



## UPPER TAY TRANSPORT ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2



## **PART 1**

### **Transport in the Upper Tay area**

Transport has been seen to be a problem and a barrier in the Upper Tay area for many years. It was highlighted as a key issue by the Highland Communities Partnership and by Perth and Kinross Council. In the 2020 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Aberfeldy and Kinloch Rannoch were regarded to be the most access deprived communities in Scotland. The car dominates in our rural area, increasing inequalities and impacting on the health and wellbeing of our community. Over the years, various small initiatives have developed. The Upper Tay Transport project aims to push this work forward and develop it more broadly.

#### **Upper Tay Transport vision and aims**

We aim to create a positive, resilient, connected community with opportunities for all, while reducing the carbon footprint of the community. The project aims to improve transport options in the area and to encourage and enable people to travel more actively and more sustainably where possible.

Specifically, our aims are

1. Improve local transport options and connectivity
2. Make public transport more useful and encourage people to use it
3. Encourage and enable people to travel actively and live healthier lives
4. Support drivers to use their cars more effectively
5. Improve awareness in the community of all travel options, and encourage the use of sustainable and active travel where possible.
6. Reduce carbon emissions

#### **Upper Tay Transport organisation and governance**

Upper Tay Transport is a project of Tay Valley Timebank (TVT) which is a charity registered in Scotland. The purposes of the TVT is to encourage community development, specifically through the sharing of resources in the area. TVT has a board who manage the organisation. The Upper Tay transport project has a steering group which guides and support the work of the project.

Base Community Transport Hub, The Square, Aberfeldy PH15 2

Board Chair Cindy Brook  
Treasurer Phil Richards  
5 other board members

Steering group Chair Cindy Brook + 7 other members

Staff Development Officer working since July 2019  
Coordinator employed October 2021

## Volunteers

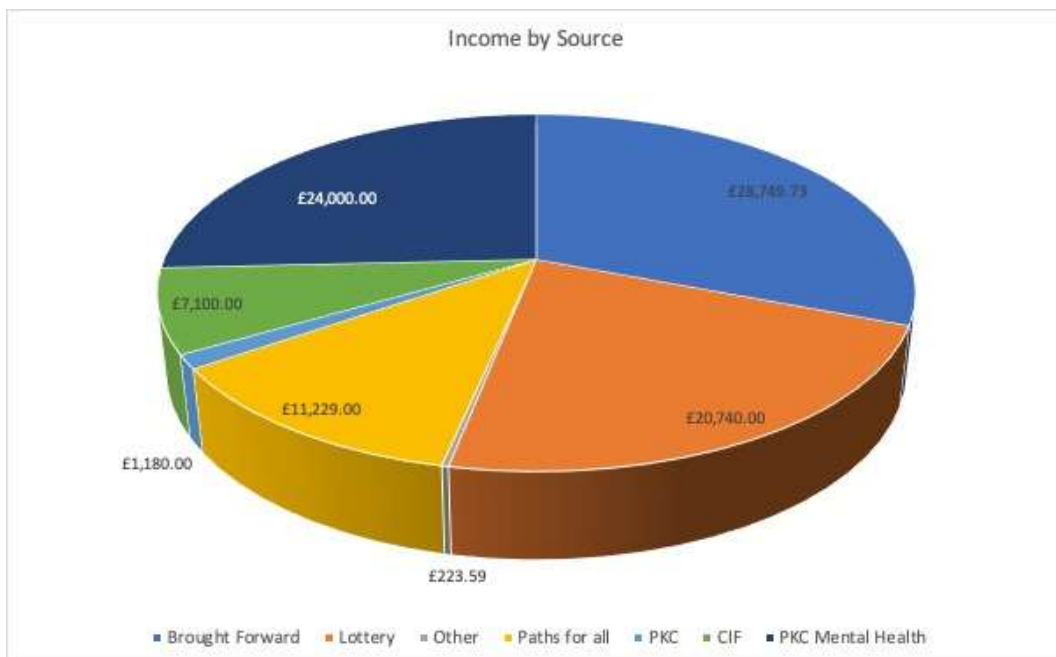
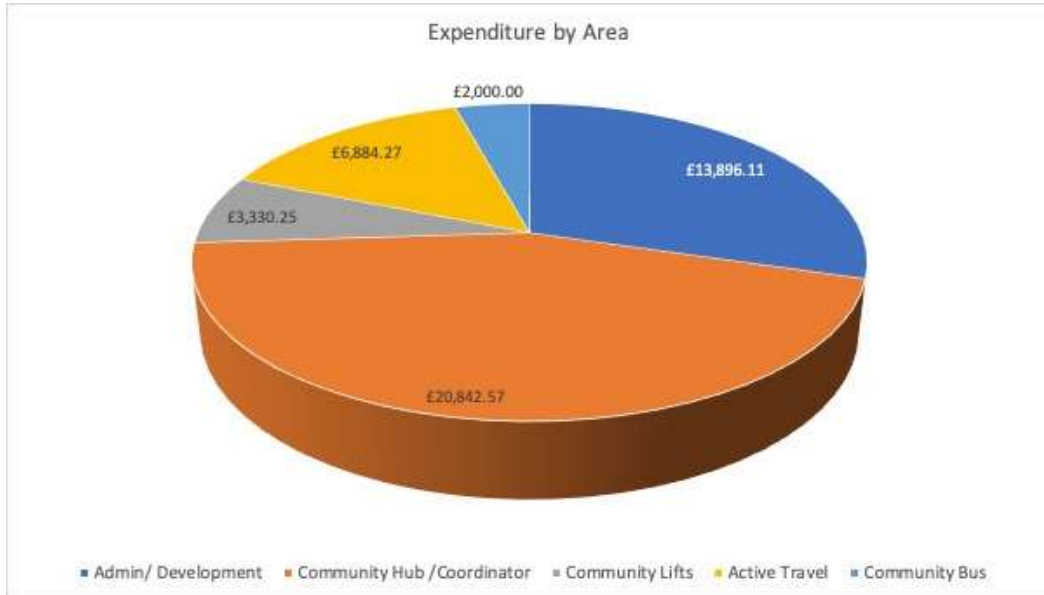
Over 65 recruited and training provided  
Volunteer Friendly status in progress

