

TripStop Project Profile

TripStop is an initiative from the Transport Group of **North Howe Transition Town** (NHTT) that contributes to rural transport solutions.

www.nhtt.org.uk/transport-group/

Why TripStop ?

NHTT operates in a rural area – an area without any local services. Rural buses do not appear to be an adequate solution – even with Flexi options. We are looking at a number of solutions that are alternatives to car use:

1. Improved cycle routes to the local services in neighbouring areas.
2. Provision of bike parking at transport nodes
3. Promotion of TripShare (an established formal car sharing scheme at www.tripsharefife.com)

These go some way to providing an alternative to car use, but we felt that there were still some gaps. We also recognised an under-utilised resource – local people on local journeys in their car. We came up with the idea of TripStop. In essence it's about creating the conditions for local people to give and receive lifts on local journeys – like a trip to the nearest town.

How does TripStop Work ?

TripStop signs are installed at strategic points – such as the exits of villages. They are like a bus stop – except that a person standing at the TripStop sign is indicating that they want a lift – rather than they are waiting for a bus. We see it working like this:

A local person is driving to town to do some shopping. They see a young adult standing at the TripStop sign. They recognise that person, and they decide to stop and offer a lift. The young adult at the TripStop recognises the car driver who has stopped – it's a neighbour from a couple of streets away. The young adult agrees to a lift, and is grateful because it's quicker and more direct than the bus that comes in an hour's time.

At its core TripStop is about giving permission for local people to offer lifts and to take up that offer of a lift. It's about creating sufficient trust within the community so that that people feel comfortable about giving or receiving a lift. If successful, it will also create community confidence and build social capital.

How is TripStop different from TripShare?

While both are ways to car share – they are very different in character, and are likely to attract different people and age groups. A comparison is shown below:

TripStop	TripShare
Informal – turn up and try	Formal – requires booking
Suits short local journeys	Suits longer journeys
Casual and ad hoc	Organised & reliable
Unplanned	Planned & predictable
Security through community cohesion	Security through booking system
No money changes hands	Money changes hands
A novel initiative	An established service

What about security?

Security is an immediate concern for many people. We are not promoting TripStop for children. We are putting this initiative forward because we believe the community itself will determine how much trust and confidence local people have in one another.

We are being very clear about suggesting boundaries: only offer or agree to a lift if you recognise that person as a member of your community.

Our opinion is that social cohesion will provide good security for TripStop – just as it does for other initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch.

How do we initiate the project ?

The TripStop initiative is being developed at the moment. For our community, we are following this process:

1. Community engagement
 - Contact households that expressed interest through the community survey
 - Run focus group with interested households
 - Learn how the community thinks the project could run
 - Engage with wider community through established bodies, such as community council, and make proposals shaped by focus group.
2. Run pilot scheme
 - Install temporary signage
 - Raise further awareness by publicising initiative.
3. Evaluation
 - Monitor take up by questionnaire to interested parties.
 - Seek feedback from wider community
 - Create web feedback page

This is how we envisage the project working in our community – for other communities the process could be quite different.