

Community Transport In Shropshire

James Willocks

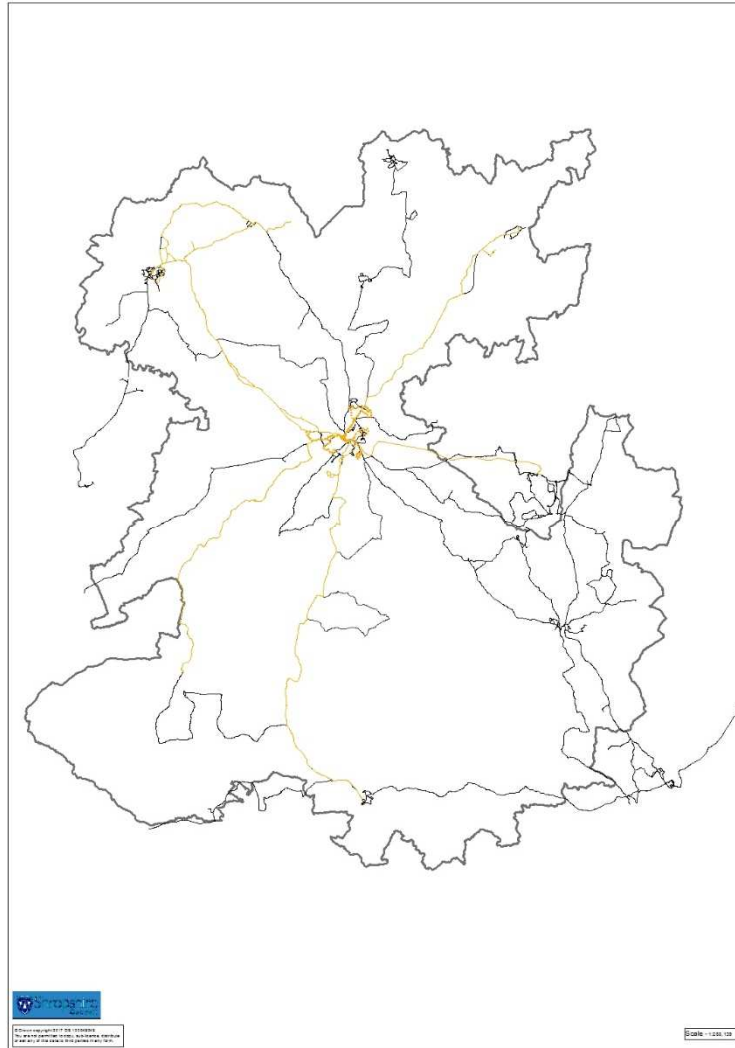
Transport Commissioning Group Manager



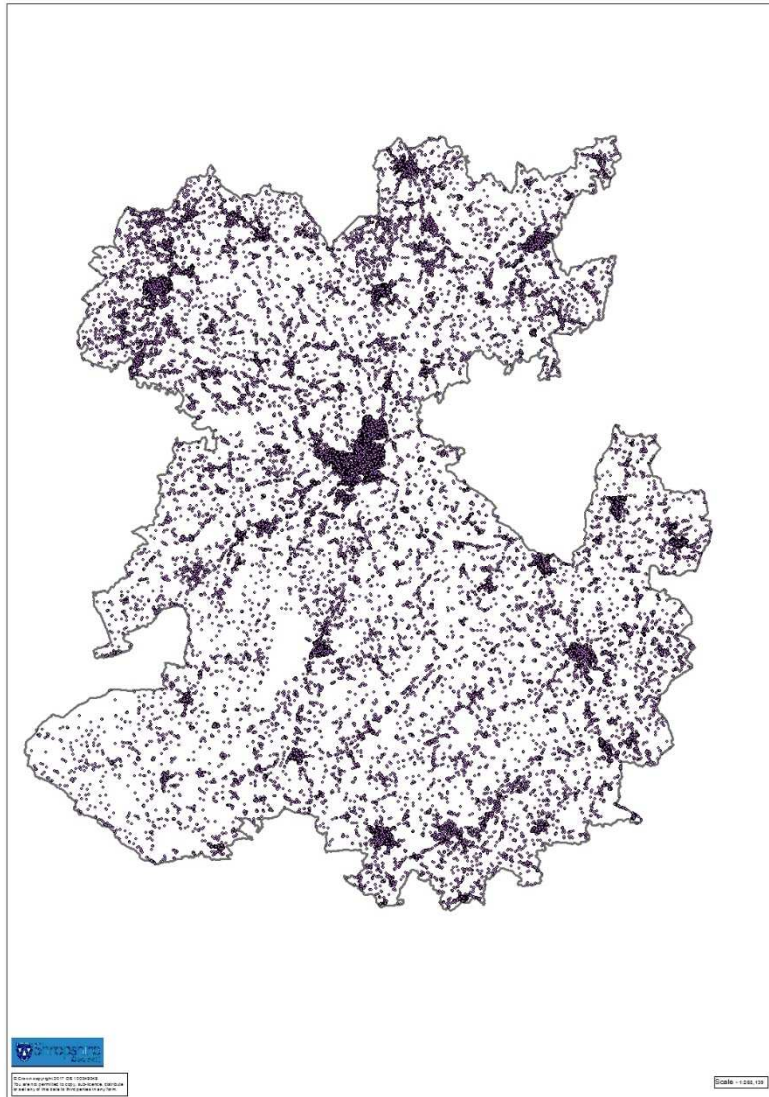
How do they Operate?

