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**THINK – Transport Issues in Rural Communities (TIRC) Small Project Fund**

Following on from the success of our [Transport Issues in Communities (TIC) Small Project Funds](https://think.aber.ac.uk/award-recipients-2023/) – see details of our winners here, we at The Transport and Health Integrated Research Network (THINK) are delighted to announce our Transport Issues in Rural Communities (TIRC) Small Project Fund. We welcome you to submit a proposal on the role of transport in creating healthy rural communities. We welcome exploratory projects from interdisciplinary/multi-background teams and we are looking for a proposal that brings together partnerships of people from different backgrounds (e.g. communities, charity and third sectors, academics, health-boards, local authorities) to work together to address a “rural community in need” with a “specific rural transport issue”. A rural community in need may be defined as any community in a rural area that has an issue associated with transport, or health and wellbeing or both. For example, it might be a geographically defined community such as a small town, village or street, and/or a community defined by socio-demographics or background, for example older people, children, LGBT+ community within a rural areas, and/or by mode of transport (cyclists, pedestrians etc.) accessing a rural area. The specific transport issue may be defined as one affecting health including either injuries/fatalities (caused by collisions), air/noise pollution, improving active travel, community severance and wellbeing, or a combination of these. The problem can be defined by an issue such as reducing speed limits or connecting communities with an offroad walking/cycle path, for example.

The funds should be used as a steppingstone to further research, with the aim to understand the transport issue further, identifying it in more detail and beginning to create strategies or interventions that work towards mitigating or reducing the issue. A grant of up to £2000 is available per project to support the activity. We will select up to 4 projects for funding. The money might be used in your project to support the hosting of events, workshops or knowledge gathering in pursuit of that aim. A final short report must be produced reporting the activity that took place, identifying the next steps needed and how to address these. It is anticipated the funds would develop a project so that it would be easier for the community to apply for further funding for the next stages of the project. In addition to the grant of up to £2000 you will have the support of THINK to promote your work and work with you to identify and apply for further funding as appropriate.

Projects will be assessed by the [THINK project team](https://think.aber.ac.uk/meet-the-team/), and an expert reviewer from Aberystwyth University’s [Rural Futures Hub](https://wp-research.aber.ac.uk/rural-futures-hub/) addressing:

* **Community and Transport Impact:** How far the proposed project might impact positively on the defined rural community with their particular transport issue
* **Health Impact:** How far the project would improve the health of the rural community
* **Ambition but that it is Realistic and Achievable:** How realistic projects are in achieving that aim and whether they represent value for money.
* **Lead to Further Research Activity:** How far the proposed research might underpin further research.

Please fill in the following form and send it back to think@aber.ac.uk before the deadline 15th July 2023. If you would like to discuss any of your project ideas or gain greater clarification please contact Professor Charles Musselwhite chm93@aber.ac.uk

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| **Project Details** |
| Project title |  |
| Project Lead Name |  |
| Project Lead job position and organisation name |  |
| Project Lead address |  |
| Project Lead phone number |  |
| Project Lead email address |  |
| Additional members of the team and their organisations |  |
| **About the Project** |
| Project issue: Describe the rural community’s transport problem or issue that the project is trying to solve (approx.. maximum 500 words) |  |
| Project aims and objectives (approx. 250 words) |  |
| Project methods: What will you do in the project to make a difference to the rural community (aprox.1000 words) |  |
| Outputs and outcomes: What is it hoped that the project will achieve (approx.. 500 words) |  |
| Provide a timeline/timetable for activity inc. start and end date. |  |
| How might the project inform further research? (approx.. 500 words) |  |
| **Project costs** |
| Total money asked for | £ |
| Please list in as much detail as possible what you request the money for, itemise each item and provide a justification for each cost. Try and be as accurate as possible.  |  |