

# **Travel Briefing Everyday Travel to and from Forgebank**

Are you interested in coming to live at Lancaster Cohousing? Whatever your current means of transport at the moment – bus, cycle, car or foot - please read this!

Our homes are located three miles from Lancaster so everyday travel needs a bit of thought as part of your transition to living at Lancaster Cohousing. As part of our commitment to living as a sustainable community our travel plan helps us to reduce our carbon footprint and seeks actively to encourage alternatives to private car ownership. Read on to find out how this works at Lancaster Cohousing.

## **Walking**

Halton is a thriving village where we have very good facilities within a short 15 minute walking distance though with a bit of a hill. As well as our own buzzing Halton Mill, we have a lively community centre, a part time post office, doctor's surgery, a pharmacy, award-winning chippy, award-winning pub, social club, library, primary school, hairdresser, other shops and allotments. There's also a reasonably good Coop in Caton, two miles away.

## **Bus**

There is a good half hourly service from Halton village to Lancaster (hourly in the evening and Sundays). We encourage use of this by providing access to subsidised fares. We lost our rural Stagecoach evening and Sunday service in 2017 (the 49) but Kirkby Lonsdale coaches (the 81/82) now provide a full weekly service up to 11 pm (Mon to Sat) and up to 6 on Sundays.

## **Cycle**

Fortunately our homes are situated close to a very good, flat and off-road cycle route that takes us right into the heart of Lancaster and beyond. This makes cycling very much more attractive than on busy heavily trafficked roads. There are secure bike stands at the railway station allowing for journeys further afield.

In addition to every home having a bike stand immediately outside the door, our large bike shed provides secure and dry storage for our numerous bikes and bike paraphernalia.

To supplement our regular bikes, we provide a folding bike and an adult tricycle for hire for those journeys that would be easier with any of these types of bicycle.

Our tool shed has a bicycle repair area making bike-maintenance very much easier. And there are several local bike repairers either on site or who visit the site regularly.

## **Other helpful initiatives**

Our Good Food Co-operative keeps a well-stocked and keenly-priced food store, including fruit and vegetables. We have regular milk and newspaper deliveries and a mobile shop selling fish visits Forgebank weekly. All these services make it easy for us to limit our food-shopping journeys and makes living with reduced car travel very much more feasible.

Green Elephant Co-Operative manages our workspace, Halton Mill. They offer reduced rental rates to LCH residents which transforms our travel-to-work headaches.

## **Cars**

Our policy on car ownership is that members living in Forgebank do not keep private cars on the site, except in exceptional circumstances. Where we do have a need to travel by car we aim to meet members' needs through car sharing through our car club.

Up to 2024, we had a working car club, LANCAR which was run by residents as a non profit making cooperative. It operated 7 shared cars on our behalf.

Because of national insurance changes, Lancar temporarily ceased trading and we now have three cars managed collectively between twelve people (July 2025) - there is currently space to join this arrangement - talk to Chris . Other households purchased cars from lancar or otherwise, many of which are shared between 2-4 households. We are currently (July 2025) investigating ways in which we could relaunch a wider car club , perhaps joining with other cohousing projects.

A customised online booking system allows easy booking of our cars and makes it possible to see where other people are going so we can share lifts. Privately owned cars can be added to this system. This makes car sharing a way of life in the LCH community.

## **Car Parking**

On Forgebank we have 20 community parking spaces, allocated in our Travel Plan as follows:

5 visitor spaces of which one is an accessible space  
11 community spaces, one of which is an accessible space.  
4 special needs spaces, of which 2 are for people with disabilities.

We have no private car parking spaces on site and a clause in our lease states that leaseholders may not park a private car on the public highway within 2 kilometres of the site.

## **Special Circumstances**

For the most part our travel plan arrangements meet all of our needs and we have experienced big shifts in our individual travel routines as a result. However, special circumstances do arise. And so in exceptional circumstances and when it seems that a person's travel needs, for very specific reasons, can not be met by the car club, a member may apply for one of the limited number of community parking spaces on a fixed term basis. The allocation of a space is not guaranteed prior to the application process and is subject to periodic review. So there is no certainty that a space allocated in one round of applications will still be renewed in a subsequent round of application.

