



EMERSONS GREEN

TOWN COUNCIL

Mobile Community Centre on Wheels project.

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Youth Work in Emersons Green and where the mobile idea came from.

The idea of bringing youth services was discussed some years ago but sadly there were no buildings available within the Emersons Green Parish that would be suitable for a dedicated youth and community centre. This is why a space was rented and put into action at the resound church. This site has been developed since by creative youth network (Youth Arts Provider). This has been sufficient in some ways and has provided a provision to some young people but absolutely not all.

The mobile provision idea became a discussion point as other services have created offers that take youth work directly to young people. The downside in South Gloucestershire, however, is that vehicles have had to be shared by various organisations plus are not really suited to large groups of young people. Young Bristol had their own dedicated mobile provision which was much larger in scale and design and predominantly focused on its creation at the rural areas that did not have space for youth clubs. As it became apparent that this problem did not just occur in rural areas the offering was expanding to built-up urban areas also. This is the provision our new Youth Liaison Officer came from. He set up and managed the youth club on wheels project for five years across 24 locations in and around Bristol.



Youth Work in Emersons Green and where the mobile idea came from continued.

From ongoing development and consultancy, the Youth Liaison Officer Shea Stew has identified that this locality is growing in size and requires its own prescribed space. This is especially prevalent with professional youth work as young people need their own dedicated space and identity formed. The consultancy for this piece of work was initially produced by creative youth network (CYN). CYN highlighted that the existing community spaces were nearly always booked out and were unable to provide capacity for the storage of equipment or making a dedicated space for youth. This ongoing challenge is still evident. Emersons Green Town Council has an ongoing task to provide and support its own youth work provision in an ever-growing population.

Many young people have actually said through School engagement with Shea that something mobile would work for them as it keeps everything safer and can ensure activities are close to everyone's home. From this ongoing conversation within the community blueprints have been created with a specific design which the Youth Liaison Officer Shea created based on a better accommodated version to his former project works. The blueprints provide clarity as to what can be offered with regards to a mobile provision for the youth and wider community.



The above vehicle has been designed to accommodate the whole community older people, those with mobility restrictions and younger people at its core. It has been designed to allow a space for everyone. The main attributes are:

- Seating for 15 people with the benefit of extension using the awning.
- Detachable tables providing ease of access.
- A fully working kitchen with overhead storage, cooker and hob.
- Smart Tv with gaming console and VR headset.
- Storage for games or sports equipment under all of the seats.
- Disabled access with electric ramp and dedicated space wheelchair users.
- Full Air conditioning system with heating system.
- Generator for winter months which is low in decibel.
- Solar system for summer months ensuring the climate and nature plan is committed too within the council.
- Electric awning perfect for extending space and cover from the elements.
- Side of vehicle can open which is perfect for local council events.
- Safe access points as the entrance is made of Aluminium.
- White board material sides so youth and community can be creative. Write and draw and simply wipe off.
- Electric points with USB throughout the vehicle.
- On board WIFI.
- Speaker system for music arts and sessions with all people.

Why would this be beneficial to the wider community.

With limited spaces available for community services, it's important that the Council understands the ongoing needs of a youth service and plans for future demand. Keeping services consistent is vital for the community.

The Youth Liaison Officer brings strong experience in mobile services and partnership work across Bristol, showing how consistency can turn ideas into reality. Mobile youth services not only reach people directly but also build connections across different areas, helping create a “one community” approach.

Other groups have explored mobile youth projects before, but what sets this idea apart is opening the service to the whole community, not just young people. A “community club on wheels” could help tackle loneliness, support mental health, and provide spaces like cafés and drop-in stops for older residents.

The strength of a mobile service is its flexibility—anything is possible and anywhere can be reached. The key is safety and offering a warm, welcoming space. With those basics in place, meaningful community work can happen anywhere. **A good example of how this model could function would be the following.**

- 6 sessions or more in different locations per week offering open access youth work delivery.
- 4 Sessions per week offering older people a place for cake and film during daytime hours without a cost and with a warm space.
- Potential of mental health professionals and partnership working.

