



Felixstowe Area Community Transport

The Portakabin

Garrison Lane Car Park

Felixstowe

IP117SH

March 2022

Felixstowe Area Community Transport - Report to Felixstowe Town Council 2022

At FACTS we were delighted to receive a very generous grant of £2,000 from Felixstowe Town Council. We have recently renewed the roof of the building to ensure it is watertight. The grant we have received has now enabled us to make vital updates to the security and interior of the portakabin which houses our main office.

FACTS have been providing accessible transport for the Felixstowe community for over 30 years, and our base at Garrison Lane Car Park is the hub of our operations for our office staff and volunteers. Without it we would not be able to function effectively, potentially allowing the most vulnerable members of our community to become isolated or lose their independence.

We have now had a brand new CCTV system installed, which has vastly increased the security of our office and equipment, and provides reassurance to our staff - particularly when working alone. As the portakabin is in an isolated location on Garrison Lane Car Park, we have encountered reports of vehicles using our buildings as a screen from the road for drug related activities and anti-social behaviour, and we hope that the presence of CCTV will now act as a deterrent.

Thanks to the grant we have received we have now commenced with our plans to update and modernise the interior of our portakabin, to make the working environment for our staff more pleasant. This includes the fitting of a new carpet arranged for the end of March. We are also in the process of receiving quotes to upgrade our lighting fixtures to meet display screen equipment requirements.

In recent years we have seen a rising cost in the running of vehicles and increases in regulatory restrictions for community transport operators, the conditions of which affect the passengers we can transport and the fares we can charge. This has resulted in FACTS becoming more reliant on grants and donations so that we can continue to operate and serve the Felixstowe community. The existence of affordable and wheelchair accessible transport is vital to help people retain their independence, keep them out and about in the community and ultimately prevents them from becoming isolated, and therefore we are incredibly grateful to Felixstowe Town Council for their grant.

Thank you again to Felixstowe Town Council on behalf of our trustees, volunteers, and staff for your much appreciated support.

Laura Kempson

Operations Supervisor, Felixstowe Area Community Transport