

Emsworth & District u3a: Car-Sharing Guidelines

Group Leaders of groups that share lifts are to ensure that these guidelines are brought to the attention of their members.

Car sharing is a great way for members to travel together to interest groups, outings, and events. It helps the environment, saves parking space, and supports members who do not drive.

To keep these arrangements friendly, safe, and legal, please follow these simple guidelines.

1. Keeping it Informal

- **Private arrangements:** Car sharing is strictly an informal agreement between individual members.
- **Voluntary participation:** No member is ever obliged to provide a lift, to accept a lift or to join a car share.
- **Not a taxi service:** Drivers must never offer lifts for a profit or commercial gain but note the point below regarding fuel contributions.

2. Insurance and Safety

- **Driver's responsibility:** The vehicle owner's personal motor insurance policy provides the only cover for the journey.
- **No u3a cover:** The Emsworth & District u3a liability insurance **does not** cover private vehicle accidents or lifts.
- **Policy check:** Drivers should check their own insurance policy to confirm it allows standard social/domestic use and car sharing.
- **Roadworthiness:** Drivers must ensure their vehicle is fully roadworthy, taxed, and has a valid MOT.

3. Fuel Contributions

- **Shared costs:** Passengers may wish to make a voluntary contribution towards fuel and parking costs.
- **Agreed in advance:** Drivers and those accepting lifts may wish to discuss the contribution amount before setting off.
- **Insurance and non-profit compliance:** Accepting small, informal contributions for fuel does not affect standard car insurance. Nor does it constitute a profit or commercial gain.

4. Legal Compliance and Safety

- **Alcohol limits:** Drivers must strictly observe all UK legal limits regarding alcohol consumption and driving. The non-enforceable preference and recommendation

of the Committee is that drivers should not drink alcohol at all when providing lifts.

- **Passenger safety:** Drivers must ensure they are fully fit to drive at all times to keep their passengers safe.

5. Communication

- **Contact details:** It is suggested that mobile numbers are exchanged before the trip.
- **Cancellations:** If plans change, let your driver or passenger know as early as possible.
- **Pick-up points:** Agree on a safe, convenient location for both pick-up and drop-off.

6. Non-Compliance. In the event of non-compliance with these guidelines, a member can be expelled by the Committee from the Emsworth and District u3a, following a formal disciplinary procedure. This power will be exercised with discretion by the committee.