

Subject: Healthwatch achieves parking spaces for Volunteer Drivers at Royal Berkshire Hospital

Healthwatch steers the creation of designated parking spaces for Volunteer Drivers at The Royal Berkshire Hospital



We all know the difficulties with parking for the hospital. Well earlier this year Healthwatch Wokingham Borough took the campaign to get more spaces for volunteer drivers firmly in hand.

Across the eight Volunteer driver groups in Wokingham Borough, **350 volunteer drivers' complete nearly 20,000 trips per year which is approximately 22% of all trips to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.**

Roger Kemp, a volunteer driver and Healthwatch Researcher, produced a [report](#) earlier this year looking at the issues volunteer drivers have when carrying out journeys to the hospital. Many patients need help to and from the vehicle when arriving for their appointments, so having no nearby spaces creates problems.

As well as the report, Healthwatch (with Roger's help) then communicated the issues via a film to the hospital, which has achieved fantastic results.



The Hospital have responded positively and now Wokingham Volunteer drivers are leading the trial of new volunteer passes with dedicated spaces in the South Wing staff car park. (6 passes and 2 spaces). Hospital visiting hours are now unrestricted easing the congestion at peak times and some other alterations in the car park is being explored.

Healthwatch Wokingham Borough are disappointed to hear of the winding down of the Transport Forum.

With rising demands on the voluntary sector as well as the financial pressures, it is becoming more important for like minded groups to come together to share their skills and resources and to work together and smarter in order to build sustainable services going forward.

Healthwatch Wokingham Borough were party to bringing the voluntary transport groups together in 2015. Whilst the Forum members plan to stay in contact with one another, we do regret that the regular meetings will be lost and thus fear that the strength of collaboration achieved above, will now not grow further.

Wokingham not having a Transport Forum will mean that the group or industry cannot develop as a unified whole but individual organisations will go back to working in silos again.

Our great thanks to Roger Kemp for his commitment on this issue.

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Get In Touch

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Email enquiries@healthwatchwokingham.co.uk

Write at Healthwatch Wokingham, c/o CAB, 2nd floor, Waterford House, Erfstadt Court, Wokingham RG40 2YF, or

Come and see us by visiting the Healthwatch Co-ordinator at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Wokingham and Woodley town centres, the Swallowfield Medical Practice (by appointment), Crowthorne Baptist Church (by appointment) or via the MICE Bus.

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