

REPORT – Utilisation of Minibus services

Project: Provision of Minibus Services for Moredon Cycling Sessions.

Project Aim(s): The aim of this project is to -

- Encourage increased physical activity among residents living within the areas served by Central Swindon North Parish Council, and Central Swindon (Faringdon Road to Manchester Road).
- Address and reduce transportation-related barriers by offering dedicated minibuses services connecting these areas to the Moredon Sporting Hub.

Expected Outcome(s): Teach women and girls from minority ethnic communities how to ride a bicycle and improve their skills/confidence in the saddle. This will help reduce transport related social exclusion by enabling people to be able to travel by bike rather than relying on buses or someone else to drive them (if they are unable to drive). The physical and mental health benefits of cycling are well known, as well as the development of a community of supportive women. Cycling is also a low cost and environmentally friendly way of travelling. The training must take place at Moredon Sporting Hub where specialist facilities are located, such as the traffic-free tarmac track, bicycles and helmets to borrow and knowledgeable staff & volunteers. Additionally, we are expecting at least 8-10 people who are likely to attend each week and use the minibus.

Support required: Engagement with residents of the mentioned areas (Central Swindon North Parish Council, and Central Swindon – Faringdon Road to Manchester Road) revealed that transportation costs and/or the lack of sustainable transport options were key barriers to attending the Moredon cycling sessions. Therefore, a request for providing Minibus services in tackling these barriers is being sought. As such, any associated costs identified during the project (regarding areas covered in Central Swindon – Faringdon Road to Manchester Road) will be covered by Voluntary Action Swindon. Additionally, Nigel Davies is a regular volunteer at Moredon Sporting Hub and is also a volunteer minibus driver for AKcess bus, he may be able to support this project, and he will need to be approached to ask this. Rebecca Cox (Community Developer for British Cycling) is also undertaking her MIDAS training so also may be available.