

## West Sussex car share scheme



## Hundreds of people have joined the West Sussex car share scheme. It is part of the Liftshare.org network, which is the largest car sharing scheme in the UK.

**westsussexcarshare.com** aims to encourage car users to be more sustainable by helping them to share journeys and save money where they can. Regular car sharers matched through the website save hundreds of pounds a year in fuel costs alone.

When your account has been activated you can log in and start using the service. By performing a quick search you can find other people who make the same journey as you at the same time.

The scheme is free to use and you can change your journey or personal details at any time. When you have found someone who closely matches your journey and travel habits you can contact them through the website and start car sharing!

The scheme has been set up by West Sussex County Council to enable people who live or work in the county to car share for commuting and other journeys.

Signing up to the scheme is easy to do. All you need to do is go to **westsussexcarshare.com**, click on 'New Users' and complete the short registration form. You can join the main public group or one of the sub-groups that have been set up for industrial estates and business parks. Some employers have private groups, so check to see if your employer has one of these.



Once you are registered, you will need to fill out your journey details and some driving habits such as where you want to get to and the times you need to travel. This will help you to find a suitable or close match and allow other people using the site to shortlist you too.

You will be sent a confirmation email, which will ask you to activate your account. Other users cannot view your personal details and all emails are sent through the website so even your email address will remain undisclosed until such time as you agree to car share.



## Frequently asked questions

- Q. Can the system be used for one-off or regular journeys as well as commuting?
- A. Yes! If you have to travel to a meeting or event by car then why not enter your journey details to see if you can car share?
- Q. I can't car share because I work odd hours.
- A. Perhaps you can share just once or twice a week, making a firm commitment to arriving and leaving work at set times on car share days? Alternatively, your car share partner may be flexible and be able to work the same hours as you.
- Q. What if I need to return home from work in an emergency?
- A. Employers that run car sharing schemes will often reimburse taxi or public transport costs if you need to get home in an emergency.
- Q. Do I have to accept car sharing offers I receive through the scheme?
- A. No. The scheme is just designed to match potential car shares and there is no obligation for you to accept any offers you receive. You may, for example, prefer to share with someone of the same sex, or you may have already found a regular car share partner. If you do find a regular partner(s), we suggest you set up a BUDi Team (full details about this are on the site).

- Q. I could not find a match on the website.
- A. The chances of finding a match are good and will increase as more people join the scheme. Check back regularly to search for more matches.

## Q. Do I need special insurance?

- A. The Association of British Insurers, which covers 94% of the UK's insurance companies, states that so long as no profit is made then your policy will not usually be affected. Please contact your car insurance provider if you have any concerns.
- Q. How should we share our travel costs?
- A. The costs involved will depend upon the number of people sharing the journey, the car's fuel economy, and the current cost of fuel, parking charges, and other running costs. We suggest that each passenger pays 10p per mile towards the journey costs. Alternatively, drivers and passengers can split the journey costs between them, or simply share the driving on a daily or weekly rotation. As making a profit is likely to affect your car insurance, we suggest that drivers receive no more than 40p per mile from passengers.
- Q. I don't drive/I don't have a car, can I still car share?
- A. Yes! You can use the scheme to find someone to give you a lift, or another passenger who may wish to share the cost of a taxi.