



Transport and Environment Bulletin 1, November 07

This new e-bulletin will be sent out bimonthly to all contacts from our database, who previously registered an interest in local transport issues and/or the environment

If you do not want to receive future editions of this bulletin or you are not on our mailing lists to receive this bulletin - but want to be added, then please let me know

Deadline for next bulletin: 13th January 2008

If you have any news or information that you'd like to see in future bulletins: contact me by phone 01226 785564, by email melanie.webb@vabarnsley.org.uk or write to VAB, 35 Queens Road, Barnsley, S. Yorks., S71 1AN

Free Park & Ride into Barnsley Town Centre this Christmas



If you are heading for the shops and want to avoid traffic and save time and money then take advantage of Travel South Yorkshire's [free car parking at Peel Street](#) and [free bus rides into Barnsley town centre](#). All buses have low floors to enhance accessibility for wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs.

Every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday until 22nd December there will be free parking at the rear of the Peel Centre, Harborough Hill Road. You can then grab a free bus trip to Barnsley Interchange. The buses run every 7-8 minutes between 8:30am – 5pm. On the 30th November late buses will run until 8pm for the Christkindmarkt – the German Christmas Market.

Please call Traveline on 01709 515151 for more details, general public transport information, bus, tram and train timetables, concessions and ticketing and all other transport enquiries.

Don't forget about the eight Train Based Park & Ride sites at Bolton-on-Deerne (free parking permit required from ticket office for this station), Darton, Dodworth, Goldthorpe, Penistone, Silkstone Common and Wombwell railway stations available any day of the week. It's free parking and then all you need to do is pay for your train fare into Barnsley. Call traveline for more details about station car park locations.

Car clubs - an alternative to car hire for city trips?



Car Clubs provide their members with short-term car hire. The schemes offer a pay-as-you-drive alternative to car ownership. Members gain quick and easy access to modern cars that are easily booked by phone or the internet. By using the service members save money on maintenance, tax and insurance - these are all covered by a one-off joining fee. There are no car clubs set up yet in Barnsley although WhizzGo currently runs car clubs in both Leeds and Sheffield.

To become a WhizzGo member all it costs is a payment of £25 for a WhizzGo Smart Card and an insurance deposit of £125 - which is fully refundable if you want to leave the scheme. This payment of £150 gives you life-long membership with access to the entire fleet of cars in all WhizzGo cities of the UK. Once you join, all you are charged for is for pay-as-you-go driving (In Leeds and Sheffield this is between £4.95 and £5.50 per hour depending on the car make). If you drive more than 5 hours a month there are value packages that are cheaper options - Write to Charlotte Morton, 2nd Floor, Cathedral Chambers, Great George Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS2 8BD., phone 0870 446 6000, visit www.WhizzGo.co.uk or email contact@whizzgo.co.uk for more details.

WhizzGo cars are all new models, so they are more energy-efficient and generate lower emissions than the cars they replace. WhizzGo use Citroen cars (Green Fleet Awards: Manufacturer of the year 2006 and 2007) and introduced some of the brands greenest innovations such as the stop & start technology. This year, WhizzGo has entered the Capital Fuel Challenge energy-efficient race, and won two of the Green Fleet Awards, becoming the greenest 'Private Fleet of the Year' and 'Car leasing/Rental company of the year'.



Christmas Drink Drive campaign

The THINK! national campaign begins at the start of December and aims to convince all drivers, with a particular focus on young male drivers aged 17-29 years, that a drink drive conviction has the potential to ruin their life by highlighting a mixture of the legal and personal consequences: being caught & breathalysed by the police; 12 month driving ban; criminal record; hefty fine and lifestyle changes (i.e. potential loss of job, relationships or car).

And Belt up!

THINK! have re-run the 'Julie' Seat Belts TV Campaign; the Campaign demonstrates the importance of wearing a seat belt in the back of a vehicle. It graphically shows that unbelted rear seat passengers can not only injure themselves, but can also kill other people in the car. An interactive seat belt crash simulator site is available online. Visit www.thinkseatbelts.com to test the simulator (you can try it at different speeds and with different occupants) and for some gruesome facts; the simulator explains the type of injury that can occur - highlighting the risks of not wearing a seat belt.