- Community Transport in Shropshire provides a key safety net
- Enabling those people for who public transport is not suitable or available
- Providing access to essential services and facilities, such as healthcare appointments and shopping opportunities.
- The transport they provide is designed to meet local needs that conventional transport services leave unmet. This is usually due to non-availability of a conventional service or passenger mobility issues which makes traditional public transport unsuitable
- These services are dependant in the main upon volunteers to operate and meet the needs of the local communities they serve.

- All the schemes are independent of Shropshire Council in terms of their management structure and trading status.
- Shropshire Council retains an observer / mentor position on the board of each group.
- The use of all Community Transport schemes is based on membership, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.
- All of the schemes operate Dial-a-Ride style services where journeys must be pre-booked
- This criteria can vary from Group to Group



Current Local Bus Services Network



County Addresses

Community Transport Consortium

- The sector as a whole is now formalised as a Community Transport Consortium.
- This has further strengthened the identity of the sector and provides additional options for development and integration amongst the community transport operators in the future.
- Some Community Transport Schemes / Groups do still sit outside of the Consortium
- The Consortium has been awarded a number of transport contracts
- Potential to create greater sustainability for the sector and individual groups

Community Groups and Funding

Community Transport Grant Payments

	Base Grant	Concessions	Total
Albrighton Flyer	£5,000	£4,600	£9,600
Bishop's Castle Dial-a-Ride	£13,650	£2,000	£15,650
Bridgnorth Community Bus	£12,000	£5,425	£17,425
Broseley & Much Wenlock Friendly Bus	£10,080	£9,000	£19,080
Church Stretton Area Ring-&-Ride	£37,524	£20,400	£57,924
Corvedale Buzzard	£6,891	£2,000	£8,891
Mamble & Bayton Community Bus	£250	£0.00	£250
North Salop Wheelers	£5,500	£4,000	£9,500
Oswestry Dial-a-Ride	£35,300	£6,000	£41,300
Oswestry Community Cars	£10,400	£0.00	£10,400
Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride	£53,199	£54,400	£107,599
Shropshire Link Replacement Budget "zero hour contract"	£50,000	£0.00	£50,000
CT Consortium	£20,000	£0.00	£20,000
Total	£259,794	£107,825	£367,619

Section 19/22 Consultation

- The proposed DfT Section 19/22 permit consultation has brought into doubt the future of many community transport groups.
- The consultation centres on the interpretation of whether these groups operate for a profit or their primary function is transport, if that is the case (and the latter is for most) then they would be required to apply for a Transport Operators Licence or relinquish the current 'commercial' contracts resulting in a shortfall in operating costs.
- This will have a significant impact on Community Transport in Shropshire, with most groups finding the funding for these requirements prohibitive.
- The licence holder operates exclusively non-commercially

Potential outcome from consultation

- The DfT consultation ends on 4th May 2018 with the results of this unlikely to be made public until the Autumn.
- Should the legislation remain in its current format the groups will find themselves with a significant shortfall in funding, which as we understand from the consortium would likely lead to their closure.

Impact of Community Transport in Shropshire



134,500 Journeys



2,600 wheelchair journeys



3,600 Members



300,000 Miles

As a lady in my 70's without children, this service is my lifeline

My quality of life is so much richer now I am able to socialise again.

Being a volunteer driver has given me a new lease of life

Local Economy
£3.36m
Added Value

Health & Social Care
£2.2m-£6m
Savings

For every £1 invested we generate approx. £12 of social value

Annual Value of Volunteer Hours
£0.5m

