

Councillor Stone “Count Me In” Rotherham Volunteers Month

Thursday 5th June 2014



Councillor Roger Stone, Leader of Rotherham Borough Council and Chair of the Rotherham Partnership joined me this morning with Rotherham Community Transport. Councillor Stone volunteered as a Passenger Assistant supporting elderly people to go shopping using Community Transport Shopper Bus Service. It was fantastic to see him helping people on and off the bus, carrying shopping and engaging in conversation. He was a real hit with the ladies who could not believe how old he was! At times I sat back in my seat to listen to the conversations and community spirit that existed between neighbours and heard about how valuable the bus service was to them. They were their own small community on the bus, right there and then.

We carried individual passengers initially one older gentleman travelled to Davies Court in Dinnington where, until recently, his wife who had dementia had been cared for until she passed away. He was 89 years old and still went up to Davies court to see the staff and take them chocolates. I had to fight back the tears as he recalled happy memories, clearly during the time his wife was there and now the bus is a lifeline to him.

Everyone we spoke to told us of the excellent service they get from Community Transport and how the driver “Gary” was one of their favourites.

Councillor Stone gave up his morning as part of “Count Me In” Rotherham Volunteers Month, a campaign to raise the profile of volunteering across Rotherham. He is the second of our VIP volunteers to take part. As Volunteer Centre Manager it was a privilege to join both Councillor Stone and Community Transport to aid those in and around Rotherham who use the service.

RCT was established in 1989 and currently provides around 12,000 passenger journeys a month, RCT aims to coordinate and integrate a range of Dial-a-Ride, Community Transport and Transport for Health & Social Care Services and supports this with their in-house fleet maintenance and training with an emphasis on driving for both safety and economy contributing to both local employment and the delivery of reliable and valued local services.

Something as simple as a bus ride or a lift with a volunteer makes a tremendous difference to lonely and isolated older people, people with long term conditions and disabled children and their families. Could you offer a helping hand to people where you live by going the extra mile and becoming a driving force in your community? Whether it is helping out as a passenger assistant on one of the shopper buses, Volunteering as a driver (with or without your own car) or contributing time and experience as a trustee you will be more than welcome. If you would like to join the team in RCT and become a volunteer you can apply [online here](#)

Julie Adamson

Volunteer Centre Manager