

# End of year report, 2022/3

## Bury Bike Train cycle to school project



### Executive summary

The Bury Bike Train cycle to school project in Bury St Edmunds aims to facilitate modal shift from driving to cycling on the school run. Timetabled and marshalled group cycle rides serving the North, South and West of the town bring families into and from town centre schools three days a week. Nearly 900 passengers have used the Bike Train since it started in September 2022, with an average of 4.7 people per Train for the school year. The project incorporates a Bike Library that makes loan bikes available long term at very low cost, and free cycle training and learn-to-fix sessions for children and adults.

Bury Bike Train was named best Green Community in Suffolk's Creating the Greenest County 2023 awards, and featured in the National Cargo Bike Summit in London as innovative practice. It remains the only Bike Train in the country that is organised by a social enterprise (EcoCarriers BSE) rather than parents, and that runs three Trains per week, to and from school (the norm is one a week or month; to school only). The challenge for next year is to help yet more families cycle to school.

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## Introduction

The school Bike Train is a timetabled group cycle ride, along a set route, with trained outriders to support the group and marshal road junctions. Children and their parents or carers ride their own bicycles and join their nearest Bike Train at a convenient point (see schematic diagram showing the routes). Each of the routes runs on a different weekday, and all go to Guildhall Feoffment and St Edmund's primary schools in the medieval Grid, returning in the afternoons.

EcoCarriers BSE, a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society, runs the Bike Train cycle to school project thanks to grant funding from Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Fund, Bury St Edmunds Town Council and Cycling UK. Additional grants from town and district councillors' locality budgets help fund the Bike Library, and the Community Bike Train, which support the school Bike Train.



# ALL ABOARD THE BIKE TRAIN!

### GREAT WESTERN

- The Parade, Ridley Road
- River Linnet/Fleming Road
- Cemetery/Hospital Road
- Westgate School
- St Edmund's School
- Guildhall Feoffment School

### GREAT NORTHERN

- Sandlands Drive/Redwood Drive
- New Bury Community Centre
- Tayfen Meadow/Spring Lane
- Arc-Cattle Market car park
- Guildhall Feoffment School
- St Edmund's School

### GREAT EASTERN

- Moreton Hall Community Centre
- Symonds Road/Shaker's Lane
- Shaker's Lane/Kevelaer Way
- Magistrates' Court/ Great Churchyard
- Norman Tower
- Guildhall Feoffment School
- St Edmund's School

### THE SOUTHERN

- Mayfield Road/Caie Walk
- Hardwick Shopping Centre
- Laundry Lane/Lydgate Court
- St Edmund's School
- Guildhall Feoffment School



## CYCLE TO SCHOOL IN BURY ST EDMUNDS

SUPPORTED BY  
  
BURY ST EDMUNDS TOWN COUNCIL


[ecocarriersbse.co.uk/bury-bike-train/](http://ecocarriersbse.co.uk/bury-bike-train/)



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## Summer term 2023 April to July

There were a total of 328 passengers for the term, giving an average of 5.2 passengers per Train (4.8 last term). Each Train has a 'crew' of four EcoCarriers BSE riders (not counted in the passenger numbers).

We welcome guests on the Bike Train, and these included Sarah Lidington (Sustrans), Claire Ling (Suffolk Climate Change Partnership), Chris Grover (Suffolk CC Behaviour Change Manager), Alan Hassell (arc Manager), Cathy Friel (West Suffolk Air Quality Group), Mary and Charlie (visitors from Brighton) and Mark Pendleton, the High Sheriff of Suffolk who also met a group of Bike Train riders from St Edmunds school.

### Bury Bike Train in numbers

Summer Term 2023

**63 Trains**

**328 passengers**

Total since September 2022

**185 Trains**

**872 passengers**



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## Bike Library

Locality grants from Councillors Wakelam, Rayner, Beckwith and Waterman support the acquisition, refurbishment and garaging of bicycles that are available for any West Suffolk resident to 'borrow' permanently for a one-off fee of £30 or a donated bike. The Library bike can be swapped for another machine at a later date (for example, when a child has grown too big for it). 33 bikes have been loaned in this way so far.



Library bikes are sourced through donations, purchases and the police Community Engagement team. Several of the machines have been refurbished by innov8 Workshops, an Alternative Provision provider located just outside Bury St Edmunds which offers 1:1 mentoring alongside the opportunity to learn a practical skill for the hardest to reach young people. They are predominantly aged 11-16 who due to personal factors or learning difficulties may be struggling in mainstream education or facing exclusion from school. Using vocational style workshops and mentoring on a 1:1 basis, innov8 Workshops takes a child centred approach, developing trusting relationships to improve their prospects, mental health, wellbeing and outcomes.



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## Cycle training

Thanks to grants from Cycling UK, we have now organised a total of 23 Learn to Ride and 10 Learn to Fix sessions in support of the Bike Train 2022/23, involving over 300 participants (children and adults). These are predominantly held at Olding Road carpark, and use Suffolk County Council Bikeability instructors.



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## Sebert Wood school, Moreton Hall

**WORLD  
RECORD\***

**ATTEMPT!**

**TUES JULY 18TH 2023**

✓ **CYCLE**

✓ **WALK**

✓ **SCOOT**

**GET TO SEBERT WOOD SCHOOL  
UNDER YOUR OWN STEAM**

• PRIZES

• FREE GIFT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

**MORE DETAILS:**  
ecocarriersbse.co.uk/MoretonHall

**CONTACT**  
01284 413441

\*The number of pupils walking or wheeling to Sebert Wood School on the same day



During the summer term we worked with Sebert Wood school to promote cycling to the school with Learn to Ride and Learn to Fix sessions, and a presence at the summer fete. On 18th July a 'world record attempt' for the number of pupils walking or wheeling was held. A total of 287 pupils and staff got to school that day under their own steam. The plan is to repeat this each half term in the next school year as 'Active Travel Tuesdays'.

The cycling infrastructure in Moreton Hall is such that the Bike Train is not necessary - there are plenty of segregated cycle paths all over the estate - but the extra incentive to walk or cycle on the 18th July (there were prizes and gifts for participants) was well received.



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## Plans for the school year starting September 2023

The school Bike Train will continue for this coming year, and our aims are to:

- Increase passengers numbers from St Edmund's, Guildhall Feoffment and Westgate schools
- Recruit and train more volunteer marshals, including parents of pupils who use the train
- Open a new route, probably from the Mildenhall estate via the Malthouse Bridge/Cannon St
- Run an active travel day at Sebert Wood school each half term

We know from a parent survey at St Edmund's school that we need to do more to raise awareness of the school Bike Train amongst parents, so that will be a priority for the Autumn term.



*Photo: April Urquhart*

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## Recognition for the Bike Train



The Bike Train project won the Green Community award in Suffolk's *Creating the Greenest County Awards 2023*, being described by the judging panel as 'an exciting and active new initiative, involving families, reducing traffic, and encouraging alternative transports'.

The Bike Train featured in a plenary session on innovation at this year's National Cargo Bike Summit in London in March.

## Acknowledgements

Bury Bike Train is a community effort, and thanks go to the schools involved this term - St Edmunds mostly, but also Westgate, Guildhall Feoffment and Sebert Wood; the families who ride the Train; the volunteer marshalls and EcoCarriers BSE team; the Police Community Engagement Team; Innov8 Workshops; the arc Shopping Centre; SCC Bikeability instructors; and all the Bike Train funders and supporters.

**Libby Ranzetta**

**EcoCarriers BSE, August 2023**



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