



Shopmobility South Gloucestershire Chairman's A.G.M Report 2019



Dear Member / Carer

We have been able to replace the loss of roughly £8,000 we received from the council that I alluded to in my last report. The short fall was made up from a variety of grants which should enable us to maintain a service for the next 2 years.

However, financial uncertainty will continue unless we can seek more secure and constant funding streams, through sponsorship or by attracting more users of the service.

We were most grateful to Yate shopping centre for providing us with £5000.00 earlier this year and are very grateful to South Gloucestershire Council, Yate, Dodington and other parish councils for their continued support of our service and funding we receive directly from local Councilors.

We have gratefully received £782.00 in donations between Aug 2018 and July 2019.

We are grateful to the Co-op Community Fund for funding us over £3,500.00 that has enabled us to extend our opening times on a Thursday from 2pm to 4pm and will review this later in the year to establish whether the extension will be able to continue.

This again may be dependent on whether we can generate additional income from longer opening hours and increase in membership.

We have identified the need to focus more on promotion throughout the South Gloucestershire area through the press and magazines. We hope this may enable us to reach those people who do not have access to the internet.

We now have a presence on Facebook and Twitter and are in discussions to establish where we might have more visible signage within the shopping centre.

We continue to see an increase in longer-term hire for those needing time to recover from an accident, operation, wishing to take on holiday or having relatives with a disability staying in the area.

Daily hire has dropped slightly which we hope might be addressed through greater promotion of the service.

It is with sadness that Mike McGrath who served as a Trustee passed away recently and he will be sorely missed by us and other organizations he supported within the community.

I would like to thank Granville Olive who is stepping down as Treasurer having served on the committee since 2006. We appreciate all the time and support he has devoted to us.

Our new Treasurer is Steve Major and we are most grateful to him for agreeing to take on the role.

We were pleased that our trustees Martin Monk and David Bell were given community awards from South Glos Council, in recognition of their contributions to us and to other organisations.

I would also like to thank James Wiltshire, who many people will know, for helping Sheridan in the office during the week and covering annual leave.

We are seeking volunteers who might be able to assist in covering annual leave or be able to commit to operating the service on a Monday morning or potentially all day. Training will be given as required.

If anyone enjoys organising fund raising activities we would welcome your involvement. We require assistance to periodically deliver leaflets or posters to community hubs such as health centres, GP surgeries, churches and community groups within South Gloucestershire.

This year our guest speaker will be Clive Brett (Chair) from REMAP which is a charity that provides adaptations enabling people with disabilities needing specific requirements to undertake certain activities.

We may have a member taking photos at the AGM for promotional purposes so please indicate whether you are happy to have your photo taken should you wish to attend the AGM.

We look forward to seeing those able to attend our AGM on Thursday 3rd October commencing at 3.00pm at Yate Library. If you are unable to attend the AGM we would be grateful if could sign and post the AGM invite in the self addressed envelope provided as this will enable the meeting to be quorate.

Please could you complete the questionnaire as we particularly welcome any anecdotes that can show how the use of a mobility scooter or wheelchair may have helped both members and their carers.

Completion of the questionnaire is often a requirement by funders to evidence how important the service is to people.

I would like to share some comments received from our 2018 questionnaire that capture additional reasons why the service is so important to people.

'If I didn't come to Yate to hire a scooter I would be confined to my home'

The staff that run your shopmobility in Yate are credit to your organisation, They fall over backward to help me' Mr P

Please keep the mobility scooter hire going as I look forward to coming to Yate as I am very disabled' '- more disabled bays' Mr K

'It is nice to take my wife out otherwise she would never go shopping or see anyone'

I would not be able to shop or have a break from my wife who has dementia' Mr C

'If I wasn't for the service I'd have to rely on my family a lot more and would not be able to be as independent as I am' - I can be useful to my self and my family as I have always been. It also keeps me from being bored and housebound 'Mrs F

'I would not be able to visit the centre' Mr P

'I would be unable to shop in and around the shopping centre which I look forward to so much' Mrs J

'Without the service my life would be made a lot harder' Mr M

'Manage to visit places that would otherwise be inaccessible' Mrs L

'I can't walk due to a serious healthy condition. Without a scooter I'd never go anywhere, no holiday, no visiting friends, no shopping, no doctor etc' Mrs N

'Shopmobility is a wonderful service, so many people are needful of it and appreciate it' Mrs B

'I would like to express my grateful thanks once again for the unfailing support and help that shopmobility provide' Mr G

'Very convenient, good staff, pleasant shopping centre, value for money' Mr K

It would mean the inability to shop for both my partner and I because we both need this service. Everytime we visit with a friend we spend on average £40.00 so the centre would lose as well as us' Mr W

We need to educate people to look out for the disabled and try and offer help- How do we help people to be aware of disability if the scooter service is removed' Mrs S

'With the variety of shops at Yate with everything on the flat we are able to have a nice few hours out and get a lot of things for ourselves' Mr W

Janet Biggin

Alderman J. Biggin
Chairman Shopmobility
South Glos.