Now Europe is taking our lead

Funded by the EU, CIVITAS is a Europe-wide project to promote greener, cleaner cities and Norwich is one of just five cities in Europe to be involved in this pilot project.

During the Earth Event, Norwich will host a three-day conference where delegates from all five European cities involved in CIVITAS will visit Norwich and see the measures in place and how they have made a difference to city life.

We find out what how involvement with CIVITAS has contributed to making Norwich a cleaner, greener and more efficient city:

- Three vehicle fleets now use bio-diesel in Norwich and two more companies have shown interest in joining this carbon friendly scheme.
- Our railway station interchange facility allows easier access onto local buses from trains
- The on street ticket vending machines have helped to keep

buses running on time

- Individual passenger transport information is now linked with healthcare appointments
- The introduction of a city centre car sharing club to reduce congestion and improve air quality
- The development of a Strategic Freight Holders Club, which aims to deliver improved efficiency of freight operation in the city area and enhance the air quality in urban areas
- Providing goods delivery to Park & Ride sites
- Promote car-pooling
- Roll out of real time passenger information at bus stops
- Looking ahead, the following projects are currently in development: prove air quality
- January 2008 will see the introduction of Norwich's Low Emission Zone (LEZ)
- The creation of an urban transhipment centre outside Norwich into the city centre.

EOP Tresolay Rb 27/07

Station opens rail bus interchange

THERE was some good news for long suffering passengers in the county this week, after a new rail-bus interchange was opened at Norwich Station on Tuesday.

Existing bus stops at the station have been moved together, making it easier to catch any bus to the city centre. A large sheltered waiting area between the bus stops on the station forecourt was unveiled, complete with seating for 15 people and two dedicated wheelchair spaces, a ticket vending machine and a sign giving bus arrival and departure times.

Cycle facilities have also been improved.

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News

Have your say on parking by the metre

DAVID POWLES

10 April 2007 08:40

People are being reminded that time is running out for them to have their say on plans to make people pay more for their parking permits if they have a large car.

The current price for a residents parking permit in the city is £16 regardless of what you drive.

However, the city council is consulting over proposals that would see this price remain for vehicles under 3.92metres long, rise to £22 for those between 3.92 and 4.45metres and £30 for those over 4.45metres long.

Furthermore, owners of cars which run on alternative fuel will be entitled to free permits.

A city council spokesman said: "As well as taking up less space, smaller cars also produce, on average, less greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution than larger cars.

"So small cars are also better for the environment. As part of our sustainable transport strategy we want to encourage the use of smaller cars, and car sharing groups.'

People are being asked to have their say by e-mailing transport@norwich.gov.uk , or writing to The Transportation Team, Norwich City Council, Room 331, City Hall, Norwich, NR2 1NH.

The Norwich Highways Agency Committee hope to consider all responses at its meeting on 24 May and, if approved, the price changes will come into effect later this year.

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News

Green car scheme is massive success

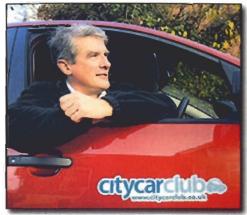
KATIE COOPER

10 April 2007 09:25

A new environmentally-friendly way to get around Norwich has proved such a success during its first three months that it is doubling in size.

The City Car Club is designed to encourage people to be able to live in Norwich without a car and offers members the choice of a fleet of five vehicles, in return for an annual fee.

Members simply have to log on to its



it and then pick it up from one of three centres in York Street, Gloucester Street and at the UEA.

However, members will soon have even more choice once bosses double their fleet of vehicles from five to 10 and open a new centre in the Golden Triangle.

Dirk van Dijl, chief executive of City Car Club, said he felt the scheme had worked well in Norwich because people were more conscious of the environment and the impact of climate change.

He said: "I used to live in East Anglia for many years, and I was surprised the scheme took off so well in Norwich. But I think as a small and busy city with an old centre and little parking available, Norwich is perfect for it.

"The car is so easy to use but signing up to this can cut those unnecessary journeys.

"I also think that it is successful because people in Norwich are very environmentally conscious. They have embraced the club."

The firm says that using one of its cars rather than relying on a privatelyowned vehicle reduces a person's overall car use by 35pc.

It also estimates that with every extra car club car there will be 15 fewer private cars on the road.

Adrian Ramsay, leader of Norwich's Green Party, said he was a big fan of the scheme.

He said: "Lots of people in Norwich need access to a car but cannot afford to run one or choose not to. This is part of a raft of measures we hope will reduce the number of cars on the road. It does help people to cut the journeys they make by car, as well as taking more cars off the road.

"We are glad this business is expanding and hope that more people in the city will take advantage of it."