



BICKWATCH

A Climate Friendly Community Transport

**provided by Watchet Town Council, Sampford Brett and Bicknoller Parish Councils in collaboration with Bicklifts and Watchet Drives Community Car Schemes
To serve the local residents of Watchet, Sampford Brett Bicknoller and neighbouring areas.**

ABOUT EVIE

BickWatch Project came into being thanks to a successful bid that produced a substantial Grant from Somerset County Council Climate Emergency Fund. (Now known as Somerset Council)

The vehicle is an all-electric Nissan eNV200 (now called EVIE-Here4YOU) converted by Brotherwood in Yeovil, that permits a passenger seated in a wheelchair to be pushed into the back of the vehicle connected to a secure system which then holds them securely. They are further secured in place by being strapped in with a seat belt. This means that they can safely be carried in their wheelchair for their entire journey.

This scheme aims to overcome many of the shortcomings of public transport services in rural areas, particularly in respect of accessibility of such services to the frail and elderly. The scheme is open for use by all, regardless of means, and Somerset Travel pass holders may enjoy a 50% discount on fares. All drivers have been DBS checked and all journeys are covered by the scheme's public liability insurance.

Evie has been offered to other Community Car Schemes in West Somerset, preferably for them to provide a driver, and to increase travel access for those in need, in other outlying parishes and communities.

Evie is owned and insured by Watchet Town Council and the coordinator is also employed by them. Drivers are given training on how to use the wheelchair system and all are DBS verified. There is a dedicated charging point on the Esplanade in Watchet controlled by an app. Evie can also be charged at Bicknoller Village Hall.

WHAT JOURNEYS ARE ELIGIBLE?

- Attendance for any Medical appointments or clinics for which transport is not provide by other services.
- Social Groups that provide workshops, a warm space or support mental health.
- Shopping, banking, or collecting prescriptions.
- When you can't or are unable to drive yourself

WHAT JOURNEYS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Journeys to work or school
- Trips outside a 20-mile radius from Watchet
- Trips for which hospital transport services are available
- Trips to the vets

Passengers must be pre-registered before making a booking (registration forms available from the co-ordinator). When you need transport, contact the co-ordinator and book your trip – stating the primary reason for the journey and giving the names of all passengers to be carried. Be considerate regarding the timing of calls and give at least 2 working days' notice. The co-ordinator will confirm the availability of a driver and the fare. The co-ordinator will also be the final arbiter on any question regarding eligibility of the trip.

If a telephone answering machine is connected when you call, do not hang up. Leave your name, telephone number and details of the trip you wish to book. The co-ordinator will get back to you as soon as possible and confirm your travel arrangements.

If you have been issued with a disabled badge, bring it with you - It will help the driver to minimise inconvenience when parking. If you use a walking aid or wheelchair, advise the co-ordinator.

We endeavour to be as flexible as possible but cannot cover every transport need. It is not a substitute taxi service!

HOW MUCH DOES EVIE COST?

For all journeys a concessionary half fare will be charged if the passenger has a travel pass (TP). All journeys are considered as return journeys, no discount is available for one way trips. The fare will be divided between the number of passengers carried. There are no additional charges when a passenger is carried in a wheelchair.

Band A = Watchet, Williton, Doniford Sampford Brett and Bicknoller

- All journeys originating and completing within the parishes of Bicknoller,
- Doniford, Sampford Brett, Watchet and Williton: £4 (£2 TP)

- Journeys to the following places from the Band A parishes; Crowcombe, Monksilver, Stogumber, Old Cleeve, Washford, Roadwater; : £6 (£3 TP)
- Journeys to the following places from the Band A parishes: Minehead, Carhampton, Blue Anchor, West Quantoxhead, Luxborough, Kilve, Dunster, Bishops Lydeard, £10 (£5 TP)
- Journeys to the following places from the Band A parishes: Taunton, Bridgwater, Porlock, Porlock Weir, Timberscombe £15 (£7.50 TP)

Journeys beyond Taunton and Bridgwater to be referred to Wheels.

Sharing is encouraged and fares may be split between all passengers sharing the trip.

WHO IS THE CO-ORDINATOR?

Donna Stevens – 07599 955096

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

If you would like to help with operation of the scheme as a volunteer driver, please inform the co-ordinator.