

Press Release from Carplus.
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Carplus Supporting London Car Clubs at key time in their Development

Currently 28,000 members of car clubs share 1,000 vehicles across the UK, with the majority of these in London. At this vital time of expansion Carplus aims to promote best practice among London Boroughs via a series of seminars.

A series of four seminars, funded by Transport for London and hosted by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea are to take place over the next six months. The first seminar on the topic of 'Best Practice in Car Club Development' is being held today and has attracted delegates from local authorities across the capital, together with representatives from car club operators. The seminars aim to support the growth of car clubs at this crucial point in their development and to promote continued expansion. Each delegate will be given a free copy of the Carplus 'Fast Track Guide to Setting up a Car Club', which contains practical guidance for local authorities on car club development.

Free to attend, as a result of TfL funding, the seminars will include an opening address by Cllr Moylan representing the host borough, followed by presentations from Carplus and two local authorities with different experiences of developing successful car clubs within their borough. The second session will involve a discussion forum where local authorities can bring up issues pertinent to their own experiences of car club development. It is hoped that the discussions will bring about consensus of the best ways forward for car clubs in different areas across the capital that will lead to a new strategy being unveiled in the near future.

Carplus Co-Director Antonia Roberts said, 'With car clubs establishing themselves in the capital, the concept is gradually moving up the transport agenda. It is vital that London Boroughs share best practice between themselves to avoid reinventing the wheel every time a new car club comes on stream. These seminars aim to provide a forum for discussion and the sharing of ideas where car clubs are concerned in order to promote the best possible outcome in each borough.'

Future seminars will take place in November, January and March, on the topics of Low Car Housing, Parking and Marketing as they relate to car clubs. More details will be available soon on the Carplus website www.carplus.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

Carplus is a national charity, which urges a rethink of car use. Recognising the benefits of the car the organisation seeks to minimise the financial and environmental burdens current patterns of car use place upon society.

Carplus is developing a programme of responsible car use, including a national network of car clubs and car sharing alongside other suitable measures to complement an acceptable sustainable transport system across the country.

The Carplus 'Fast Track Guide to Setting up a Car Club' is available to download at http://www.carplus.org.uk/Resources/pdf/fastrack_setting_up_car_club.pdf

Carplus Co-director, Antonia Roberts, is available for further information, comment or interview on 07792 274 825

Car clubs

A car club provides its members with quick and easy access to a car for short term hire. Members can make use of car club vehicles as and when they need them. All they have to do is:

- **Book** - for as little as half an hour at a time, using telephone or internet. The booking can be made well ahead of time or with a few minutes notice.
- **Unlock** - cars are located at designated parking bays in the local area and accessed using the member's smart card
- **Drive** – Once inside the driver enters a pin and drives away, returning the car at the end of the journey. It is possible to extend the booking if necessary
- **Pay** - Pay-as-you-go charges include fuel and maintenance costs. A subscription charge is paid monthly or annually.