Petition for harsher sentences for killer hit-and-run drivers

Jeff Ennis, MP for Barnsley East and Mexborough presented a hit-and-run petition signed by 5,000 people to the House of Commons in October. The petition asks for a change in the law to raise the minimum sentence for hit-and-run drivers who kill to be raised to 14 years.

The petition was begun in response to the death of seven-year-old Kyle McDermott at the hands of hit-and-run driver Christopher Collins. Kyle was playing on his bike when he was hit by Collins's Ford Transit van on Maple Road, Mexborough. The petition also aims to put pressure on Doncaster Council to reduce the speed limit on Maple Road, where the accident happened, from 30mph to 20mph.

Collins, who had two previous convictions for drink-driving, received a five-month sentence at Sheffield Crown Court; he was released after just six weeks. Within three weeks Collins was arrested and convicted for driving while disqualified after his release, flouting a five-year driving ban. He is currently serving a four month jail term.

'See Me' Road Safety Campaign

Older people are often injured or killed in road accidents. Last year there were 6247 road casualties in South Yorkshire, out of which more than 600 older people were killed or injured in traffic accidents. Out of this number, 270 were elderly bus passengers; there were also 46 elderly pedestrians involved in collisions with buses.

'See Me' is a new road safety campaign aimed at older people with two key messages:

- take care when getting on and off buses, especially when crossing the road at a bus stop;
- make sure that you can be seen clearly by drivers.

The campaign will be advertised on buses and at bus stops and bus stations throughout South Yorkshire. The backs of one hundred buses will have this

message displayed for drivers during November so that drivers are encouraged to slow down and be aware of pedestrians particularly when it's dark.

As part of the campaign, 10,000 white, reflective 'See Me' shopping bags will be distributed to the over 60's throughout Doncaster, Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield. Phone Age Concern, Barnsley on 01226 214820 to request a bag.

Eco Driving can save you money as well as saving the planet!!

Barnsley MBC is promoting "Eco-Driving" - a simple and easy way in which the motorist can save money and help the environment. Rising fuel costs and greater awareness of environmental issues mean there is no better time to try eco-driving for yourself.

In conjunction with the South Yorkshire Care4Air campaign (www.care4air.org), Barnsley MBC's Regulatory Services have produced explanatory booklets and leaflets on how today's driver can reduce fuel costs by adopting slightly different driving habits.

Where it is safe and legal to do so, three easy eco-driving tips can be used:

- Maintain a steady speed, using the highest gear possible to keep your engine working at its most efficient
- Shift into a higher gear as soon as possible, between 2000 rpm and 2500 rpm
- Decelerate smoothly by taking your foot off the accelerator, leaving the car in gear. Modern engines don't use fuel under these conditions

In return, eco-driving can benefit you by:

- Saving money on fuel, eco-driving costs are typically 10% lower
- Reduce your vehicle maintenance costs
- Reduce your impact on climate change

Free copies of the booklets - which detail other eco-driving tips, have been distributed to local libraries. Further copies of the booklets and leaflets can be obtained from Barnsley MBC's Regulatory Services - e-mail regulatoryservices@barnsley.gov.uk or phone 01226 772468. Electronic copies are also available from www.care4air.org

Sheffield Northern Inner Relief Road now open

Drivers are being urged to make full use of the newly opened Inner Relief Road instead of sticking to the old routes they are used to - especially those taking the old route along the one way system around Exchange Street, Castlegate, Bridge Street and the Wicker instead of using the new road in the direction from the Parkway towards Shalesmoor. The full traffic management plan can be downloaded at www.sheffield.gov.uk/irr Over the coming weeks restrictions will be put into place to restrict access on the old routes.

