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PRESS RELEASE

Cuckmere Buses Return to Service

Cuckmere Buses is planning to return to service on Monday 15 June, having temporarily suspended operations on 27 March owing to the coronavirus.

The company operates several minibuses taking people to their nearest towns for shopping and appointments. The buses run some 20 different routes per week (when the full timetable is open) providing transport links to many rural areas including as far afield as Alfriston, Berwick, East Dean, Pevensey, Polegate, Ripe, Waldron and Willingdon, plus Town Bus services in Hailsham & Seaford.



The company stopped operating in line with Government advice, and to protect passengers and drivers. "Our passengers have missed us, and we have missed them", says Philip Ayers, Managing Director. "With the easing in central advice, we will return to service slowly with limited bus runs and some necessary restrictions, but over the coming weeks we plan to increase the services to meet the needs of all our customers".

John Bunce, Operations Director said, "We have fitted screens around the drivers and will be providing hand sanitisers and wipes, as well as masks for passengers who do not have their own face covering. We will be limiting our carrying capacity to help with social distancing and would ask passengers for their support and understanding in this area."

Initially, the following limited services will operate: 25 Eastbourne/Lewes (Saturday); 40 Seaford (Friday); 41 East Dean (Thursday); 42 Hailsham (Wednesday); 44 Polegate and Eastbourne (Thursday morning); 120 Seaford (Tuesday and Thursday); 195/6 Punnetts Town and Herstmonceux to Eastbourne (Wednesday) and H1, H3 and H4 Hailsham (Monday and Friday mornings). Further information on services operated is available on the company website (cuckmerebuses.org.uk)

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Winners of **The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**

Cuckmere Community Bus Ltd. is a Charity and a Company registered in England and Wales.

Charity Registration No: 1120494 Company Registration No: 6032000.

Registered Office: The Old Rectory, Litlington, POLEGATE, East Sussex, BN26 5RB. VAT Reg. No. 351.1070.06

Chairman: Mrs Beryl Smith Managing Director: Mr Philip Ayers Secretary: Mrs Susan de Angeli

Note for editors:

- Cuckmere Buses, the trading name for Cuckmere Community Bus (CCB), is an independent charity run entirely by trained volunteers. It was launched in 1976 to supplement existing bus services and provide bus links for village residents to their nearest towns throughout the Cuckmere Valley area
- based in Berwick, East Sussex, CCB have around 45 volunteer drivers and 10 additional volunteers who run its fleet of eight low-floor mini buses, providing an important link with shops, doctors' surgeries and social facilities for those who do not live on a main bus route, as well as operating leisure services (excluding the impact of coronavirus) through the South Downs National Park
- (excluding the impact of coronavirus), timetabled bus services are operated 7 days a week, 363 days a year, including New Year's Day and Bank Holidays, but not Christmas Day and Boxing Day. They also operate Private Hire and Special Event services
- CCB is a busy voluntary organisation and always needs new volunteers. They attend the Hailsham Farmers Market every second Saturday morning of each month (when re-opened), where potential drivers can try driving a bus and talk to an existing volunteer
- in a year, the company undertakes around 85,000 passenger journeys and the buses travel some 125,000 miles
- CCB was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups, which is awarded for outstanding work undertaken in their local communities
- CCB has also been awarded the Community Transport Association's prestigious Quality Mark confirming they operate within the relevant legislation and best practice within the voluntary sector

For further information on this Release, please contact: Stewart Fuller, Finance Director, Cuckmere Buses, telephone 01323 423710 or email stewart@cuckmerebuses.org.uk



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