

Item 99.1 Bike and Go Scheme (response from Community Rail Development Officer)

The Bike & Go initiative was removed last year as I believe it had been very unsuccessful despite huge marketing and wide coverage.

It is apparent that there is very little demand for cycle hire at Lowestoft Station or other stations which housed the scheme.

At our tourist information office this summer we had only two enquiries about cycle hire.

That said, there is demand for published cycle maps and we both obtained and distributed a number of these during the year.

Our experience locally is that encouraging people to cycle through having maps and information is more productive than expensive and often unused hirer facilities.

What we would welcome most is facilities such as pumps for bike tyres, information on local cycle routes, repair shops and secure bike parking.

The new fleet of trains in the area can accommodate up to six bikes (up from 4) but are not bookable in advance. Fold up bikes can go on the train and are unlimited - we would support any initiative which promotes these fold up bikes and have been tentatively looking at possible options for a discounted purchase scheme or bursary for those looking to purchase a fold up bike.

At Lowestoft Station we are also hoping to work with Greater Anglia to improve cycle storage and security.

Were an organisation such as LTC able to provide quality maps of potential cycle routes as other towns have done, I'm sure these would prove very popular.

We are very pro-cycle and hope to work with the Police on bike marking schemes in the new year.

Supporting and promoting routes, the benefits of exercise and secure storage would, in our opinion be far more worthwhile than costly and often unused hire schemes.

One initiative we would welcome is a 're-cycle' scheme - there must be thousands of bikes just left inside garages and sheds - a scheme that could see these donated and re-used could prove very worthwhile.

Hope that is of some help.