

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Councillors

As I am sure you all know, this scheme is supported by IWC working in conjunction with Southern Vectis to bring forward schemes that will address Community need when Wightbus ceases to exist at the beginning of September.

I personally have been working with a number of people to address the needs of St. Lawrence (and other areas), and our Group has had their bid accepted which will improve the present No. 6 route (Newport to Ventnor) by running an hourly service alternating between the present route through Whitwell with a service which will run through southern Niton and along Undercliff Drive. I attach a draft timetable which we are also hoping to extend to include Saturdays.

There are so far 5 such community schemes approved for the Island (and others such as the FYT bus in the West Wight which wish to remain independent) and we have held two very successful assessment days for the volunteer drivers. 36 people have been approved and are now undergoing medicals ready to commence training. The majority of these volunteers have confirmed that they are quite happy to drive for any of the schemes. It is in respect of organising the volunteers that the schemes will require a Coordinator, and SV has offered the use of an office, telephone, computer, etc. for the Coordinator, but the schemes will need to financially pay for this person, who will obviously be key to their success. It has therefore been discussed that all the schemes will equally pay towards this salary, and for this reason, I am asking the following from Ventnor Town Council:-

- 1) We have worked out that, for our No. 6 scheme, the contributing amount split between the supporting town and parish councils (Ventnor, Niton and Whitwell, Chale, Gatcombe and Chillerton) will be £250 each. I ask that VTC will support this and agree to this amount being made available. We are more than optimistic that this scheme will be successful, and it is the intention that monies coming back to our Group will be used to pay for the coordinator in the future. Which leads me on to my next request to VTC
- 2) Ventnor is the largest TC within our scheme, and it is requested that VTC should receive, oversee and administer the monies which will come back to our scheme from Southern Vectis in respect of the paying fares and any donations that passengers may wish to give.

I thank VTC for their consideration of the above and hope that they will agree that this enhancement of the No. 6 service will be important to many residents within our area and not just to St. Lawrence where it will indeed be vital for the village.

Susan Scoccia – Elected Member for Ventnor West