

Car share clubs - how do they work?

*A car or van is booked through a central office using the telephone or internet.

*The vehicle can be hired for periods as short as an hour or as long as a fortnight.

*Cars are located locally, ideally within ten minutes' walk.

*Keys are kept at a nearby safe or in the car which is accessed using a smart card. In clubs set up by friends and acquaintances, the keys may be kept by a nominated member.

*Payment methods vary. In some clubs there is a joining or monthly fee and members are billed on top for their usage. This may be calculated solely in terms of miles driven. Alternatively the number of hours booked can be factored in.

*Clubs can be based around:

- car rental companies e.g. Avis' scheme in Oxford
- neighbourhoods - schemes open to everyone in the area e.g. Co-Drive in Leeds
- networks of friends and acquaintances e.g. Rusty in Leicester
- workplaces e.g. Manchester airport's employee car club