBride Armagh Rural Transport.

Public Transport Reform Consultation - Have your say:

The DRD has launched the consultation documents for the Public Transport Reform. This reform proposes a complete change in transport planning and management structure of transport throughout Northern Ireland. The proposed new Public Transport Agency will retain central control over public transport planning and funding rather than devolving responsibility to the new Councils created through RPA.

Disappointingly CTA and CT organisations were omitted from pre consultation stakeholder discussions. The resulting consultation document emphasises a future of contracted services with a bias towards private transport providers.

The CTA urges all members to respond to the consultation to ensure the CT sector's voice and our representation of the community is not lost in the new legislation.

The CTA will publish our proposed consultation response in our [consultations page](#). If you would like to make comment or add any considerations prior to final submission please contact Kellie Armstrong kellie@ctauk.org or call 028 9094 1661.

The review of the Permit System: As part of the joint DOE/DRD Review of Operators Licensing there is an ongoing review of the Section 10b Permit system.

The s10b permit provides Community Transport organisations with the legal framework under which we can provide transport to meet the community's needs and to operate legally on the road. This NI review follows the DfT revision of the Permit System in GB as part of the Local Transport Act. The Local Transport Act in GB has introduced many opportunities for s19 and s22 operators. The GB review extended the s19 permit to include vehicles with fewer than 9 passenger seats and for paid drivers to be used on s22 permit routes.

The review of the NI Permit system is welcomed by CTA and the CT Sector. There is an opportunity to clarify, define and confirm s10b permit activities. There will be a government consultation (expected) January 2010 when you will have an opportunity to comment on how the NI permit system will be operated in the future.

CTA has invited the review team to attend consultation workshops to help you to both understand the new proposals and decide what your response to government will be.

ACCESS 10 MANCHESTER CENTRAL, FEBRUARY 23-25 2010

Running from 23 to 25 February at Manchester Central, Access10 will be the most significant event in the community and accessible transport calendar - and you now have the opportunity to:

- Book your delegate place(s) – **book now to avoid the VAT increase!**
- Advertise in the event show guide & directory – discounts for the rest of 2010 if you book for this issue!
- Help promote the event to your members and stakeholders – free entry to the exhibition for you and your service users!

CTA's partners this year include the Department for Transport, the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers, the Commission for Rural Communities and the Wheels to Work Network. The event will feature 50+ sessions over three days, the biggest and best accessible transport exhibition in the UK, free briefing and technical sessions, and the prestigious 2010 CTA Awards Dinner. Nomination papers for Awards are now available online.

Please find the information and details of how to make bookings on the [CTA website](#).

Northern Ireland Review 2009

Access09:

Thank you to all who attended the [first Access09 Northern Ireland Conference and Exhibition in Armagh City Hotel during the Summer](#). The exhibition was well attended by a range of vehicle suppliers, converters, seat manufacturers, passenger lift companies, transport software suppliers, community organisations and government departments. [The event was so successful the CTA in Northern Ireland intend running this exhibition every 2 years. The next show is due to be held summer 2011.](#)

The [Access09](#) conference provided CTA with an opportunity to further develop our commitment to engage with members. [As a result of discussions the CTA in NI have listened to our members and will work to](#)

Finance and the economy: finance for community transport is still proving to be a challenge in many areas, with increasing numbers of organisations experiencing difficulty in securing funding. [Members highlighted a need for increased training and capacity building to support the approach to tendering and contracts. The NI team will strive to deliver such support through our new Training Programme for 2010/2011.](#)

The CTA's future plans: we used the Annual Members Meeting to consult members on what they thought should be the main areas which the CTA should focus on in its new (2010 to 2013) UK Strategic Plan. There were a great many issues which members feel we should be working on and these can be broadly categorised under the following headings:

Advice, guidance, training and standards
Funding and finance
Networking and communication support
Contracting and social enterprise

Advocacy and representation

The development of more effective networking: at Access09 Northern Ireland it became clear there needs to be more engagement between CT networks across Northern Ireland. Often the Rural Community Transport Partnerships are considered to be the CT sector. CTA have heard the requests from members and will be encouraging development of other CT networks in the regions. This will include an urban network and a network for CTs not funded through DRD. All networks and members will be able to meet together at the various CTA NI events cross the year and at the Annual Members meeting expected to be held June 2010.

Access09 Northern Ireland Awards Night: As part of the celebrations the CTA NI Awards 2009 were announced at the CTA Gala Ball as part of Access09. Thank you to our Gala Ball sponsors Bluebird. Congratulations to all award entrants. Standards were very high making the decision making process difficult for the judging panel. The winners were as follows:

NI CT Volunteer for the Year	Joan O'Donnell, social car volunteer with CRCT	Sponsored by Armagh City Hotel
NI CT Best Investment in Volunteers	Armagh Rural Transport	Sponsored by Armagh City & District Council
Most Enterprising NI CT	Bridge Accessible Transport	Sponsored by Data Images
Best Exhibitor Access09 NI	Loughshore Autos voted for by exhibition attendees	Sponsored by CTA



Picture: L-R: **CTA NI Awards winners 2009.** G. Galvin Loughshore Autos, J Jordan ART, Dai Powell Chair CTA, B Scullion (representing J O'Donnell) CRCT, P Martin Bridge Accessible Transport, Kellie Armstrong Director for NI CTA



Picture: L-R: **Launch of NI MiDAS Driver of the Year Competition 2009.** Competition sponsor Kevin Quinn Director of Loughshore Autos/PVS with 2008 MiDAS DOTY Title Holder Rodney Monteith of Rural Link.

