



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

# Case Study

## Rural Access to Services Partnership

Transport in rural areas can be difficult at times, especially if you don't have a car or are elderly or disabled.



The Rural Access to Services Partnership (RASP) works to ensure people in Nottinghamshire can access all the services and facilities they need, be they shopping, health, jobs, training or leisure pursuits, especially those who may have mobility difficulties or live in rurally isolated areas. The Partnership works closely with Nottinghamshire County Council's Transport Services to deliver support to Community Transport groups to develop their work and advise on good practice.



Keyworth Community Concern helps elderly and disabled people in Keyworth get to a variety of activities in and around the village. They operate two wheelchair accessible minibuses to help older people get out and about. However, one of them was getting a little 'long in the tooth' at twelve years old, and increasingly expensive to repair and they needed to replace it. Finding funding to replace old minibuses can be difficult, and even then, once the money is there, finding the right minibus at the right price can be a challenge.



John Stapleton, from Keyworth, approached RCAN for advice about which grant making trusts they could apply to, for their vehicle replacement fund. The RASP officer undertook some research into suitable funders, and identified that there was some funding available from the Local Transport Plan Fund, but the drawback was that it had to be spent quickly, before the end of the financial year.



Having visited the Community Transport Association Exhibition to review the range of minibus converters, a quick visit to the website of Minibus Options in Whaley Bridge identified a suitable minibus, the right size and seating capacity, with a passenger lift and some other mobility friendly features, which was almost ready for the road. With a few minor modifications it would be perfect. Decisive action secured the vehicle and with the addition of some signwriting it was delivered six weeks later!

As part of the funding agreement, the RASP Officer identified new opportunities to offer services to local villages to maximise the benefit communities could derive from the minibus. RASP has helped the group develop a Sustainability Plan to ensure the group will attract new user groups and volunteers for the future.

So with the benefit of partnership working by RCAN, NCC and the community and voluntary sector - local knowledge, local networks, keeping your ear to the ground and being in the right place at the right time all worked together to ensure a fruitful outcome.

For more information please contact  
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