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Dear Parish Councillors,

4th January 2011

TRAVEL CLUB PROMOTION TO ALL PARISH COUNCIL'S IN DAVENTRY DISTRICT

Much of the news hitting the headlines and TV bulletins speak of cut-backs, discontinuance of services etc. Please read on.....because we have some GOOD news in these troubled times.

Lack of transport in many areas of rural Daventry District is a huge problem and it is likely to get worse as unprofitable bus routes get slashed further. DACT is aiming to EXPAND its services through the highly successful, cost-effective transport which is possible through the TRAVEL CLUB concept.

Please see the attached leaflet which gives more details of the Travel Club idea. In rural communities, we believe the local people need to be in control of their transport requirements rather than having services thrust upon them which are neither appropriate nor convenient and which are usually financially unsustainable anyway. The Travel Club idea gives local people the transport choice of when, where and for how long.

DACT's ethos has always been on the same lines as the current Government's Big Society agenda. This is BIG SOCIETY in action at local level. All it requires is that someone locally is willing to become the trip organiser and book the minibus with DACT when it is required. Some of our Travel Clubs are supported with a Grant from their local Parish Council to help assist with some of the costs involved such as the annual affiliation fee of £25, with the passengers paying a fare based on the length of hire and distance travelled.

You may say, "what about the free bus passes which senior citizens have?" Free bus passes are only of benefit to those who live on a bus route – even some who do, cannot walk to the bus stop, or carry their shopping home on return, or the bus does not run when they most need it. Door-to-door transport is vital to many in our rural communities. But it is not only the elderly who can benefit, this can also be a resource to others in the community who are unable to travel together and who want to arrange social trips to events or places of interest.

Daventry District Council support DACT financially and Kevin Perry, Chairman of Daventry District Council endorses this promotion, to utilise our cost-effective travel alternatives through the Travel Club concept. It is effective, sustainable and energy efficient – it only runs when people have booked it. We use volunteer drivers who are all CRB checked to the enhanced level and who actively want to help their communities.

Help us to help your community. Contact us for more details and we will be pleased to help in any way we can to establish a Travel Club for your Parish.

Yours faithfully,

Rob Kinning
CHIEF EXECUTIVE