Training 2009: The CTA NI team provided over 25 training courses for members. This included Governance for Trustees, Minibuses and the Law, Customer Care, MiDAS T4T courses, CTA Risk management, Drivers CPC update, new AccessNI procedures, HR Management and financial management training. If you would like to avail of any CTA courses please review the training calendar listed in www.communitytransport-ni.com or call Gerry Galvin at CTA NI 028 9094 1661 for details.

AccessNI: The CTA NI AccessNI service is a member service providing enhanced disclosure checks for drivers, administrators, managers and Trustees. The CTA processed over 100 applications during 2009 for members (both paid and volunteer positions). The CTA in NI provides advice and support on criminal records checking processes for those members who have joined the CTA AccessNI register. If you would like to use the CTA service please contact jayne@ctauk.org.

S10b permits: The increase in permit applications during 2009 has been staggering. In advance of the review of the s10b permit more and more organisations are applying for new permits, to replace faded permits or to replace permits where the A4 section or disc has gone missing. The CTA is now the main issuing body for all permits across NI. Many of the education, health and Council's who formerly held designated body status refer permit applications to CTA. CTA will however only issue permits to members who can meet the terms of the permit (10 weekly checks, insurance criteria and driver training such as MiDAS). The CTA has issued over 120 permits in 2009. If you require new or replacement permits please contact jayne@ctauk.org

CTA NI Staff Team: The CTA NI staff team changed during 2009/2010. Your CTA NI support team comprises

Kellie Armstrong	Director for Northern Ireland
Gerry Galvin	Support & Development Officer (Northern Ireland)
Oonagh McCallan	Rural Liaison Officer, Managing Positive Change Project
Anthony Finn	CTA ICT Officer
Jayne McGarvey	Projects Administrator (job share)
Sylvia Trueick	Projects Administrator (job share)

Our new offices based in a more central and modern Belfast location are open for members to visit during business hours. Our office is open Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.

CTA – More services for you: The management of CTA Consultancy is based in Belfast. Bryan Myles and his team can provide consultancy and research services in any aspect of community transport policy, legislation and operations. Recent jobs have included business plans, policy evaluation, market research, social audits, technical support and community transport planning. Recent clients include Valleys CT (Denby Dale), Tower Hamlets CT, Sutton CT, Warwickshire County Council, Blackburn Borough Council, Department for Regional Development and Steer Davies Gleave.

CTA Consultancy is working on new packages for members who wish to formalize collaborative working or proceed with an amalgamation. For costs and details of the Amalgamation package please call Bryan Myles 028 9094 1664

CTA Events and Diary Dates 2009/2010

Training:

January 27 th	AccessNI Update Vetting & Barring Scheme <i>Limited places now available – almost full</i>	CTA NI Offices
February 9 th	Customer Care for customer facing staff	CTA NI Offices
February 23-25	Access10	Manchester
March 9 th	MiDAS Manual Handling <i>Limited places now available – almost full</i>	RCN, Cookstown
March 25 th	Governance training	CRC, Moygashel

Book online www.communitytransport-ni.com

Government Consultations

Public Transport Reform – DRD

Read CTA's [draft](#) response to this report during January 2010 at [consultations page](#)

There are a number of consultations expected to be released by government this winter:
Review of the O' Licensing for Transport Operators (including review of the Permit System) – DRD/DOE

[Consultation on the Older Person's Commissioner – OFMDFM](#)

[Charity Commission - DSD](#)

CTA Web Site Updates

New recruitment pages: both for CTA and external vacancies. You can go online at any time to [view current opportunities](#) with the CTA, or you can promote **your own vacancies** to the entire community transport sector at a very reasonable cost!

Access10 Exhibition: as noted above, delegate booking for Access10 will go live in September this year. However, [online registration for free exhibition](#) visitors is up and running now! If you just want to come along and view the largest and most impressive collection of community and accessible transport vehicles, products and services, then just go to <http://www.ctauk.org> to register for free attendance.

Event listings: we are also now able to promote your events on our [external events listing](#) pages. Contact Diann Quinn on 0161-367 1307 or <mailto:diann@ctauk.org> for full details.

And Finally!

Happy Christmas from the whole CTA NI team. Wishing you all a peaceful New Year.

Our offices are closed from 1pm Christmas Eve and will re-open Monday 4th January 2010.

Contact Details

If you would like to sponsor CTA member bulletins, please contact Diann Quinn on 0161-367 1307 or diann@ctauk.org

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