Report from B.A.C.T. - March 2025

1. Buses & costs. Thanks in large part to a generous £15,000 grant from Battle Town Council, we have been able to purchase a 2019 Peugeot Boxer 16-seater, enabling us to sell our oldest (2005) Treka-built Mercedes Sprinter minibus. And we continue to operate our two remaining Treka-built Mercedes Sprinter minibuses, although these are now around 16 years old. We recently had a £2,500 bill to get one of them through its MOT.

2. Passenger numbers. In the first seven months of 2024, we recorded over 3,300 single passenger journeys, not including our private hire numbers. Our Hail & Ride (B67-B79) services are still being affected by both unexpected roadworks/closures. We continue to run our Eastbourne flexible bus services (B81, B82 & B88), but services into Rye & Kent remain suspended pending a decision on their future.

3. Drivers & recruitment. This summer, one of our original drivers decided to retire after 25 years of service. However, we have successfully recruited three new drivers, one of whom is the Town Mayor for Battle.

4. Roadworks/closures. We are still having issues with roadworks/road closures impacting our services. We still get conflicting information from ESCC, East Sussex Highways and the on-site contractors. The "one.network" website does not always reflect the current situation.

5. Office & Administration. Our office manager is having to do more work remotely due to both family and health circumstances. However, we continue to manage passenger enquiries/bookings along with all required data returns.

6. Timetables & Fares. We are looking into revising both our timetables and fare structure, as these have remained largely unchanged over the past 10 years. A letter has been drafted to the parishes we operate in to gain their input.

Battle Area Community Transport