



Press Release

6 October 2026

Travel Buddies helps Fenland residents travel with greater confidence

Another 24 Fenland residents have gained confidence using public transport, thanks to Fenland District Council's Travel Buddies programme.

The initiative supports residents aged 40 and over to build their confidence in using community and public transport, while providing opportunities to meet new people and explore new places. It launched in February 2025 and to date, more than 150 people have benefitted.

Thanks to funding from Greater Anglia's Customer and Community Improvement Fund 2026-27, the latest trip saw 24 attendees, aged between 40 and 90, come together to travel by train from March to Ely.

Before setting off, some attendees were supported by FACT (Fenland Association for Community Transport) with travelling to March railway station. This service provides vital accessible transport for people who are unable to use conventional modes of transport.

The group were also supported at both March and Ely stations by Greater Anglia staff through the Passenger Assist service.

The trip was a great success with attendees enjoying the journey, alongside socialising, a delicious lunch and a walk along the riverside.

For some attendees, the trip marked their first train journey in many years, while others were visiting Ely for the very first time despite living in the Fens for many years.

The Travel Buddies team received positive feedback from the group, with participants sharing how much they had enjoyed the experience as well as the confidence boost it had given them.

Cllr Gary Christy, Fenland District Council's Portfolio Holder for Transport and Chairman of FACT, said: "Travel Buddies is all about helping people use public transport confidently and independently, especially when driving is no longer an easy option. It gives residents the chance to discover new places, meet new people, and enjoy greater independence, and it's wonderful to see the positive difference these trips make.

"I'd like to thank Greater Anglia and everyone involved in supporting the programme. By working together, we can help more residents stay connected, access local services and enjoy experiences they may not otherwise have considered."

Scott Dolling, Greater Anglia's Partnerships Manager said: "We are delighted to support this initiative through our customer and Community Improvement Fund. The projects demonstrate great links to the community and its railway and Travel Buddies is a great help to people's confidence locally to make journeys by train."

The next Travel Buddies trip will take place on 23 October and includes a train journey to Peterborough, from either March or Whittlesea railway station.

For more information or to reserve a place, contact our transport team at transportandaccess@fenland.gov.uk or phone 01354 622318.

Ends

Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, please contact the Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226 or email: communications@fenland.gov.uk

Greater Anglia is part of GBR Anglia, which brings together c2c, Greater Anglia and Network Rail Anglia under a unified leadership team. This forms part of the wider journey towards Great British Railways, with a focus on delivering a consistently improved experience for passengers.