



CommMiniBus

# ComMunity Bus Update

022

Dec 2023

## We're Getting Set to Grow and Welcome More New Passengers. Are you ready to Join Us?

If you're one of our regular passengers, you'd probably know that 2023 is a challenging year for us in CommMiniBus, as we have encountered a number of mechanical issues. Despite having to cancel a number of trips and operate in a reduced scale, we were able to keep most regular services unaffected.

On the flip side, we have started the new school bus route and have expanded our reach to villages in the eastern part of Northamptonshire.



We have started expanding fleet this year by introducing the red single decker bus on routes 78 and 80P. In addition to our original minibus, we will have access to additional step-free minibuses for existing and new rural services next year.

Forthcoming service changes or new regular service:

Service	Start date	Changes / New Service
<b>80P</b>	4 Dec 2023	Service rerouted to cover Walgrave, Old, Holcot and Northampton College Moulton, omitting Weston Favell Centre.
<b>K</b>	Jan 2024	<b>Thrapston Zone</b> - Pre-booked service from Thrapston (& villages en-route) to Rushden Lakes + ad hoc trips to other destinations.
<b>K</b>	Jan 2024	<b>Oundle Zone</b> - Trial town service and new regular services around the town and from nearby communities.
<b>Q / K</b>	Q1-Q2 2024	<b>Brixworth Zone &amp; Haddon Zone</b> - Service day adjustment and reinstatement / introduction of additional trip
<b>A</b>	TBC	A new pre-booked service to Peterborough city centre.
<b>Excursion</b>	TBC	Regular longer-distance trips to selected destinations at weekends, operated by high-specification minibuses or coaches.



We're welcoming new communities from NNC area to join our pre-booked minibus network. We have invited parish councils to help provide information about the transport need and recruit trip coordinators and volunteer drivers, in order to make the new services possible. If your village is not listed above, speak to us or your parish council, call us at **0333 188 0591** or email [info@cmbus.org](mailto:info@cmbus.org).

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## Meeting Mr and Mrs Sanders - why do they campaign for bus services when Tom still drives?

This month we're interviewing Mr Tom Sanders from Mawsley, who was a parish councillor, started Mawsley Bus Users Group and was among the first ones to use our minibus in 2020.

### **Why did you move to Mawsley and set Bus Users Group?**

Val and I moved to Mawsley Village in 2005 from Northampton. Having retired in 2000, we chose Mawsley because there was a strong community feeling with several senior groups including the Coffee Club and a membership of 60 seniors. Val has never driven, so the hourly bus service to Kettering and Northampton was another great appeal to us.

Unfortunately the off-peak bus service was withdrawn when funding from the developer was used up, and therefore we started to campaign to reinstate an off-peak bus service.

### **You've got a car and can still drive. Why do you still use the bus?**

My support for our rural bus services is based on a fundamental belief that public transport is an entitlement to everyone, inclusive of citizens and families without access to a car, travel to employment opportunities, student travel to education facilities and commuter travel to our local railway links, plus the benefits of social engagement and reduction of carbon footprint. We usually go on the trips on Wednesdays to destinations further afield.

### **What do you and Val enjoy most about the trips?**

Val and I use the trips in preference to the loss of appeal and limited retail facilities at Kettering. It's easier to get to Rushden Lakes by bus as parking is often an issue there. The social engagement is enjoyable, especially the special trips to the theatre.

### **Do you have any other comment?**

The new 80P school bus route is an excellent addition to our services, but I have a concern for the lack of support the current shopping trips, which restricts the future sustainability and the ability to introduce additional services for Mawsley.

#### **Our comment:**

Tom has always been a keen supporter of our service. We thank him for his advice and help so we could manage to launch a brand new service during COVID.

We're growing our team and fleet, and we believe we can offer more to the community next year, by introducing more trips and destinations, including those outside Northamptonshire. Meanwhile, let's hope we can have better support from passengers and volunteers to keep us going forward!

## Service Information (Bus pass accepted on ALL services)

### I. Timetabled bus routes

Service No.	Route (Information: <a href="http://cmbus.org/nnlocal">cmbus.org/nnlocal</a> )	Service Days	Remarks
<b>78</b>	<b>Walgrave - Kettering</b>	Fridays	Connects KGH
<b>78B</b>	<b>Kettering Circular</b> (via Thorpe Malsor, Loddington, Broughton & Pytchley)	Fridays	
<b>78C</b>	<b>Kettering South - Pytchley</b> (via Thorpe Malsor, Loddington & Broughton)	Fridays	Return trip of 78B
<b>78D</b>	<b>Kettering - Weston Favell Centre</b> (via villages on demand)	Fridays	Pre-book if travel from a village
<b>80P</b>	<b>Mawsley - Northampton</b> (via Old, Overstone Gate & Northampton College)	Mon to Fri	School days only

