

Missing the Bus: Can older and disabled people get on board?



DCT Dorset Community Transport

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Dorset Community Transport

- **Established 2011, part of ECT Charity**
 - one of the UK's leading community transport providers
 - over 40-years history of service to local communities



- DCT provides services throughout the ceremonial county of Dorset.
- Fleet of minibuses , including accessible.
- Dorset classified as Mainly Rural.



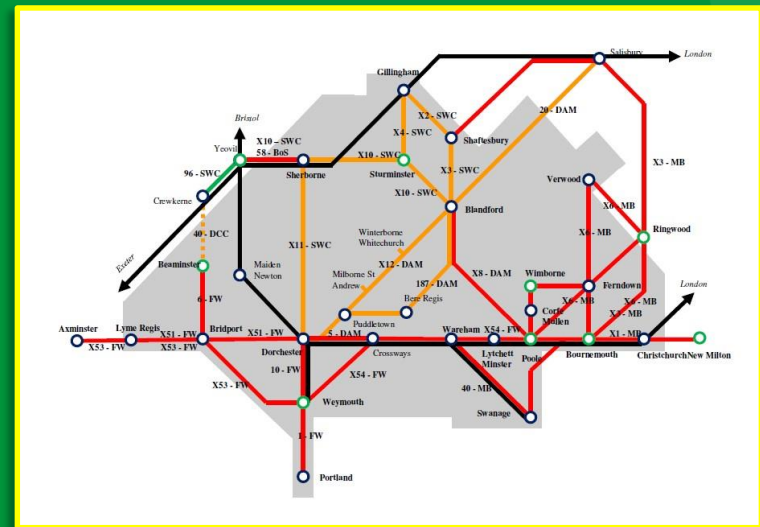
Why can't they?



- Accessibility?
- Affordability?
- Infrastructure?
- Availability?

• Wider Area Transport Network for Dorset

- inter-urban
- largely unsupported services
- arguably disjointed
- arguably limited
- services every 1 or 2 hours regarded high frequency



Why isolated?

NO LOCAL SERVICES



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Loneliness & Isolation

- A significant and growing issue
 - a growing population
 - living longer
- Impact of wellbeing
- Cost to society



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- **The Alternatives**

- walking/cycling
- taxi
- volunteer car scheme
- own car
- family and friends car
- community transport (CT)



Community Transport - part of the solution



By providing transport to otherwise isolated or excluded people, community transport contributes to reducing isolation and developing sustainable communities



*Why CT
Matters*



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Local Bus

- timetable services from outlying villages
- partial replacement of a withdrawn service
- established in partnership with local town and parish councils



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PlusBus



- weekly services from remote communities into a destination town, typically on market days
- door-to-door return journeys, booked in advance for registered eligible members



What we do

Community transport increases social interactions and improves the physical and mental wellbeing of isolated people



In the UK, 17% of older people have no contact with family, friends or neighbours all week.

Why CT Matters



Dorset Community Transport

We seek to
continue to reach
lonely and isolated
people in the
communities we
serve and save
public money



**TRANSPORT IS
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN EVER**



**Community transport is an
important – but often invisible
PART of the solution**



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