

Press Release

Town Council Congratulates Long-Serving Community Bus Volunteers

A community bus service which celebrated its 35th anniversary last week has been commended by Hailsham Town Council for outstanding work carried out in the district.

Town councillor Barry Marlowe spoke to Cuckmere Community Bus volunteers recently to personally congratulate them on achieving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2006 and for providing a valuable service to the local community for over three decades.

Barry Marlowe, who is oversight councillor for transport links and founding member of the Hailsham Quality Bus Partnership said, "It is fantastic to see Cuckmere Community Bus services running well since their launch in 1976. Additional transport links such as these are crucial for many people living in Hailsham and surrounding villages and, by making the best use of available resources, the Town Council is delighted to underwrite these essential services."

"CCB services have proven really popular and well used by residents, particularly the elderly, and its volunteers must be commended for both their time and hard work put into running its fleet of minibuses over the years."

Councillor Marlowe added, "Hailsham Town Council will continue to work closely with local bus operators to support transport services, specifically for those who cannot access the conventional public transport network."

Philip Ayers of Cuckmere Community Bus confirmed how pleased the company was to receive such widespread support throughout its area, and especially in Hailsham where they expect to join the newly formed Hailsham Quality Bus Partnership in the near future.

Demand for the Cuckmere Community Bus service means that additional volunteer drivers are needed. If you are over 25 years of age, able to offer your services and would like more information on volunteer training opportunities, contact Philip Ayers on 01323 870920 or 07802 305155.

Notes to Editors:

- Cuckmere Community Bus, an independent charity run by volunteers, was launched in 1976 to supplement existing bus services and provide bus links from village residents to their nearest towns throughout the Cuckmere Valley area.
- Based in Berwick, CCB currently has around 40 volunteer drivers and 10 additional volunteers who run its fleet of six minibuses, providing an important link with shops, doctors' surgeries and social facilities for those who do not live on a main bus route.
- CCB was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK for outstanding work undertaken in their local communities.
- Cuckmere Community Bus has worked closely with the Town Council over the last five years to develop public transport links in Hailsham, and currently underwrites the bus service.

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