- Commercial arm of works with another authority for context 4 sessions per month at £300 per session is enough to pay the vehicle off over 10 years this is very achievable = essentially 12 hours per month.
- Provide alternative provision in local schools.
- The community club on wheels can have many uses at community festival events.
- Surgeries for advice with various public services for example (CAB)
- Specific monthly sessions for young people with additional needs this is something desperately needed locally.
- Cooking workshops with everyone this would be part of the overall offer with all sessions created.

One of the biggest challenges with any provision that defines mobile are the overall costings and how initially the benefits outweigh costs. The biggest thing to remember is the human element. This kind of project has succeeded so well before in other areas; it's a tried and tested model. Whilst services take time to evolve the human opportunities are endless it mainly comes down to creativity and making the project work. Seeds have already been sown showing the abilities of this project and both older people and young people have equally said how brilliant it would be. A youth and community centre building would cost around a million pounds to develop depending on the size. It would warrant other services buying into the site to balance the finances which potentially would break even yearly this is why so many charities struggle to keep doors open. A mobile provision would provide multiple services, a more sustainable way of delivering these services and as a local authority we can proudly run our own provisions for our youth and community.

Comparisons and pricing structure.

➤ The Electric option.

Due to climate change being such a prevalent issue across the globe we had to think about different options available for the sustainability of a community vehicle on wheels that can see a ten-year tenure through. Sadly, this was not a black and white subject as larger heavier vehicles are very different. Research was conducted to see if an electric vehicle could be provided instead of a combustion engine however after much delving it was found that an electric vehicle would put an extra 12 inches onto the overall height of the vehicle rendering adaptations for disabled access very difficult. The costs would increase by £25,000.

The larger sized vehicles only allow 70 miles per charge, and the infrastructure locally is only designed for cars and generic sized vans with a 6-metre vehicle. There would be no viable options to charge the vehicle at a garage or at the town council building site. It has been identified that some people with larger vehicles have experienced motor burn out; this was due to the electric motors having to pull a bigger chassis. This combined with the uneven weight distribution meant that overall costs over time would be superior compared to a Euro-6 Diesel option. The biggest problem faced with our build is the weight of the vehicle and electric sadly is much heavier resulting in a vehicle that would potentially need a special licence to drive it and the possibility of a tachograph which invalidates many people's ability to drive it at all.

➤ The Euro-6 Diesel option.

The existing design for our community club on wheels is a Euro-6 Diesel. This decision has been made due to the design being disabled user friendly and more cost efficient. The mobile will have the ability to pull a longer chassis more freely on a conventional car licence 3.5 ton. The Youth Liaison Officer ran the original youth club on wheels project with a Euro-6 vehicle this allowed for a cleaner mode of transport to and from various sites in accordance with the clean air zone at zero cost. The overall cost would be a refill of £120 per 8 weeks of roughly 500 miles. Realistically Emersons Green and the surrounding areas are much smaller in geographic resulting in lower running costs and less polluting. Being Euro-6 in design means many restrictions are put in place for emissions and overall care for the environment.

The disadvantage with a Euro-6 diesel is the possibility of clogged converters and the DPF. This however is not a problem providing the vehicle has a decent drive weekly to ensure the engine breathes correctly. With the hope of buying a Euro-6 vehicle during 2026 this would mean that we are within tolerance of the net zero build of petrol and diesel engines predicted by 2030. A diesel engine build would essentially be good for 100,000 miles without the need for any serious intervention and the realistic upkeep would be tyre replacement and general servicing.

Comparisons and pricing structure.

Three businesses were able to provide quotes for a mobile community vehicle based on the needs and designs of the blueprint drawings created. This is mainly because the community vehicle on wheels is such a niche product, is built on an extended chassis for space and the ability to fit proper fixtures.

Mobile Community Vehicle Quotes

1. Torton Bodies £142,500.00 Excluding Vat
2. Master's £129,115.00 Excluding Vat = Euro-6 Diesel model. (Electric Option would take the build to £154,115.00 plus VAT.)
3. Neat Vehicles £119,895.00 Excluding Vat

[Products - NEAT Vehicles](#)

[Exhibition Vehicles for Sale | Exhibition Units For Sale](#)

[Promotional vehicles for sale & hire - Masters Promotional Vehicles](#)

Due-Diligence provided below highlighting potential companies that could originally provide some form of custom build.

