

## Meeting Report

Present : Neil Davies, Histon & Impington PC and Minibus scheme  
Chris Cracknell, HPC  
Martin Cassey, HVP  
Date : 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Venue : Dwyer-Joyce Close, Histon

### Notes:

Neil explained the history of the Histon community mini-bus. The bus was initially funded by a bequest from a local resident to the Red Cross to provide elderly transport. In 1991 £14k was raised by the local community to replace the bus. In 1998 the Red Cross offered the bus and the remaining £15k funds from the legacy to the community and a local charity was formed (Histon & Impington Community Mini-Bus) to take over operation of the bus under a section 19<sup>1</sup> permit granted by CCC.

The mini-bus is still operating and is used for journeys to doctors, shopping trips, etc. and used by local clubs and groups. They don't operate any scheduled services but they do publish a timetable for shopping trips on the website.

The bus does not operate any scheduled services and covers about 8k miles pa. Groups are asked to make an 80p/mile donation to use the bus and each group wanting to use the bus is responsible for providing one or more volunteer drivers. New drivers aren't MIDAS trained. Instead they undertake a familiarisation session with one of the schemes experienced drivers. Drivers aren't required to be DBS checked at present but they are reviewing this policy.

In 2007 Lottery funding was obtained which together with additional £10k raised by the annual Histon Feast event and £12k5 from the District Council enabled a replacement bus to be purchased at a total cost of £36k in 2008. The new bus is a Renault Master 12 seater with tail lift and up to 3 wheelchairs can be accommodated by removing seats in the bus. The PC has never provided any funds for either the purchase or operation of the mini-bus.

The bus is kept in the unlocked car park of the Baptist Church and they have only had 1 incident of vandalism over 25 years. They have lots of sets of vehicle keys distributed around the various drivers. Whilst operating the bus they have had 4 or 5 non-injury accidents (minor scrapes). Insurance costs about £1500 pa.

The charity has an account with the local garage in Histon and drivers fill up as required and the scheme pays the garage by direct debit.

The charity is a member of the Community Transport Association<sup>2</sup>.

About 5/6 years ago Histon expanded the scope of the minibus scheme/charity and renamed it to HICOM. They have now appointed an Older peoples co-ordinator who is paid for 36 hrs/month to address social isolation and organise activities, develop new clubs, etc. This costs approx. £8k5 pa. The PC pays £4k5 and the rest is covered by fundraising at the Histon Feast, etc. There is a further p/t assistant. Following 2 attempted teenage suicides last year, the Village has also appointed a mental wellbeing champion and has raised £35k to fund this role for 2 years.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-19-and-22-permits-not-for-profit-passenger-transport/section-19-and-22-permits-not-for-profit-passenger-transport>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ctauk.org/>

