



Regenerate NPT: Project Closure Report

Project Organisation: Upper Amman Valley Community Transport (Canolfan Maerdy)

Project Name: Upper Amman Valley Green Transport Pilot Project

Project Start Date: 22.11.2021 Project End Date: 31.01.2022

Date of Report: 16th February 2022

Attached Documents List: Project Implementation Plan (PIP)

There is a mandatory requirement to complete this document at Project Closure. The purpose of the report is to provide a project level document evidencing how well the project has performed against the original Business Plan delivered by the Local Partnership and Local Action Group during the lifetime of the project, and how it has contributed to the aims and objectives of the Local Partnership's Local Development Strategy. Project performance against the planned/approved costs, delivery timescales and Key Performance indicators will also be detailed. **Please try and keep within the maximum word count.**

1. Background: (briefly detail the background to the Project – 250 max)

The Upper Amman Valley Community Transport Green Project was looking to purchase three additional electric bikes, bike safety equipment, a booking system and secure external storage lockers to house the bikes. We were looking to develop a booking system that would enable the community to hire the bikes to assist the community transport scheme to meet both the communities need and expand its electric vehicle usage at a community level within the area, in alignment with the need to decarbonise current modes of transport. Three electric bikes, bike safety equipment, bike storage lockers and a comprehensive booking system will be obtained through the project to ensure that local families and visitors are able to use the set of five e-bikes for active travel in the Amman valley.

Our project will work at the heart of the community, providing practical, affordable transport solutions for our residents, whilst putting renewable energy at the forefront of our plan. We will use the new EV bikes to generate interest in the concept of using or owning an electric bike, encouraging local people to "give it a go". As part of the "going green" agenda we are developing an e-bike scheme, linking to tourism and engagement with young people. For the period of the pilot project usage of the bikes will be free.

Electric bikes provide greater flexibility for residents to connect with the proposed active travel hubs throughout the county. The e-Bikes will operate in the Upper Amman Valley area providing transport to health facilities, work and leisure.

2. Project Outcomes as per application	Was this achieved? What supporting evidence is there of achievement? If not achieved, why not?
Develop an e-bike scheme	We have launched a e-Bike scheme in which residents are now able to use. We are running a current offer of free registration until 31/03/2022.
Provide practical, affordable transport solutions for our residents, whilst	We have purchased the necessary equipment for the project to move out of the pilot stage and to be

putting renewable energy at the forefront of our plans.	launched into a full project. From the 1 st April we will be charging users an affordable fee to hire the bikes.
Place the orders for and purchase the e-bikes, Cycle Lockers and Bike Safety equipment.	Yes orders were placed for the e-Bikes, Cycle Lockers and Bike Safety equipment. Supporting evidence – Invoices.
Place the order and start the development of the booking system.	Yes the order for the booking system was placed – Supporting evidence – Invoice.
Booking system to go live by 7th January 2022.	Booking system is live and ongoing work to transfer/input user data.
Launch events with a come and try the bikes for the e-bike scheme to take place in the four areas of Cwmgors, GCG, Lower Brynamman and Tairgwaith.	Launch events were planned for all four areas. Events took place in Tairgwaith and GCG but due to staff contracting covid the events for Lower Brynamman and Cwmgors had to be cancelled and have been rescheduled for Spring 2022.
3. Strategic Achievements: (outline what the project has achieved in terms of alignment with LEADER Themes and Priorities and any contribution to national strategies - 300 max)	
Theme: 3 Priority: Accessible NPT & Green NPT	
The e-Bike scheme has now purchased all the equipment needed to provide an accessible green low cost alternative mode of transport to supplement the community transport scheme. The e-bike scheme is able to offer a basic vital service to low income users. To supplement to work of the pilot the Upper Amman Valley Community Transport scheme is also in line to receive a share of funding from the recent Welsh Government announcement of 1.3 million boost for community transport schemes. This additional funding will allow the community transport services in the Amman Valley to continue people with a carbon neutral form of transport in the valley.	
4. With regards to your comments at application stage, how have you managed this project in terms of sustainability? (What plans have been put in place to maintain the project once it is completed? 400 words max)	
During the Launch period (Jan – Mar 2022) we are offering a free one-year registration fee to any member of the public who completes a full registration form and hires the bikes once. From the 1 st April 2022 we will be charging a registration fee of £60 a year, £30 per six months or £5 per month for regular users. On top of this there will also be rental/hire charges for the period of hire. Due to two launch events having to be cancelled due to covid we are planning to redo all 4 areas launch events in the spring of 2022 with a final opportunity of free registration. During the two events that took place we have received 16 registration forms from interested users who will be looking to book the e-bikes for leisure activities and aim to continue to promote the e-Bike scheme to increase to user registrations and bike hire going forward.	
5. Project Beneficiaries:	
The e-Bike scheme beneficiaries will be residents of Cwmgors, GCG, Lower Brynamman and Tairgwaith. The scheme will be open to all but will be focused on supporting younger people aged upto 24, the under employed, women and families with young children and older people.	
6. Cross Cutting Themes: If relevant, briefly describe how your project contributed to the following themes:	
Equal Opportunities:	
The project supported women, disabled people, others from disadvantaged groups and young people by giving them an opportunity to come and try and register to use the e-Bikes. We t	

provided child seats for the bikes to allow mothers to use the e-bikes with small children. All project publicity will be promoted in both the English and Welsh languages

Sustainable Development including Economic, Environmental and Social

The project will play a key sustainable role in protecting the local environment through its focus on using electronic technologies (e-bikes), to assist both local and national targets for decarbonising transport and reducing air pollution for residents in the area. This approach will ensure that the local environment is not impacted by the harmful effects of diesel/petrol guzzling vehicles pumping out their noxious emissions. Safeguarding the Upper Amman as a high quality and attractive place for people to live and work in.

Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion

The provision of free e-bikes will enable residents, especially young people prohibited by the cost of cars to use these sustainable vehicles to access vital services. Opportunities to widen access to and participation in key services like attending job centre appointments, dentist/surgery appointments, job interviews and work, through the project is crucial to tackling poverty and exclusion in rural communities like the Upper Amman Valley.

7. Conclusion Summary: Please provide a summary on the project’s performance, identifying any key issues that need to be addressed:

a) Summary

The project was able to meet all targets set for the project and had all four of the planned launch events taken place we would have exceeded these targets. The project has now purchased all equipment needed to continue the work of the pilot project by offering a low cost carbon neutral alternative transport option to local residents.

b) Key Issues

The main issues of the project was getting suppliers to get quotes/invoices sent over in the timescales needed. Another issue was getting responses to collaborative working requests during raising covid numbers.

c) What went well?

The two launch events that were able to take place were well attended given the -4 temperatures. The feedback regarding the specifications of the e-Bikes and the costs of hire were very positive. Across the two events 16 local residents completed registration forms ready to hire the e-Bikes. To be able to take the bikes out into community to show them what they can do led to a successful launch event.

d) What didn’t go well?

The raising covid numbers in the local area meant that the planned work around bike safety with local schools got cancelled. Along with staff and volunteers testing positive with covid meant that two of the four planned events also had to be cancelled. In hindsight had the project had a little more time we would have been able to complete these two planned areas of work.

e) What could have been done differently?

Starting the project two months earlier.

8. TO BE COMPLETED BY LEAD BODY:

Project Performance – Financial & Indicator Achievements: (detailed performance against approved timescales and budget expectation, including reasons for all variances)

a) Performance indicator achievement against targets approved: Final position:

PI Reference	Approved Target	Total Achieved	Justification for underachievement	How has achievement been evidenced
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LD.CL.004	Number of pilot activities		
	1	1	Attached
LD.CL.006	Number of Information dissemination actions/promotional and/or marketing activities to raise awareness of the LDS		
	10	11	Social media postings.
LD.CL.007	Number of stakeholders engaged		
	5	11	Attendance sheets
LD.C.L008	Number of Participants supported		
	10	11	Attendance sheets
NPT01	Number of (geographical)communities engaged in the project		
	4	4	Attendance sheets
NPT03	Number of children and young people engaged in the project		
	5	5	Attendance sheets
NPT04	Number of women engaged in the project		
	5	15	Attendance sheets
NPT05	Number of Welsh speakers engaged in the project		
	2	13	Attendance sheets
NPT06	Number of older people participating in the project		
	1	13	Attendance sheets
NPT07	Number of individuals with disabilities participating in the project		
	1	2	Attendance sheets/Registration forms
NPT09	Number of under-employed individuals participating in the project		
	2	4	Attendance sheets/Registration forms
b) Pilot Activities/Projects: Outlining all of the stages and activities, including the timelines. To promote externally and link to the Wales Rural Network Website. Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable for this project <input type="checkbox"/>			
c) Feasibility Studies: To promote externally and link to the Wales Rural Network Website. Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable for this project <input type="checkbox"/>			

d) Project Closure Financial Position against original approved: (following final claim)				
Timescales	Original Approved		Adjusted Approved	Final Closure Date 31.01.2022
	From	To		
	22.11.2021	31.01.2022		
e) Summary of Financial Performance				
	Original Approved	Adjusted Approved	Final Claim	
Total Project Costs	23,986.40	24,436.40	24,423.05	
RDP Funding	19,189.12	19,549.12	19,535.77	
Levered Funding	4,797.28	4,887.28	4,887.28	
Intervention Rates	% RDP	80%	80%	
	% Match	20%	20%	
	Cost Heading	Justification for under/overspend		
Under/overspend				

9. Handover contact details: For post project monitoring and evaluation activities, Welsh Government will require contact details of staff who may be able to provide assistance.	
Name: Sacha Petrie	Designation: Community Transport Coordinator

Email: sacha@canolfanmaerdy.co.uk

Telephone: 01269826893

Website address: www.canolfanmaerdy.co.uk

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/upperammanvalleycommunitycarscheme>

Document Retention Procedures: Documents (which includes all evidence relating to your project) must be retained in a suitable format for a period of 10 years following the end of the current LEADER programme – this means at least until 2031.



Signed:

Date: 16/02/22

(Project Lead)

Signed:



Date: 23/02/2022

(RDP Manager – Lead Body)

Post Project Activities by the Local Partnerships and Local Action Group:

Define what activities need to be undertaken by the Lead Body after the project has been closed
include any post project follow up actions which may need to be undertaken following project closure:

Completed PCR to be forwarded to LAG & WRN