Criteria	A Torton Bodies	B Masters	C Neat Vehicles
Experience & Reputation	Limited Reviews but all come across good at 4 stars. Neat vehicles also sell and build cars so are not specific to large community projects builds.	Reviews are excellent and more personal with a very large range of commercial and promotional vehicle builds to their name. Also a family ran business.	Have a good array of builds they have pulled together but with limited reviews to show from customers. Reviews look manufactured.

Customisation Capabilities	Have said they can build the design but have not asked any specific questions. Neat Vehicles can build many vehicles but very plain in many designs seen online. Mostly build promotional stand vehicles and lorry boxes.	Can complete many different vehicles in a timely manner with huge workshop facilities and many unusual vehicles already built. They stock up market accessories that cannot be seen by other companies	Good abilities to create a mobile community provision and have a workshop capable of doing so. Accessories to dot match Blueprints however and they want to do something different to the original drawings.
Design Services	Have not offered any form of design that can counter Masters blueprints	Provided professional blueprints to the exact design provided by the Youth Liaison Officer with a personal meeting to ensure all equipment was added to the design	Offered some less professional blueprints with a demonstration of something different. The designs were good but more basic.
Vehicle Options	Options limited with base vehicle and box section size is 1 metre less in size to the blueprint designs	Can offer full electric vehicle if required (although not recommended for this build), have plenty of base vehicles to choose from that are euro 6 compliant	Have 2 base vehicles Fiat-Citroen cab and box section would be 5 metres the same as original drawings.
Technology Integrations	Can provide basics of a community vehicle build but could not accommodate all of the requirements provided through blueprints	Full capabilities and even with a vision can accommodate a good list of technologies.	Good array of technologies but different to the blueprint designs as they stock different equipment.
Estimated Cost	£142:500:00 Excluding Vat	£129:115:00 Excluding Vat. Electric £154,115	£119:895:00 Excluding Vat
Timeline	3 Months	8 Weeks	3 Months
Support & Warranty	2 Years Cab and Engine. 1 Year Box	2 Years Cab and Engine. 1 Year Box	2 Years Cab and Engine. 1 Year Box
Previous Youth Builds	None	Many Community Vehicles and 1 Youth Build	1 former Youth Work Build
Strengths	Torton Bodies may create something unique. Well established with many vehicles to show Creative company with different ideas	Can build to spec designs	The company have built a simple youth bus
Weaknesses	Expensive And limited correspondence.	Located in Kent	Located in the North
Length	6 Metres	6 metres	5 metres and not as per design
Disabled Access	Yes	Electric access plus space provided	Manual Access without dedicated space
Servicing	Engine-Citroen Dealer Bristol	Engine-Citroen Dealer Bristol	Engine-Citroen Dealer Bristol
Diesel and Electric	Diesel Option Only	Electric Option and Diesel Option	Diesel Option Only

Recommendation Summary	I would not recommend Torton Bodies because it is not their specific niche of work, and the communication has been limited.	I would recommend Masters because I have built a mobile provision with them before and I know the workshop capabilities. They would build to spec without question. Youth Liaison Officer knows first-hand the build quality is excellent and very low maintenance for the box section of the vehicle.	NEAT vehicles could pull off the build, but we may not get the exact design required and changes would be made without consultation as they did with a new drawing.
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Recommendation

Masters have been recommended by the Youth Liaison Officer. A previous working relationship suggests quality build, strong engagement, good understanding of needs and performance, along with excellent customer service and after sales. They have the facilities to build our community vehicle to the exact spec of the design's provided. The Youth Liaison Officer has seen in person the expertise of the Master's work and their unwavering approach to professional customised vehicles. Masters can build a vehicle that can be driven on a car licence at 3.5-ton max, that has a box section to accommodate enough people safely whilst running activities in any community and is not as intimidating for a driver as a larger vehicle (such as a double decker bus). Any member of staff or anyone over the age of 25 can drive the vehicle, on our insurance. No formal training would be needed however; the Youth Liaison Officer would manage this through 1-2-1 training and ensuring that only those who are confident behind the wheel drive the vehicle. With a general capacity of 15 people this project could flourish. Providing Emersons Green and the wider area with opportunities that have not been accessible before.