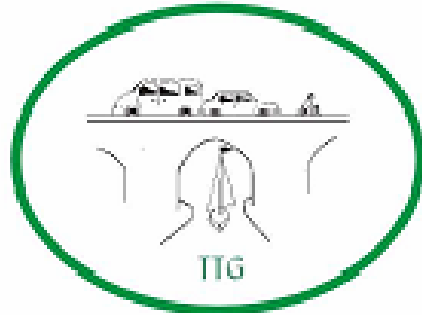


Torrige Transport Group
Local Transport Partnership



2004 / 2005 Annual Report



Torrige Transport Group
Local transport partnership

ANNUAL REPORT

2004 - 2005

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CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2004-2005

It is with much pleasure that I report to you again on the activities of the Group (TTG) over the past year.

The financial turmoil that affected TTG at the end of the 2003-2004 year was stabilised and, although our finances are far from robust, we are surviving and making every effort to attract funding for our longer term existence.

Angela Lovell (Booking Co-ordinator) left us and Lisa Dymond was successful in open competition to replace her. After open competition Maureen Biddulph replaced Lisa as our Administrator and has settled in very well. Jane Williams (Development) has extended her commitment and now supports and backs up Duncan Goodman (Co-ordinator). I congratulate them all this year for their sterling efforts.

The year has been one of further consolidation with our core activities. Work towards the excellent Wheels to Work (W2W) project bid continues to be the main focus of Jane's work. The more public face of our activities continues to be the Volunteer Car Service (VCS) and the Ring and Ride service (R&R) while the latter has now been extended to cover the most of the northern TDC district area (except Lundy!!).

As always TTG relies extensively on volunteers for its core activities (VCS & R&R) and I know I speak on behalf of all their passengers in offering them my sincere and heartfelt thanks for all their efforts. Without your care, attention and commitment there would be no VCS service and to complement our salaried R&R driver, Adrian Edwards who replaced David Webber during the year after open competition.

My 2003/4 annual report highlighted bids for funding and this years report restates the position. We are again grateful to all our current funders which includes The National Lottery, The Countryside Agency, Devon County Council, Devonia Trust, Bideford Lions, Bideford Bridge Trust, Bideford Town Council, North Devon Primary Healthcare Trust, The Clare Milne Trust, Torrington Cavaliers, Yarnscombe Parish Council, as well as in excess of £1000 raised by our own passengers.

During the year we finally completed the preparation necessary for the transition in the coming year to a Charitable Status associated with a 'Not for Profit' Company (a conjoined activity).

In conclusion I must thank all our volunteers, once more; our excellent staff, as ever; the TTG Committee, never forgotten; and all our partners and funders. We continue to maintain links with adjoining and Devon wide CTA's to form a cohesive and 'joined-up' service across Devon.

I have enjoyed my further year as your Chairman. I offer myself to continue as Chairman for the coming year and if so elected will endeavour to serve to the best of my skills and abilities. This will be my last year as your Chairman, as I will retire at the end of the 2006/7 financial year as I start to reduce my voluntary work commitments.

Roger J Heffer

CO-ORDINATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2004/5

This year has seen some changes in staff, an expansion in our office space, and work towards a change in the organisation's status.

Lisa Dymond was appointed as the new Transport Booking Co-Ordinator, following the resignation of Angela Lovell. The post of Transport Support Worker was filled by Maureen Biddulph. We welcomed Adrian Edwards into the post of bus driver, following the departure of David Webber. My thanks go to all the team for their flexible and positive attitudes to the organisation.

The room opposite our current office became available, and has become a quiet working area for myself and a meeting room. The phone system was improved, with the addition of an ISDN line for our internet, and the computers were successfully networked together to provide a more efficient working arrangement.

Funding has, and always will, remain an issue, as it is for all charitable organisations. It is always on our minds, and we are always working towards new funding streams. As part of the focus on fundraising, the funding sub-committee has been re-instigated, drawing on a wider field of experience of funding issues. My gratitude goes to all our many funders for their support of our work.

The work has been completed for our transition to a new 'Company Limited by Guarantee', and also registered Charity Status to begin in our new financial year. This necessitates a change of name, and we will become 'Torridge Community Transport Association Ltd'.

For all these activities in the offices, the real work and purpose of the organisation – Community Transport - continues to develop: the number of volunteer drivers we have on the Voluntary Car Scheme continues to rise, as does the number of passengers using both the Car Scheme and the Ring & Ride bus service. Without the volunteers we would not have such a flagship organisation, and a large number of residents in northern Torridge would be isolated and virtually housebound. Our work does much to raise the quality of life, well-being and independence of our passengers.

We are involved in a transport to health initiative, with the hopeful title of 'Pursuing Perfection', which is looking at improving the transport provision on journeys to health appointments. In the longer term there should even be some funding attached to it.

On the whole this has been a year where we have consolidated our position, with a stronger infrastructure in place which we look forward to benefiting from in subsequent years.

Duncan Goodman
Co-ordinator

DEVELOPMENT WORKER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2004 – 2005

Wheels to Work (W2W) has been through several potential incarnations during this year:

- June 2004 Development was going ahead on the basis of a 'Pan-Northern Devon' scheme, incorporating the existing scheme in Holsworthy, and the development of new schemes for TTG and North Devon Community Transport (NDCTA). An expression of interest was submitted to Rural Renaissance to fund the project in this format. Their response was that they had also received an expression of interest from West Den and the bids should be combined.
- July 2004 Plans were drawn up for an Rural Renaissance bid for the existing Schemes in Holsworthy and West Devon and for the aspiring schemes planned by TTG, North Devon and Teignbridge (Honiton's scheme was not included in Rural Renaissance's area of coverage). If this bid had come to fruition it could be used as match funding for European 'Global Grants' funding which had the potential to fund all the schemes in Devon.
- Meanwhile, a contingency bid was put together for LEADER+ to fund the Pan-Northern Devon Scheme.
- August 2004 The Rural Renaissance bid was turned down and work began on developing it for resubmission.
- September 2004 A bid was submitted to Jobcentre Plus. Bridge Trust declined the opportunity to contribute to funding the project.
- October 2004 The Jobcentre Plus bid was turned down
- December 2004 Holsworthy submit a Lottery bid for their own scheme.
- January 2005 Additional work on evidence of need to strengthen the case for W2W
- March/April 2005 Business plan produced for W2W for TTG area, work began on a lottery bid.
- May 2005 Lottery bid submitted for £114,658.

Jane Williams
Development Worker