Barnsley Council launches car share website



A CAR-SHARE website was launched by Barnsley Council as part of European Mobility Week. The aim is to encourage car sharing on a more regular basis, thereby reducing congestion, pollution in the local area, and cutting down travel costs. It's been estimated that the average car sharer can save up to £1000 a year - more than enough for a new TV or a holiday.

Anyone who lives or works in the Barnsley borough and is interested in sharing their journey to work can go to www.carsharesouthyorkshire.com and register their journey for free. The system will then tell you if anyone is going in the same direction, leaving it up to them to make contact through a secure email connection and arrange to share the journey.

Cllr. Bill Newman, Cabinet spokesperson for Development, said:

"I'm sure we all get frustrated getting stuck in traffic, but given the number of cars on the road at any one time this is almost inevitable. However, by car sharing, the amount of cars on the road is lessened, which helps make journeys quicker and safer while also saving money."

"I am sure many people are already aware of the benefits of car sharing, but simply don't know anyone to share with. This website will help put people who make regular journeys to the same destination in touch with each other."

Carbon Quids Campaign Wins National TravelWise Award



South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) is celebrating after winning the Best Travel Awareness Event Award in the National TravelWise Awards for its [Carbon Quids](#) campaign during European Mobility Week in September. SYLTE ran the campaign as part of its strategy to encourage people to make better travel choices.

The campaign rewarded people who walked, cycled, shared a car or used public transport. People who did this earned Carbon Quids which they could then exchange for rewards at Carbon Cash-Ins held in Sheffield, Doncaster, Barnsley and Rotherham. Hundreds of people across South Yorkshire took part in the campaign and more than 1,250 reward bags were exchanged for Carbon Quids.

Roy Wicks, Director General of SYLTE, said:

"We were delighted to win this award which recognised the innovative nature and success of the Carbon Quids campaign. This campaign was a great success and we are planning to use similar rewards schemes in future campaigns."

English National Concession Pass

From April 2008 disabled people and those aged 60 and over will be entitled to free off-peak local bus travel throughout England, provided they show a valid English National Concession Pass. **This new pass will replace the existing Senior Citizen and Mobility Passes.** For full information on the new English National Concession Pass visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/

Barnsley Dial-a-Ride Bus Service

South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) would like to remind people living in [High Hoyland](#), [Kexbrough](#), [Darton](#) and [Mapplewell](#) about the High Hoyland Dial-a-Ride door to door bus service runs every Friday. The service can be booked for travel between any of these areas (including Darton Surgery, Mapplewell Health Centre, Long Croft Health Centre) and Barnsley town centre. The service operates between 9am and 2:40pm for just £1 per single journey and is open to anyone who finds it difficult to use public transport and those without access to private vehicles.

To use the service passengers should call Barnsley Dial-a-Ride on 01226 298675 to secure their place on the bus. Bookings can be made anytime between 9am and 1pm (no later than 10am on the day they wish to travel).

Barnsley Dial-a-Ride and Community Transport is a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status. It provides a range of safe, accessible and flexible transport for the residents of Barnsley who find it difficult or impossible to use public transport as well as to other individuals and community groups, such as Scout/Brownie groups, church groups, tenants' and residents' associations, etc.

Services funded as part of Travel South Yorkshire include the following: Dial-a-Bus, Dial-a-Ride, Access Car, Group Travel (group travel covers anywhere, available any time with own driver, otherwise subject to driver availability), Dearne Valley Community Transport, Penistone Rural Ride and the Coalfields Community Transport Initiative.

Areas covered are generally anywhere in the Barnsley borough although contact operator for full details and travel costs. Contact details: write to Barnsley Dial-a-Ride and Community Transport, Pontefract Road, Hoyle Mill, Barnsley, S71 1JA, email info@barnsleydialaride-ct.org or phone 01226 298675.

ShelterWatch scheme to keep bus shelters safe

The ShelterWatch scheme was launched on 15th October by the partnership between South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, Neighbourhood Watch and South Yorkshire Police.

