



2022 – STAVELEY COMMUNITY EBIKE SHARE SCHEME

ELECTRIC BICYCLES – FAQ's

1. Background

1.1 What is the Staveley Community Ebike Share Scheme?

[Sustainable Staveley](#) (SENS) pilot project received a National Lottery Community Fund grant as part of the [Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership](#)'s emission reduction programme. It will develop a system that makes ebikes available on a pay-as-you-go basis for local residents and businesses to hire for local trips – for leisure, work, shopping etc.

It is focussed on a village scale (as such a system doesn't yet exist in the UK) and to develop a system that is easily translatable to other villages and communities.

The project will initially fund 2 standard ebikes based in Staveley Mill Yard. The project will be monitoring lessons from all aspects of the project – from user profiles, types and lengths of journeys made, carbon saved, how the business model and the booking systems work, and the bikes perform.

Whilst its main function is to understand the carbon reduction potential of ebikes in rural areas, we also hope to understand the other benefits of health & wellbeing, social & economic impacts.

The project is being developed using volunteers only but with the intention of developing a viable not-for-profit model for villages and rural areas. For further information:

www.communityebikes.org / Email: hello@communityebikes.org

1.2 What are the legalities of riding an E-bike?

An e-bike is a bicycle with an electric motor with a rated power output of 250W or less, which offers electric assistance *as you pedal*. The maximum speed up to which the motor will assist is 25 km/h (15 mph). It is legal to ride on bridleways and cycle-paths like any standard bicycle. Riders must be over 14 to ride one.

2. About the Ebikes

2.1 Why electric bikes, rather than standard bikes?

Like orthodox bikes, electric, or e-bikes, are powered by human effort, but provide a boost when pedalling. This is of tremendous value in hilly locations where the topography and strong head-winds can affect all but the fittest of cyclist's ability to make a journey without strenuous effort. They extend the distance individuals are prepared to ride by bike, can help with heavy loads such as carrying children, or shopping. E-bikes combine the moderate aerobic physical activity recommended by health professionals with technology to take the strain out of every day journeys.

Ebikes open up cycling to people who would otherwise not consider cycling, enable trips that would otherwise not be made by bike, and enable mixed-ability groups to cycle together.

2.2 How is an electric bike different?

Most electric bikes are just like any other bicycle – you still have to pedal and you have a range of gears to use. However, at any point you can choose to switch on the electric power using a computer on the handlebars, and select different settings to give you increasing levels of 'boost' to help you ride up the hills with relative ease and no sweat.

2.3 Do the bikes regenerate when going down hill?

The model of ebike that is available via the project does not have this feature. The bikes selected were carefully selected to be best suited to the terrain and the type of use in a hire fleet. The improved battery capacity that ebikes now have means that the amount of power that a regenerative model can produce is not significant.

3.0 The Users Experience

3.1 Why would I want to hire an ebike?

- **It's great fun** - whether riding alone, or with friends and family, especially of mixed ability. You can visit a local attraction, have lunch at a cafe or pub, explore the beautiful outdoors – getting there is an enjoyable part of the day out. Ebikes let you combine daily tasks such as shopping and doing chores with a bit of exercise connecting a bit better with where you live.
- **It's so easy** - No worries about parking or sitting in traffic and you get to see more – especially if you take the local back roads and cycle routes. Enjoy the freedom whilst the bike does the hard work, taking the grind out of the hills, meaning you can keep up with friends and family, you don't get hot and sweaty either!

- **It's perfect for exploring** - There are wonderful quiet roads and trails to explore around Staveley so get away from the hustle and bustle of the main centres.
- **It's good for the environment** Help protect the unique and beautiful countryside we live in by swapping a car journey for a bike trip - less carbon, less congestion, less hassle and less traffic.
- **It's good for you** Regular cyclists can have the improved overall fitness of someone 10 years younger and can live two years longer! Just 20 minutes of gentle cycling can easily burn 100 calories.

3.2 How is it different to riding a normal bike?

Riding an electric bicycle is just like riding any other bicycle – you have to pedal and you have a range of gears to use, but the electric boost is built in for you to use if you need – see it as your personal, permanent tailwind. There are different levels of boost – from Low (minimal boost, long battery life) to Max (for the super steep hills), and you can switch between them easily whilst pedalling. Be warned - it is a very addictive feeling!

3.3 Where can I ride with an electric bicycle?

Whilst good quality e-bicycles are very robust, ours are not designed to be used as mountain bikes so please avoid rocky off-road tracks or pedalling through deep water. Gravel bike paths and any track that you might drive along in a normal car are fine.

3.4 How long does the battery last?

It will very much depend on what setting you select, how much climbing you do, your weight & load etc. The range for most single ebike batteries is between 40 - 70 miles (based on ebike stats).

