

**RICKINGHALL AND BOTESDALE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT 2018**

The first 18 months have proved very successful with respect to vehicle usage, some 3500 people journeys per annum.

With respect to financial support, fares collected are adequately covering running expenses although we have to bear in mind the vehicle warranty expires June 2018. Clearly the vehicle replacement in say 3-4 years, at a cost of some £30,000-£35,000 must be our long -planning. Our County Councillor Jessica Fleming is confident that if we can acquire through donations, etc. some 50% of the replacement costs, we would be in a good position to apply to grant fund the remainder.

It is my opinion that with support from more Parish Councils (Rickingham and Botesdale already substantially contribute), plus voluntary donations that continue to arrive, the future of our community bus is secure.

Gordon Lawrence (Community Bus Coordinator)