The aim of the campaign is to reduce anti-social behaviour in and around bus and tram shelters. With the help of local communities we can keep our shelters 'crime free' by reporting anti-social behaviour to [Traveline](#) anonymously on 01709 515151 or by completing the online [ShelterWatch](#) reporting form.

Phone Votes needed for Elsecar Heritage Railway 'Cortonwood Project' Peoples Millions Lottery Funding bid: November 27th

Elsecar Heritage Railway will appear on Yorkshire TV's Calendar on Tuesday November 27th at 6pm. They have bid for a grant through the 'Peoples Millions Lottery Fund' and will go head to head against another applicant that night.

At present the railway runs for approximately one mile between Rockingham Station at Elsecar, through the South Yorkshire countryside alongside the Dearne and Dove Canal, to the present terminus at Hemingfield. If Elsecar Heritage Railway wins the public vote the funding will enable them to install a level crossing across Tingle Bridge Lane at Hemingfield and extend the railway down to Cortonwood Retail Park. This extension would provide a vital link for shoppers from Elsecar and Hemingfield to the retail park and an extended ride for tourists.

To that end they are appealing for the public to phone in and vote for them. You can only vote for the project on the day of broadcast. The phone numbers for each project will be placed on the Big Lottery Fund web site www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions Phone lines will be open from 9am to Midnight on the 27th November.

Further information can be found at www.thepeoplesmillions.org.uk



Barnsley Cycling Guides

Barnsley MBC has produced a pack of cycling guides to encourage cycling in six regions spread across the borough. Each guide has a map and route description including difficulty, time needed to complete the ride, local visitor attractions and points of interest along the route. For further information, contact BMBC Planning and Transportation Service on 01226 772655. The pack can be picked up from the reception at VAB, 33 Queens Road, Barnsley.

Barnsley Reward Scheme launched

The Barnsley Reward Scheme has been developed after the DfT and DfES announced that funding would be made available to any primary school in England and Wales that developed a walking initiative. 97% of schools in Barnsley applied for the grant, the highest number of applications received for any one authority in the country. Most of these schools decided to combine forces by developing a Barnsley-wide initiative.

The Mayor of Barnsley, Cllr. Len Picken and players from Barnsley Football Club launched the initiative for all primary school pupils in Barnsley as part of European Mobility Week. Pupils who regularly walk, cycle or catch the bus to school will be rewarded by being allowed free entry at many activities, sponsored by local companies and attractions. On offer for pupils include; free swimming at Barnsley Metrodome, ten pin bowling, football coaching and ice skating.

Cllr. Picken said:

"This is a wonderful example of schools, council staff and businesses working in partnership to achieve rewards for Barnsley children. Rewarding children for travelling to school sustainably will not only help the environment, but will also encourage exercise and help to tackle congestion around the school gates."

Footpath and Bridleway Repairs

BMBC's Countryside Group has recently carried out some significant safety improvements to public paths in the borough. The June floods caused major damage to the public rights of way network, in particular the flood waters moved two sets of stepping stones across the River Don at Thurgoland out of line. This had safety implications for users of the routes, largely residents of Hunshelf and Thurgoland Parishes. Countryside Rangers used winches to put stones back into place and also cleaned off any lichen & moss from the stones to improve walkers' use of the river crossing.



Before



After

Bridleway at Windle Edge

Council staff worked with partners from the Peak District National Park Ranger Service and BTCV conservation volunteers to reopen a public bridleway at Dunford Bridge. The bridleway crosses the moors from Windle Edge, above Dunford Bridge, to the top of the Woodhead Pass and had been closed since a horse got stuck in a waterlogged, boggy section of the route.

A method new to Barnsley was employed at several problem sections – matting was cut to shape, weighed down with stone and then covered over with turf. Its effectiveness will be monitored over the winter as the path is reopened to horse riders and off-road cyclists.



Cllr Newman said:

"We are pleased to be able to reopen this important path for bridleway users in Barnsley's part of the Peak District – a wild and inspiring landscape which attracts riders from afar."