



Cycle hire scheme coming to Borehamwood



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Hertsmere Borough Council yesterday (Wednesday 23 February) approved plans for a cycle hire scheme to be introduced in Borehamwood and its adjoining areas.

This cycle hire scheme is one part of the council's ambitious plans to achieve net-zero carbon emissions no later than 2050.

Beryl Bikes will be installed later in the year around Borehamwood, ready for people to hire at the tap of a phone screen.

The public hire scheme aims to encourage cycling to help promote active and sustainable travel, reduce transport related carbon emissions, improve air quality in Borehamwood, develop connectivity, in addition to improving the health and well-being of residents.

Councillor Seamus Quilty, Portfolio Holder for Environment, said: "I am delighted that my fellow councillors agreed to move forward with a cycle hire scheme in Borehamwood, which will help us to achieve our ambitious plans for a more sustainable Hertsmere.

"Transport was the largest emitting sector in the UK in 2019, responsible for 27 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. The cycle hire scheme will help us to make positive impacts not only on our environment, by reducing car traffic and air pollution, but also on the health and wellbeing of our local communities, by providing a healthy alternative to jumping in the car.

"The new cycle hire scheme allows users to make quick, easy trips across the town and surrounding area – perfect for work, leisure or running errands. Opening up this scheme to all will help to support our local town centre economy, as well as our efforts to improve air quality, health and wellbeing."

Councillor Harvey Cohen, Portfolio Holder for Planning, said: "In addition to the health and environmental benefits, this cycle scheme opens up the opportunities for our local communities in Borehamwood.

"The delivery of this ambitious cycle hire scheme is vital to the success of our transport network, as it will provide thousands of people in Borehamwood with an affordable, convenient, non-polluting transport option. The cycle stations will be located across the town to help support current transport links to allow our residents to more easily move around the borough for work, education and leisure."

Recent research shows that car travel accounts for over 70 per cent of all journeys made and just 1.9 per cent of trips under three miles are made by cycling. The cycle hire scheme aims to change this trend in favour of active and sustainable transport.

The contract to Beryl Bikes has been awarded for four years with as a trial for four years with the possibility to extend it for a further two years.

Funding for the cycle hire scheme has all come from development contributions, secured through the section 106 contributions from Sky Studios, as well as the council's Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). A final decision from Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council is awaited on whether they will also contribute to this scheme through their neighbourhood CIL. The council hopes to partner with local businesses to encourage participation.

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