## **Upper Tay Transport partnerships**

We work with a range of partners including:

- Perth and Kinross Council
- Community Transport Association
- Scottish Rural and Islands Transport Community
- Health and Social Care Partnership
- Community Councils
- Local businesses
- Local groups and organisations
- Range of community transport organisations

## Upper Tay Transport finances



**PART 2**  
**Current projects 2021/2**

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT HUB  
COMMUNITY LIFTS  
WORKING WITH EXISTING TRANSPOT PROVIDERS  
COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE  
ACTIVE TRAVEL  
MOBILITY PTOJECT (under development)  
LIFTSHARE  
HIYA CAR

## Achievements 2021/2

AIM 1 Improve local transport options and connectivity

### Community Transport Hub



The Community Transport Hub aims to provide information and connection for transport in our area. It forms part of the Aberfeldy Information Centre which the Tay Valley Timebank are playing a key role. It opened in March 2021 with its formal launch in June 2021 lead by John Swinney MSP and Pete Wishart MP. Since opening, it has brought in a large number of visitors and locals. We have local transport and other information including an electronic information screen. We have shared bikes based here too. Eileen Merry, Hub Manager and David Gauld, Transport Coordinator both are based in the Hub, along with volunteers who help with customer interface.



## Community Lifts

Community Lifts was one of our first projects set up in 2019. It is a volunteer driver scheme taking passengers to appointments, to go shopping or to attend social activities. With the pandemic still impacting normal life during 2021/2 Community Lifts was largely taking passengers to medical appointments.

44 volunteers of which 24 are active.

97 passengers over 589 journeys covering 22,029 miles. Nearly round the world!



## AIM 2 Make public transport more useful and encourage people to use it

### Existing buses

A small group took on trying to improve existing bus services, particularly in relation to

- Connectivity (to trains and mainline bus services)
- Accessibility
- Frequency
- Cleanliness/ Safety

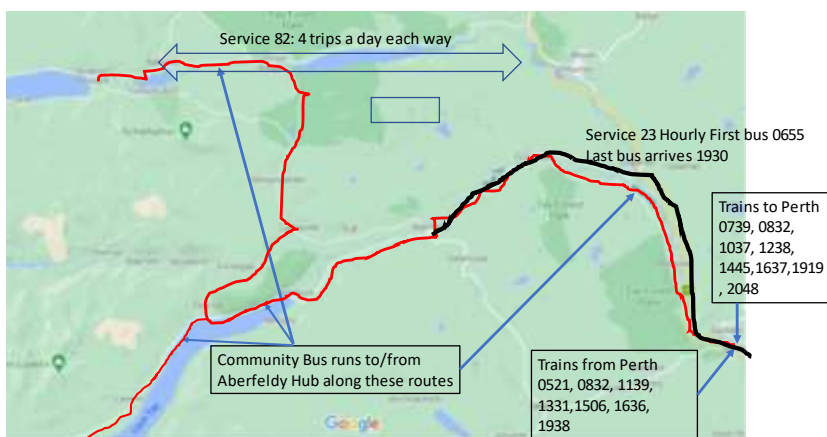
We have been in discussion with Perth and Kinross Council and Stagecoach. As we come out of the pandemic, getting people back on to buses is important and we have been working to encourage people to use the bus.



