

## ***Shopmobility***

Shopmobility Centres are usually attached to, or very close to town shopping centre car parks. From here, manual and powered wheelchairs and electric powered scooters may be hired at reasonable rates. These make life much easier when shopping as well as enabling you to access and enjoy towns and cities independently.

I have found the staff in my local centre to be very helpful and informative and a good starting point to finding out further information. There are quite often very useful leaflets available, especially regarding local disability events, resources, issues, etc. I have always found my local ***Shopmobility in Fareham*** to be one of my best resources.

Quite often, the ***Shopmobility*** centre will be on the route of the local “Dial-a-Ride” bus service.

Most of these centres, whilst employing a person, are also staffed and kept operational by volunteers, quite often disabled as well. So please be patient and tolerant with your customer service requirements as they are charitable organisations and not commercial.

You will need to join the centre for a small annual fee, for which you will be provided a membership card that will need to be presented on each visit, when there will be a further small charge for a day’s hire. Some of the centres will also hire out machines on a weekly basis.

When joining, for insurance purposes, you will need to produce 2 forms of identification. One will show your name and address and one showing your signature.

In order to prevent disappointment, it is always advisable to book in advance, especially at peak times.

When doing so, please also consider other people that may also require **Shopmobility** services. If you need to cancel your trip and therefore no longer need the scooter, please contact the service and let them know.

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## a. **The Wessex Mobility Scheme**

In Hampshire, a number of Shopmobility centres have joined together under the Wessex Membership Scheme. For an additional small annual membership fee, one can then visit any of the participating centres and hire a wheelchair or scooter, without having to join that centre with associated bureaucracy and fees. Obviously, this greatly extends independent mobility and access to other town facilities.

Once you have joined the **Wessex Shopmobility Network**, you will be issued with a membership card, which on production, will enable you to hire scooters and wheelchairs at participating centres.

Please note that for insurance purposes, you will need to fill in membership joining forms for any centre that you hire from. So please take with you 2 proofs of identification, one of which should show your name and address.

At the time of writing, participating centres are:

Andover	01264 352 000
Basingstoke	01256 476 066
Bournemouth Castlepoint Centre	01202 598 295
Chichester	02392 455 444
Eastleigh	02380 902 402
Fareham	01329 282 929
Gosport	02392 502 692

Havant	02392 455 444
Portsmouth City	02392 816 973
Salisbury	01722 328 068
Southampton City	02380 228 291
Southampton West Quay	02380 636 100
Waterlooville	07932 802 778
Winchester	01962 842 626

For your nearest **Shopmobility**, please look in the Contact Details appendix at the back of this guide under '**Shopmobility**'. If you know of any others in Hampshire, please advise me of their details.

As many of us live near and may also visit, (when we are sufficiently capable) towns and cities in counties fringing Hampshire, **Shopmobility** centres that are nearby to Hampshire have also been included in the Contact Details section.

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