

What to do without the car?

As many look to wean themselves from car use, what are some of the alternate options?

Active Travel

1. Walking. Cheap, good for you and available for point to point journeys (within reason) at all times
2. Cycling. Cheap, good for you and available for point to point journeys (within reason) at all times
 - Second hand bikes are available and Enfield Council provide lessons and maintenance information
 - Bike hire – “Boris Bikes” is currently not available in this locality; however Enfield Council operates a month’s bike trial for £10 as part of the Cycle Enfield programme.
3. Scooting, skateboarding, in-line skating, roller skating and such
 - Various self-propelled means can occasionally be seen. All would seem to offer good health and point to point travel facility at minimal cost. Riding on the pavement may not always be appreciated.

Non Active Travel

4. Public transport.
 - The bus network is extensive. Route details are available from web sites such as TFL (www.tfl.gov.uk) plus several smartphone apps (eg Bus Countdown). The same phone apps often provide arrival times at bus stops.
 - Coach services connect central London to most cities in the UK as well as London’s airports
 - The train network is extensive for journeys within London as well as further afield.
 - Tube. The extensive system is integrated with the bus and most other public transport options.
 - London Overground. TFL’s Overground network is an integral part of London’s transport network
 - DLR. The Docklands Light Railway serves areas mostly to the eastern part of London, and again integrates with other public transport routes.
 - River. The Thames is a transport route with hopper facilities from several piers in central London and other piers spreading out east and west.

- Dial a Ride, is a specialist door to door facility for those unable to use public transport all of the time. Conditions apply
- The use of public transport for journeys has been made clearer by smartphone apps (as well as the TFL web site). It is straightforward to pre plan journeys on both or to use a smartphone option of “get me home” when out and about (eg Citymapper).

5. Taxi.

- London black cabs serve the centre as well as suburban areas. They can be hailed or found waiting in set areas, such as outside Morrison's
- Hire cars should be pre booked. There are many operators, often based close to main public transport hubs such as tube and rail stations. Supermarkets will often have a free phone available to connect a shopper directly to a particular taxi firm.
- Uber. A new initiative growing worldwide. Users install the Uber app on their smartphone after which a driver will respond to your request for a trip with price and timing. The vehicle's progress can be tracked on the phone.

6. Car Hire.

- A long established practice where it is possible to hire a vehicle for one day or many. The BVRLA is the trade body responsible for vehicle rental companies. Visit <http://www.bvrla.co.uk/> to find a nearby rental car. Local examples include
 - Enterprise: <https://www.enterprise.co.uk/en/car-hire/locations/uk/palmers-green-u107.html>
 - Hertz <https://www.hertz.co.uk/p/vehicle-guide>
 - www.Rentalcars.com
- A similar facility is available for van hire

7. Car Clubs

- Car Clubs remove the need to personally own a car while retaining access to vehicles without the needs of servicing, MOT's, insurance and more. Various pricing models are evident in a rapidly emerging marketplace.
- There are many car clubs in London and major cities. In taking the decision to go this route it would be worth exploring the options and how the various providers fit with your personal travel needs. Note that new companies emerge and the reach of existing companies are changing rapidly.
 - A list of providers can be found on <http://www.carplus.org.uk/list-of-car-clubs/>

- TFL provide advice and detail via <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/car-clubs>
- Car Hire companies such as Enterprise (see above as a local car hire provider) are also seen in this space <https://www.enterprisecarclub.co.uk/>

8. Peer to Peer Car Rental

- Unlike a Car Club, where an organisation will provide a fleet of vehicles, peer to peer is a facility whereby personal cars are made available to other people for a fee via an intermediary. The facility takes advantage of the fact that the average car sits dormant for 97% of its life, ie is a personally expensive means to fill a piece of road or driveway with metal while it is available for occasional motoring use. Renting it out to others can help mitigate some of this cost. easyCar, (<https://carclub.easycar.com/>), Getaround, and Rentcarlo as well as the smartphone app Turo have entered this new space
- As a new initiative, the scheme has seen press commentary
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2014/feb/08/easycar-club-rent-peer-to-peer-neighbour-car>
 - <http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/cars/article-2850001/Could-really-make-3-500-year-car-Sharing-site-easyCar-offers-cut-price-rentals-profits-owners.html>
- <https://ridelink.com/gb>
- Insurance on a buy as you need basis is now a market feature, eg <https://cuvva.com/sharing>

9. Get a seat

- Most cars will travel with a single occupant, the driver, meaning there are typically 3 or even 4 spare seats available. Provided car owners are providing seats to help cover their own travel costs rather than making a profit, ie running a form of business, the web suggest that insurance companies and HMRC are typically content. (But do check personal circumstances carefully!)
 - <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/faqs> is one explanatory example
 - <http://www.gocompare.com/press-office/2016/car-insurance-for-taxi-hailing-apps/> carries similar detail
- Smartphone app “Share Ur Car” is a community marketplace connecting people with empty seats with people who want to travel.
- “Share My Car” is a similar smartphone app.

10. Car Sharing

- The idea of buying a car to share between friends and /or neighbours has obvious attractions.
 - No detail is provided here but anyone with personal experience of this route could usefully communicate wider

11. Borrowing

- Friends and neighbours may be willing to offer such a facility on an occasional or even regular basis.
 - Payment terms should be checked to ensure the car owner is not seen as running a business and so potentially rendering their insurance invalid and / or accruing tax liabilities with HMRC
 - Appropriate insurance should obviously be in place.
- Cars borrowed without the consent of the owner is a criminal offence. It should not be followed; as can be seen above, there are enough alternate options.