



W.B.C.T.

Welsh Border Community Transport
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Buckley, Flintshire CH7 2JB

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Registered Charity (CIO) No. 1169910
8th October 2020

Mrs Sharron Jones
113 The Highway
Hawarden
Deeside
Flintshire
CH5 3DL

Dear Mrs Jones

As requested this is a copy of a letter sent in August 2020

I am writing to the council on behalf of Welsh Border Community Transport.

We have been operating our community car and minibus schemes throughout Flintshire since 1991 providing vital transport services for the most vulnerable members of your communities consisting of individual journeys to medical, welfare and enrichment appointments, group outings to supermarkets, and other places of interest.

For those who are unaware of us we work with individuals, social groups and also care providers and or their families providing on demand transport at very low cost which is safe and secure and door to door controlled from our office in Buckley.

Prior to the Coronavirus lockdown in March we were becoming more and more busy as we increased our social visibility, Flintshire residents had an increased awareness of how we could help them and how important it was to have a reliable Community Transport provider in the county.

Unfortunately, most of our registered service users fall into the most at risk groups from the C19 Virus, whilst it is vitally important that they are protected as much as they can be this meant as a result of the epidemic our work disappeared overnight.

Our volunteer drivers were stood down and paid staff were placed on the UK Governments furlough scheme for several months.

After conducting a comprehensive risk assessment, we returned to work in late July; we contacted all our patrons who were mostly delighted that we were still operating and as a result a small number have started to use us again, however the level of business is not enough to sustain us going

forward as our revenue stream has all but evaporated. We have started to operate other community benefit schemes such as prescription collection and food bank deliveries free of charge to customers also shopping collections etc.

We would like to ask for some funding support from our local councils to help us continue operating until our business returns to post lockdown levels. This would take the form of a one off donation for as much as your council could afford to help ensure this service is able to continue after the Furlough scheme ends.

This is unlike the support we received in previous years as it will not lead to subsidised fares as this would be a counterproductive measure. Funds would be used to help mitigate daily running costs helping us to continue providing our service which on the evidence from our users is much needed and has been greatly missed.

If your council would like to support us I can be contacted on the numbers above and would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours faithfully

Ian McDermott

Manager