

# Backing the Bus Pass



**I**n 2008, the government introduced a concessionary bus pass for older people across the UK.

The National Pensioners Convention (NPC) was instrumental in achieving this and continues to campaign to improve the scope of the concession wherever possible.

Since its introduction ten years ago, the bus pass has been of huge benefit not only

to older people, but to wider society as well.

Every year older people contribute over £10bn worth of time and skill through volunteering in their local communities, and the bus pass enables them to carry on helping others.

Not only that, but pensioners use the bus to visit local shops and support the local economy.

**They are much less likely to buy their shopping at a retail park situated on the edge of a conurbation, than they are to take a short bus ride into town.**

**But one of the main benefits of the bus pass is that it gives older people the opportunity to get out, stay active and remain independent.**

**The growing problem of loneliness among older people is costing the NHS and other services millions of pounds every year. Without the bus pass this would be much higher.**

**Of course, taking the bus also helps to cut down on congestion and pollution, but not all areas – particularly rural villages – have access to good bus routes.**

**That's why the NPC is backing the bus pass and hopes to celebrate another ten years of free travel in 2028!**

**B**y law, all older people are entitled to a bus pass that offers free travel from 9.30am to 11.30pm. Some local councils also offer more.

A recent survey of bus usage by older people found:

- 45% of journeys were of benefit to the local economy (shopping, banking, eating out etc)
- 25% of journeys were used to caring out voluntary work and unpaid caring
- The remaining 30% was used to stay healthy by visiting keep fit classes, local swimming baths etc and helping to reduce demand and cost of health and care services

## **Join the NPC and get involved**

Contact us at:

**Marchmont Community Centre**

**62 Marchmont Street**

**London WC1N 1AB**

**Tel: 020-7837-6622**

**[www.npcuk.org](http://www.npcuk.org)**

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