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I have been approached by a number of community groups and individuals regarding the problems with transport when wanting to attend events in the town and arranging social trips. I’ve been made aware of other communities in Wiltshire that have had similar problems and have then gone on to set up community bus services.

This usually means a community group purchases/leases a minibus, which would need to have disability features. The group would then be responsible for the costs of maintenance and operations. These costs would be recovered by ‘hiring out’ the vehicle, at a suitable hourly/mileage rate. These services can be supplied with a driver or for the hirer to drive themselves.

Whilst this is a solution to the problem, any such service would need to be sustainable and therefore the actual demand in Bradford on Avon needs to be identified. In the event that enough groups do come forward, this could then be explored. I have asked Matthew to include in a future residents panel, and I’m asking groups to come forward if they would be interested in this.