

Community Lift Sharing Guidance

This guide was compiled by CoMoUK based on research and evidence gathered by [Hope Valley Climate Action](#) as part of the ‘Moving Together’ project funded by Midlands Connect and Derbyshire County Council, 2023-2025.

Introduction

Lift sharing is where a private citizen offers to share a trip with one or more passengers. It is particularly useful in areas with traffic congestion, or parking problems and it is also a valuable way to get around for those who don't own a car in areas with poor public transport. It can help car owners to cut their travel petrol and parking costs and reduce their environmental footprint.

The following options are available for lift-sharing:

- Informal car-sharing methods for small, private communities – e.g. Whatsapp/Facebook groups
- Public car-sharing platforms to easily find matches based on journey details – e.g. Liftshare/BlaBlaCar
- Private/closed car-sharing platforms for large communities (commercial schemes for large organisations) - e.g. Liftshare for Work

Lift sharing arrangements can be made easily and informally, without the need for specific lift sharing platforms or technology.

A major barrier to lift sharing is finding suitable travel partners. Simple systems and procedures, such as spreadsheets, can help facilitate this amongst small and medium sized closed groups of people.

Lift-sharing platforms are also available for people who are happy to have public matches. They will display journey matches based on the details input. These require less administration and could lead to a wider reach and more matches when promoted.

How to set up an Informal Lift sharing Group

Step	Description
------	-------------

Set up the system to share rides	<p>There are a few different low-tech systems for lift sharing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) WhatsApp or email group – may be most useful for groups with trips which change each week and need on-going connections. WhatsApp is easier to manage on peoples’ phones but may get unmanageable with too much traffic. b) Google form feeding into a google drive document is useful to establish one-off links between people who all going to same location e.g. school or larger town on a regular basis. c) Facebook groups are useful for people with one common interest going to different locations each week e.g. walking group or football teams. d) Lift share platforms such as https://liftshare.com/uk or https://www.blablacar.co.uk/ are useful for managing larger groups and making new connections to people in your area.
Managing the administration	It may be necessary to appoint volunteer administrators to manage and promote the scheme.
Draft Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft any necessary rules for group members • Agree responsibilities for operation • Agree how it will be monitored
Publicity	<p>Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media • Press coverage • Local newsletters • Local community groups • Posters <p>Repeat messaging at regular intervals</p>

Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch group and track usage • Add group rules/protocols to group media • Review progress after 1 month • Take any remedial actions
Maintain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run occasional social events and publicise • Monitor messages on group, and remove / warn any offending members • Post regular reminders to encourage sharing offers, remind members of protocols, and recruitment of new members • Undertake annual surveys of members to identify problem areas to tackle • Review the best format and technology for the group

Example Group Protocol

Be Open

- Put a picture of you as your display picture in WhatsApp.
- Be willing to meet before your first share if your driver/passenger feels more comfortable doing that.

Be polite

- Messages should let people know who you are, where you're going, and why you want to ride with them.

Be clear about expectations

- Agree on ways of working, such as how to measure mileage and who's responsible for cleaning the car.

Be on time

- If you've agreed to meet at a specific time, make sure you're there and ready to go. If you're delayed, let your sharer know.

Be considerate

- Take messaging about detailed arrangements or disruption to your journey off the group, message directly with your lift share partner.
- Be sensitive to your car share partner's preferences for silence or chat.
- In closed schemes, lifts are often shared between people who know each other. The administrator may remove people failing to abide by the group's rules.

Be honest

- If the arrangement isn't working out, have an honest conversation about ending it.

Be aware of security

- Don't share personal details of group members outside the group. It's recommended to meet up in a public place prior to sharing if you can.

Follow the law

- Drivers cannot make a profit from lift sharing, but can charge for reasonable expenses

Success Factors of Informal Lift sharing Groups

- Recruitment drives using face to face, posters and social media to recruit numbers to an optimum level. Face to face, such as community/group meetings, is most reassuring, other measures may require some ability to safely meet beforehand.
- If lift sharing is needed at various times of the day or locations, a more diverse membership may be required
- Key factors which motivate people to lift share, include increased convenience, reduced problems with parking, and altruism/environmental reasons, saving money and being sociable.
- Driver and passengers need an easy way to connect and learn about trips they have in common.
- Users must feel safe and secure, and confident of completing their trip. Create a safe environment where people feel comfortable both offering and declining lifts.
- Passengers need to know they can get back easily if the lift is disrupted.
- A way of sharing the actual costs without making a profit (which would contravene tax laws and insurance contracts)
- Keep messaging manageable (not too few or too many). Agreed protocols for messages and behaviours, with a group administrator. Encourage users to arrange the trip details offline,

once a match has been found, to avoid clogging up the feed. Upgrade to a more formal system if the group outgrows informal arrangements.

- Give regular reminders to use the platform, but not too frequently (say once a month)
- Encourage commuters to lobby their employers for support for lift-sharers (such as priority parking and guaranteed ride home schemes)
- Gather feedback if someone leaves the group, so you can rectify any problems

Examples

- Buxton-Macclesfield lift share group is a new group established to help people share lifts both between Buxton and Macclesfield, and between Buxton and Chinley rail station (which is on a different rail line from Buxton, and widens the travel opportunities. The group was set up in December 2024, publicised in Facebook groups and in the local press, and has around 30 members.
- Grindleford lift share group has been running for a few years, and was originally established to help with people travelling between Grindleford and Sheffield. It was also used to help Ukrainian refugees in Grindleford travel about more easily. It has around 50 members.
- Bradwell scouts lift share group is a very informal arrangement between a few parents to share the task of helping their children reach the Bradwell Scout Group from nearby Hope.
- Ramblers Groups appear to make good use of this WhatsApp and Facebook groups, such as the [Staines Ramblers](#), who have a simple set of guidelines on use and reimbursement.

Public car sharing platforms

BlaBlaCar

Ad-hoc journeys are generally posted 2-3 days in advance and payment is made through their booking system. The driver posts a ride, and passengers search for a ride and book.

Liftshare

Less on demand, Liftshare is more suitable for regular journeys, such as a commute, or one-off journeys in advance for things like festivals and other events. Drivers and passengers sign-up for free, post journeys and are matched with each other. Liftshare displays a suggested contribution, with payment being exchanged directly between members. or, a driver could help a passenger out without payment.