

Proposal for a sponsored eBike hire scheme in Frodsham

Introduction

The idea of introducing an eBike hire scheme was one of the original goals presented to Frodsham Town Council in 2022 (see attachment). The primary benefits of doing this are seen as :

- 1. Health benefits of active travel:** Cycling could play a much greater role in health and research showed that 1 in 4 adults in the world are inactive.
- 2. Helps you ride up hills easily :** Many residents would like to get back to riding a bike but the hills round Frodsham put them off.
- 3. Climate friendly :** Riding or walking more often reduces CO₂ emissions.

Proposal.

The team explored options with local retailers to introduce a scheme with FTC sponsorship but these were not successful. More recently we discovered that the Warrington Cycle Hub offers a rental scheme with a proven track record.

They offer two types of bike, with up to a 90 mile range, for £80 p.w. with a local delivery and pickup charge of approx. £80 – for up to 4 bikes.

If the resident(s) collected the bike(s) from the Hub, which is very near Warrington Central Station, there would of course be no charge.

This is a very competitive rate as typical daily rates are £40-60 per day.

Details of the scheme can be seen [here](#).

The team proposes that we trial this option for the coming summer and this would involve :

- i) The council would sponsor up to 20 x one week's bike hire for Frodsham residents - only. To a maximum of £1600.

Note : Warrington Cycle Hub would accept a discount code.

- ii) The resident would either pay for the delivery and pick up or collect and return the bike(s) themselves.
- iii) The Active Travel team would ask each resident for feedback after their hire period.

Proposed eBike hire scheme. Responses to questions raised by FTC Councillors

Introduction.

Cllr Holman posed questions raised by FTC Councillors at the May Planning and Amenities committee meeting. This is the text of this email exchange.

I have just received answers to the questions posed at the Amenities committee meeting regarding the proposed voucher scheme to encourage residents to try an eBike and hopefully move away from cars. Below you should find the questions I submitted and the answers courtesy of Dan Hand at Warrington Cycle Hub. I hope this alleviates the concerns raised at that meeting.

1. The key concern was that of liability: if Frodsham Council fund a voucher that hires an eBike through WCH is FTC liable in anyway if the hirer has an accident? Or if the bike catches fire? Or damages any property like a car, or the house of the hirer?

Our Insurance covers the bike when it's in our care for things like fires and theft. Once the hirer takes the bike, they are responsible including accidental damage, fire, theft and other damage it may cause or be involved in. We have hired a large number of bikes now (over 200) - one person has self-insured their bike - no one else has and we have had no issues to date.

2. Battery fires were another cause for concern: have you had any instance of this and how do you mitigate against eBike fires when hiring out eBikes to the public?

We've never had one heard of or seen one first hand.
There are a large number of eBikes in the market now, with only a handful being reported globally.
Our terms and conditions stipulate, the bike must be charged when in an environment where the user/rider will also be.
Charging alone is not advised.

3. Misuse of eBikes was also a worry: can your bikes be tampered with so that they exceed their top speed? Do your terms of use limit who can use them. i.e. can any member of the hirer's family use them? And do you allow hirers to take a hired eBike away on holiday with them? And if something happens to it whilst away who is liable?

The Bikes are self-regulated to a maximum top speed of 15.5mph in the UK.
Much like a car, a very experienced electrical or bike mechanic could retrofit a speed delimiter; however, this is quite difficult and against our terms and conditions which each individual must sign.
The Bike must remain in the UK (mainland) so locally holidaying is fine but they just cannot be taken abroad.

4. Finally, it was noted that WCH has the support of Warrington Borough Council, but we couldn't see what kind of support you'd received; has there to your knowledge been any negative repercussions that have affected them as a result?

Warrington cycle Hub was setup with some grant funding initially - the support is light promotion now however we receive very little and we are a stand-alone business. The Support is still loosely active, in a sense of recommendations and we still provide some commercial services to them - including the E Bike hire program for 2026.

5. Just as a follow up, it was suggested that a public display of eBikes might be of interest, would WCH be interested in bringing a couple of eBikes to Frodsham for a little try out and familiarisation? Perhaps having a stand at one of our events alongside FTC to show them off and let the public see what eBikes are all about. Let me know what you think!

If you can share the dates and times you're considering, we'll be able to offer you a competitive price for us to come over.

Don't hesitate to ask any further questions.

Regards

Dan Hand

Cheshire Cycles

dan@cheshirecycles.co.uk

drbike@cheshirecycles.co.uk