

Histon & Impington Coronavirus Response

Community Transport for medical appointments and social engagements

This plan is intended to put in place a system whereby transport can be provided for residents of Histon & Impington for medical appointments. From 1 June 2020, individuals are permitted to meet with up to 5 others in open areas including private gardens. The minibus can now be used for transport to such social engagements.

The minibus will not, at this time, be used to transport individuals on shopping trips nor will it be available to those who are among the 2 million “shielded” as they are limited to 1:1 contact.

1 Firs House Surgery in Histon

As both the Community Car Scheme and the usual Thursday minibus run have been suspended, there may be some difficulty in getting the less mobile to their face-to-face appointments at the Firs House Surgery.

If a patient has an appointment and needs transport to get to it, the receptionist or patient should contact Panther taxis on 01223 715715. A trip from the middle of the village to Firs House will cost around £5.

2 Huntingdon Road, Arbury Road, Firs House in Cottenham and Addenbrookes

As taxi costs to these destinations may be prohibitive, there is the possibility of using the Community Minibus for individual journeys. Patients should ring the Community Car Scheme number 07982 108927 to let them know about the appointment.

The Car Scheme Co-ordinator will liaise with HI Friends (who run the minibus) who will attempt to find a driver willing and available to carry out the trip.

3 Social transport – e.g. to meet up with family

Residents should contact the Community Car Scheme as outlined in 2 above. Trips must be within a 15 mile radius from Histon. This scheme is intended to assist those who have no other practical means to visit friends and relatives. It is only expected to be used for occasional visits.

Driver protection

- Passengers are not expected to request transport if they have any symptoms that could be Coronavirus/COVID 19 or if they have been advised that they may have the virus.
- Drivers are not expected to enter homes to collect/return passengers. Drivers will attempt to maintain a 2 metre distance whenever possible and will not be able to give physical assistance to enter or leave the minibus. Should such assistance be required, then passengers will need to be accompanied by a companion/carer.
- Passengers will be required to sit in the rear of the minibus, maintaining a safe distance from the driver. They will also be required to wear gloves throughout the journeys.
- Drivers should not aid passengers into the minibus (which could mean being closer than 2m), except by operating the tail lift, if needed- standing 2m away, as illustrated here:



- The driver should not be touching the passenger's rollators or other walking aids, so they will need to be able to collapse and stow them safely themselves.

Payment/Donations

The terms of the HI Friends minibus licence prohibit the charging a fare to individuals. During the period of the crisis, HI Friends will undertake these journeys for free but donations will, of course, be very welcome. Suggested donations are the same price as would have been the case had the Community Car Scheme still been running which are as follows:

Destination	Round trip fee
• Addenbrookes Hospital	£8
• Huntingdon Road Surgery	£3
• Arbury Road Surgery	
• Firs House, Telegraph St, Cottenham	
• Newmarket	£10
• Ely	£9
• Huntingdon	£10

For other destinations, the Community Car Scheme Coordinator will suggest a suitable donation

If a medical appointment is scheduled to last less than 60 minutes, then the driver will wait for the return journey. For a longer appointment, it may be that the drop-off and pick-up are done by different drivers.

For social engagements, the driver will normally return home and then pick up at a pre-agreed time. This will, therefore, require two journeys and the suggested donation would be twice the above figures.

To minimise the handling of cash, passengers will be asked to put any donation inside an envelope and leave it on the minibus. The driver will then pass the envelope to the HI Friends Charity Manager.

Notes for Minibus Drivers

3.1 The Community Car Scheme has registered the minibus as a permitted vehicle at Addenbrookes and so it can be parked free of charge in the front car park. Drivers need to press the intercom and tell the attendant that the minibus is part of the Histon, Impington & Girton Community Car Scheme. They may have to quote the registration number of the vehicle GJ63 WCD.

3.2 After each trip, the driver will be responsible for cleaning any surfaces which have been touched by either the driver or the passenger. Whenever possible, suitable wipes will be provided on the bus for this purpose.

Prepared by
Don Kelly
Vice Chair
Friends of Histon & Impington Community (HI Friends)

Version 3. Date: **3 June 2020**