## **Criteria we used up to 2024 in the allocation of a community car parking space**

- *not able to be on the car club insurance* (eg for reasons of age, newly qualified driver, etc)
- *have a need for an adaptation or feature to meet mobility or other needs*, that is not currently available in the car club pool

- *people who are likely to need a car at short notice on a regular basis, eg carers, people on zero hours contracts or shift work.*
- *people who work or do voluntary work at unsocial hours including times when public transport is not available*
- *people who are required to have a vehicle for their work.*

Temporary Criteria for allocating spaces agreed in May 24 GM and extended for 1 year in May 25:

- **have a need for a car to meet mobility, medical or other accessibility needs.**
- **people who are likely to need a car at short notice on a regular basis, eg carers, people on zero hours contracts or shift work.**
- **people who work or do voluntary work at unsocial hours including times when public transport is not available.**
- **people who are required to have a vehicle for their work.**
- **sharing car with at least one other household.**

Anyone who has a community parking space will be **encouraged and supported** to share their journey information on the common booking system, and to share lifts with others as well as use their own car.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **I HAVE A CAR - WHOM SHOULD I SPEAK TO ABOUT IT?**

If you are wondering how you'll manage your travel needs and wanting some support, early on in your application for membership your MIST (membership and integration service team) buddy will arrange for you to have a review meeting with one of the LANCAR directors and a member of the Travel Service team when those organisations are operating, or equivalent . The review meeting will follow [these guidelines](#).

### **CAN I USE MY CAR TO MOVE WITH?**

We have a [temporary car parking policy](#) (agreed in 2015) stating that a private car may be kept on site for up 8 weeks, without having gone through an application process to apply for a parking space. After the 8 weeks the car needs to be removed from the site. Exceptionally a further 8 week period could be agreed by TST or equivalent.

### **I WILL BE RENTING FOR JUST 6 MONTHS. WHAT ABOUT MY CAR?**

In some cases, when space allows, particularly for people renting, we may be able to find a space for a SORNed vehicle for 6 months to a year.

### **HOW WOULD MY CHILDREN GET TO SCHOOL?**

Primary school children leave Forgebank every morning and walk the 15 minutes to the local school, while other primary children attend a primary school in Caton (which is within easy cycling distance). There are other primary schools in Lancaster and elsewhere which our children have attended in the past. Secondary school children could take the bus from the village into the centre of Lancaster or cycle the three miles into Lancaster to get to the three Lancaster secondary schools. QES in Kirkby Lonsdale or Dallam school in Milnthorpe are also both accessible by bus from the village and currently three of our children attend QES. Some children are home schooled.

## **HOW DO I GET A SPACE IN THE BIKE SHED FOR MY BIKE?**

Speak to the TST bike-shed co-ordinator currently Mara. [There may not be room for everyone!]

The following criteria are currently used for allocating spaces in the bike shed (from the minutes of TST from July 2018):

We propose that priority for ground floor bike parking spaces go to:

- people whose primary means of travelling to work, to shopping, to school and other activities is by bike are called “essential bike users”. We would invite these people to self-identify. We are aware that not all these people would choose to park in the bike shed but they would be offered the opportunity to do so.
- Children whose bikes are adult size would be offered a stand. If they take up this offer then their family stand would be reallocated. It may be that family stands could be allocated for sharing (4 bikes) to groups of neighbours who are infrequent users.
- Other families holding family stands would continue to do so.

Following these two exercises all remaining ground floor stands would be allocated by lottery.

Bikes not allocated a ground floor stand would be offered a hanging space.

**Travel Service Team**  
**Being Updated July 2025**

**Ps see [this link](#) for info about companies and individuals who deliver to Forgebank and see [this link](#) for key documents held by the Travel Service Team.**