

Travelling by bus around Strathard & Trossachs areas using DRT

DRT (demand responsive transport) replaces some fixed-schedule buses and offers much more flexibility to those needing local transport. Both Stirling Council and operator Aberfoyle Coaches came along to the February Community Council meeting to explain the new system and answer queries from Strathard residents to help us understand how it works in practice.

The Community Council felt DRT could offer many advantages to those living or working in our area, and has prepared the information below from answers given at the meeting. Aberfoyle Coaches will be pleased to answer any other questions if you contact them directly (contact details at the bottom). Do please let us know what you think of this system – both positive and negative feedback is of interest.



- The Strathard DRT Scheme runs from Mondays to Saturdays from 7am to 9.30pm excluding 25-26 December and 1-2 January. Trossachs DRT has the same daily hours, but is available every day of the week.
- From Aberfoyle the Strathard DRT service covers the area along the B829/C68 to both Inversnaid and Stronachlachar Pier. The Trossachs DRT area includes the A821 Duke's Pass to Callander via Kilmahog, together with Loch Katrine-side. Maps of both DRT areas can be found in the Public Transport section of the Stirling Council website. As with bus services, road conditions must however be safe for the vehicle.
- Both schemes end at the eastern 30mph boundary of Aberfoyle, just after the Surgery, since for Aberfoyle to Callander via the A81 there is still a scheduled service. The DRT scheme does not cover Gartmore or Port of Menteith since there are still scheduled services to those places.
- These new arrangements supersede the current C29 bus service from Aberfoyle to Kinlochard, and also the pilot DRT scheme from Kinlochard to Inversnaid, both of which will cease on 27th March.
- There is a clear scale of charges. Fares per person are based on distance depending on length of journey e.g. £2.30 per adult for 5 miles, £3.30 for 10 miles. Under-16s pay 50% of the adult fare. 16-18 year olds pay the adult rate less 33%. Under-5s are free.
- National Entitlement Cards will be accepted as on scheduled bus services. So people over 60 travel free.
- Similar DRT services operate in other rural Stirling areas for journeys where there is no scheduled service. You can ask about connections when booking your journey, or check the Stirling Council site or Traveline (website or phone).
- Please book as early as you can. Pre-booking 24 hours ahead is preferable, but shorter notice is possible. Every effort will be made to accommodate bookings. Making a request 24 hours in advance does not however guarantee that a request can always be met.
- If a connection to other services is needed please also advise at time of booking so Aberfoyle Coaches can plan for you to make that connection. There are no gaps at school bus times as during the pilot scheme. It will now be possible to get back to Kinlochard mid-afternoon after arriving in Aberfoyle from Stirling at 15.05.
- If the DRT scheme hours do not meet a regular local transport need adequately e.g. to make connections in order to attend college or university, please contact Aberfoyle Coaches directly to see if special arrangements can be made.
- If a 2nd booking is requested that is close to another, the original agreed time could get altered slightly to accommodate more people. In this case you would be contacted first.
- There are no fixed stops - passengers can be picked up and dropped off anywhere on the public road as long as there is a safe stopping place. Private roads can be used if necessary, but must be safe and suitable for the vehicle.
- Both visitors and tourists can use DRT transport. The service will continue to go to Forest Hills Reception as with the current bus service, hotel driveway conditions permitting.
- Different types of vehicle will be used (cars and buses) including suitably approved local taxi firms. Some have disabled or easier access for people with walking difficulties / wheelchairs.
- Any special requirements (disabled access, bicycles, prams, luggage, animals etc.) please make these known at the time of booking.
- The service ends at 9.30pm so journeys likely to extend more than a few minutes beyond this will not be available using DRT.

Bookings can be made 7am to 7pm

phone or text: **0844 567 5670** ▪ e-mail: **drt@aberfoylecoaches.com**

online: **www.aberfoylecoaches.com** ▪ fax: **01877 382 998**

Please provide date, time, pick-up & drop-off point along with names and contact number(s) for all passengers.



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