### II. Pre-booked public bus service (Service Q/K)

Zone	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024
<b>Brixworth Zone</b> <b>SHOPPER HOPPER</b>	Serving Brixworth, Cold Ashby, Cottesbrooke, Creaton, Haselbech, Naseby, Spratton & Thornby		
<b>Aldi, Overstone &amp; Brixworth Town (SH-A)</b>	<b>MON</b> 4/12, 18/12	<b>TUE</b> 2/1, <b>MON</b> 15/1, 29/1	<b>MON</b> 12/2, 26/2
<b>Weston Favell Ctr &amp; Brixworth Town (SH-B)</b>	-	<b>MON</b> 8/1, 22/1	<b>MON</b> 5/2, 19/2
<b>Trips</b>	<b>MON</b> 11/12 Rushden Lakes	-	-
<b>Haddon Zone</b> <b>HADDON HOPPER</b>	Serving Coton, East Haddon, Guilsborough, Holdenby, Ravensthorpe, Teeton, Watford & West Haddon		
<b>Daventry (HH-A)</b> via Long Buckby Station	<b>TUE</b> 5/12, 12/12, <b>THU</b> 21/12	<b>THU</b> 4/1 <b>TUE</b> 9/1, 16/1	<b>TUE</b> 6/2, 13/2, 20/2
<b>Rugby (HH-B)</b> via Rugby Station, J1 & Elliot's Field	<b>THU</b> 28/12	<b>THU</b> 25/1	<b>THU</b> 29/2
<b>Trips</b>	-	<b>THU</b> 30/1 Corby Town Ctr.	-
<b>Mawsley Zone</b>	Serving Broughton, Harrowden, Great Cransley, Little Cransley, Loddington, Mawsley, Old, Orlingbury, Orton, Pytchley, Thorpe Malsor & Walgrave.		
<b>Regular trips on WED</b> to Corby Town / Asda (COR), Wellingborough (WEL), Weston Favell (WEF) & Rushden Lakes (RUL)	6/12 (WEL + meal) 13/12 COR 20/12 WEF 27/12 RUL	3/1 COR 10/1 WEL 17/1 WEF 24/1 RUL	7/2 COR 14/2 WEL 21/2 WEF 28/2 RUL
<b>Other trips</b>	-	31/1 Beckworth Emp	-
<b>Thrapston Zone</b>	Serving Denford, Gr./Little Addington, Irthlingborough, Islip, Raunds, Ringstead, Stanwick, Thrapston, Woodford		
<b>Trips to Rushden Lakes</b>	7/12 (Thrapston & Islip)	<b>THU</b> 18/1	<b>THU</b> 15/2
<b>Oundle Trial Service</b>	-	<b>THU</b> 11/1	<b>THU</b> 8/2 (TBC)
<b>Trial Service in NNC</b>	Please contact your parish council or <a href="mailto:bookings@cmbus.org">bookings@cmbus.org</a> if your community is not listed above. If there are enough passengers to take part, we can arrange a trial trip.		
<p>* These services are <b>pre-booked only</b>. <b>First come, first served</b>.</p> <p>* Booking can be made online at <a href="http://cmbus.org/bookings">cmbus.org/bookings</a> / <a href="mailto:bookings@cmbus.org">bookings@cmbus.org</a>, by texting <b>07888 011 891</b> or over the phone.</p> <p>* The bus will call at any bus stop en-route if requested. Bus pass accepted and a mileage based fare applies to other passengers (Capped at £2).</p>			

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# Volunteers Needed - can you be part of our lifeline service to help passengers get out and about?

*By being a volunteer driver and coordinator, you can stay active, meet new people and help the most vulnerable in your local community.*

Are you looking for a new volunteering role which will help make a difference to vulnerable and isolated people in your community? Do you enjoy meeting new people, keeping active and helping others? We need you!

Last year, our one and only minibus has travelled nearly 20,000 miles, that was before we started route 80P, which operates on school days.

Our bus service is the only public transport option in many of the villages we serve. Without enough drivers and vehicles sent onto the road, many of our passengers would find it hard to leave their home. causing isolation and declining mental and physical health.

*If you can spend a few hours per week to help run this life-changing service, let us know!*

All we miss is ... YOU!



Volunteer Minibus Driver...  
Are you our next #Transport Superhero?



Company Uniform



- 45p mileage expense  
- Subsidy for refreshment  
- Free bus travel for family\*



Enjoy the socialisation

\*One family member. Subject to eligibility criteria.

We're also looking for PSV Drivers (D license)

[Part-time, Term time only]  
Hours: 4 hours per day, M-F  
Salary: €12,300 p.a. (pro rata)  
Requirements:  
• D license with CPC  
• DBS check  
Starting in: October 2023

**If you ...**

- are confident enough to drive our 7-m long AUTOMATIC minibus safely,
- have 5 hours to spare every week,
- possess a D / D1 license, &
- want to give back to society by offering a vital transport link to rural communities,

be our next transport superhero!

Bus pick-up: Brixworth / Wellingborough / TBC



CommMiniBus

Get in touch NOW!

Website: [cmbus.org/joinus](http://cmbus.org/joinus)  
Email: [info@cmbus.org](mailto:info@cmbus.org)  
Hotline: 07888 011 891

## Council launch £950k grants scheme to support community transport services in West Northants

20 November 2023



West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has launched a new £950k grants scheme to create new and support existing community transport initiatives in West Northants, as well as support the expansion of current grant funded transport projects and services.

This grant funding will be available over the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 for eligible community transport projects from 1 April 2024, following £547,181 funding from Central Government via the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and £80,337 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), in addition to £342,000 of Council funding.

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## CMB welcomes WNC's new grant and bus policy

WNC has recently consulted about its new Bus Policy, which explores the possibility to partner with community transport operators to run services to improve rural accessibility.

A new grant will also be launched to fund community transport vehicles and operating costs.

The CMB team welcomes the new approach, and will try our best to work with both NNC and WNC to enhance the reliability and reach of our services.

We will be submitting an application for at least one Euro VI minibuses, which will be primarily allocated to serve Brixworth, Haddon and Mawsley Zones.

Part-funded by:



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