### Community bus

We have been working with a consultant to develop a community bus service which links communities which are currently not connected and link communities to services. A survey was conducted in 2020 to which we had 220 responses. This information support the development of a business plan with proposed routes, costings and plans. We are working closely with Perth and Kinross Council. This project is ongoing and we hope to have some service in place by April 2023.

#### Proposed Routes Twice weekly Link with Aberfeldy with communities along 3 routes





AIM 3      Encourage and enable people to travel actively and live healthier lives

### **Active Travel project**

Active travel is an important part of the transport mix and Upper Tay Transport seeks to encourage and enable people to walk and cycle when possible. We raise awareness of the benefits of walking and cycling and provide a number of initiatives.

#### *Bikes for Loan*

We have 4 electric bikes which members of the community can borrow for free. The scheme enables people to borrow them for a few hours or a few days.

Over **60** people have used the bikes over **100** days and at least **8** have gone on to buy their own electric bike.



#### *Essential Bike skills*

Essential Cycle Skills is a course to build confidence and skill for cycling on the road. It is tailored to suit the participants. One course focussed on using tricycles.

**8** Essential Cycle skills courses enabling **30** people to gain skills and confidence for cycling on the road.

#### *Bike Maintenance classes*

One barrier to people cycling is lack of knowledge in bike mechanics. We ran 2 courses – one focussed on basic repairs required when out and about, the other on overall maintenance.

**5** Cycle maintenance courses enabling **24** people to learn useful skills.

### *Guided cycle rides*

Cycling with others is good for health and confidence. We have set up guided rides for small groups.



**8** cycle ride leaders trained. Around **45** participants.  
**Weekly ride for groups**

### *Active Travel Week*

We held an Active Travel week at the end of March to coincide with the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. The event aimed to raise awareness of the benefits of walking and cycling and raise awareness of local opportunities.

**12** events with over **150** participants.

### *Cycling in Schools*

It is important that young people learn the skills of cycling and feel confident using a bike on the road. Working with the Active Schools team, we supported guided rides for young people following their participation in Bikeability training. We also ran sessions for young people with additional support needs to enable them to learn to cycle.

**3** schools with **68** young people benefitting from **3** guided rides.



## Mobility project

It is important that everyone can get out and about, no matter what their ability is. Our mobility project aims to enable more vulnerable people to get out. Plans are still in development but may include

- Cycling without Age project
- Mobility scooter loan scheme
- Wheelchair loan scheme

We had a Cycling without Age trial in March during Active Travel week.

## 8 happy participants enjoying being outside!



AIM 4 Support drivers to use their cars more effectively

### LiftShare

LiftShare is a national platform encouraging and enabling people to share lifts. We want all regular commuters to use LiftShare, making a real alternative for people to use in our community. We promote LiftShare in local press, social media and through local networks.



## Hiya Car

Hiya Car is a car hire scheme where local people can hire their cars to people in their community. Currently the nearest car hire is in Perth. This means that people that only need a car occasionally can borrow a car rather than own one themselves. We held an information evening to enable us to learn how this works and we encourage drivers to think about participating.



AIM 5 Improve awareness in the community of all travel options, and encourage the use of sustainable and active travel where possible.

### Publicity and campaigns

A very important part of our work is to raise awareness of options available, and the benefits of using sustainable and active travel. We have a number of ways we achieve this

- Website [www.uppertaytransport.org](http://www.uppertaytransport.org)
- Social media
- Adverts and an insert in Quair – our local magazine
- Articles in local newsletters
- Posters and leaflets
- Local radio station
- Information screens
- Community Transport Hub
- Stall at market
- Attending local events and groups
- Running local campaigns and participating in national campaigns



## AIM 6      Reduce carbon emissions

We aim to put in place a robust monitoring and evaluation plan in 23/24 including measuring reducing the carbon footprint of transport in the community. The first step will be establishing baseline figures from which to measure success.