COMMUNITY TRANSPORT INQUIRY
BALFRON STIRLINGSHIRE
WRITTEN SUBMISSION

At present in Balfron Community Transport is provided by WRVS Good Neighbours scheme.

This works well and is much appreciated by the people who use this service. However it is limited to people who can afford to pay the cost of 45p per mile. Many people would prefer to use this method of transport as opposed to Hospital Transport as it means you can go in a car and only have to spend time for your own appointment and not wait for others. The hospitals for Balfron are in Stirling, Larbert or Falkirk so the cost of a journey is between £18 and £28. It is of course possible to go to these hospitals by public transport but there are no direct connections so a change has to be made in Stirling. The bus time-tables are not always suitable and long waits are possible which makes the whole journey very stressful, tiring and lengthy. It would be so much better if the WRVS volunteers were reimbursed by government as they are providing a service to people who are entitled to free transport.

At present I am a Good Neighbours volunteer driver for WRVS and enjoy doing this. Perhaps in a few years' time I will be in need of this type of help and I know that I would find it difficult to afford payment of these sums of money to attend hospital. I would not really like to go by Hospital transport going round areas collecting/returning other people when I could be taken directly there and back.

Shopping and dental appointments are easier as they are usually closer and therefore not so expensive but for the less well-off a subsidy would be a great help.

Balfron Stirlingshire
23 March 2013