

COMMUNITY CUCKMERE BUSES

Report to Herstmonceux Parish Council's Annual Meeting held on 26th April 2021

2020 was a difficult year owing to the coronavirus. CCB suspended operations from end of March to early June during the initial lockdown period, when many of their drivers self-isolated. CCB made their buses covid-compliant and started slowly returning to service over the second half of the year with the aim of delivering all timetabled services by spring 2021. The number of passengers carried was limited per service to maintain social distancing, although many passengers were also isolating. Recovering of services and passengers were continuing towards the end of the year, until the company was further impacted by the second lockdown introduced in November 2020. For the year CCB ran some 67,600 miles and catered for around 30,000 passenger journeys. There was no Private Hire after March and no bespoke services for the whole year. A number of drivers continued to refrain from driving at the end of the year owing to covid.

The charity took delivery of a new bus in February and one in December and sold one of its older vehicles all as part of a bus replacement programme. Apart from two remaining older buses, all vehicles were sprayed with the new corporate colours and logo. The website was also updated reflecting the new image.

CCB remains a busy voluntary organisation and always needs new volunteers. The recruitment programme scheduled for the year stalled owing to COVID-19 but will now roll over to 2021.

Financial Performance

Central and local government supported bus operators generally during the lockdown and subsequently by continuing to pay existing grants and concessionary travel support, both based on estimated levels agreed pre-covid. This, together with no salary or related costs and reduced maintenance costs owing to less mileage has helped the charity maintain a viable operating financial position. A new coronavirus support grant was also introduced by the Department of Transport.

Extended covid-19 lockdown arrangements were introduced in January 2021 which will further impact the business. CCB anticipate central and local government will continue with their financial support.

Sheila Charlton 19th April 2021