

CONSIDERED AS AN 'URGENT ITEM'

2nd November, 2022

Agenda Item No. 11

Bikeworks Fife Closing & The Future for Bicycle Recycling in Fife

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service

Wards Affected: Ward 14, 13 and 15.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to all the Area Committee to consider a proposal to support Route Assembly in taking over from Bikeworks Fife in the recycling of bicycles in Fife.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended:

- (1) That committee approves £5,000 to Route Assembly/Bikeworks to support the development of a Bikeworks business case.
- (2) There is to be a new Bikeworks Board set up to help develop the business. To provide guidance and contacts it would be beneficial for 2 Councillors to be represented on the Board. The suggested nominees are Councillor Ross Vettraino and Councillor Jan Wincott.

Resource Implications

There is current funding within the Glenrothes Local Community Planning Budget to meet the £5,000 funding request.

Legal & Risk Implications

The Legal & Risk Implications associated with the proposals are that the business could fold within the first 2 years. However, there is enough bikes requiring recycling and there are over 10,000 school pupils requiring to learn to cycle and these will all require bikes. So, there is a need to build connections and links with those that require affordable bikes.

Impact Assessment

This will be completed and submitted by Route Assembly as part of their business case.

Consultation

Councillor Altany Craik, Councillor Ross Vettraino and Councillor Jan Wincott have been instrumental in developing this report.

1.0 Background

Bikeworks Fife

- 1.1 Bikeworks Fife Ltd is a Social Enterprise company based in Glenrothes, Fife, established in 2008 and has charitable status. Run by a Board and supported by volunteers.
- 1.2 Bikeworks collects donated and unwanted bikes from Fife Council Recycling Centres, and where possible remanufactures these to support local charities and to sell to the public.
- 1.3 Their primary objective is to recycle bikes that would otherwise end up in landfill and make these useable for the benefit of the local community.

Cycle Recycling, Refurbishment & Resale

- 1.4 Bikeworks, in partnership with Fife Council, has containers for the collection of unwanted cycles located at each of the Council's recycling depots. Those cycles that are suitable are meticulously refurbished, safety checked and resold.
- 1.5 Cycles that are unfit for use are stripped down for usable parts, with the remaining material being sorted for recycling.
- 1.6 This system also applies to cycles kindly donated by members of the public and various other organisations.

Decision to Close

- 1.7 Following Covid, Bikeworks Fife have found it difficult to attract volunteers back and replace Board members who have left in significant numbers, to keep the existing Bikeworks Fife viable.
- 1.8 So, the 2 remaining Board members have made the decisions to close their doors at the end of November.

2.0 Issues and Options

Continuing to recycle bike in Fife

- 2.1 Bikeworks Fife Board Members have continued over the past few months to try different options to keep the doors open. To this end they have attracted Route Assembly.
- 2.2 This is a developing company who is looking at a circular economy to reduce the amount of bicycles going to land fill and developing an enterprise to develop skills and providing training with an aim to allow volunteers to gain experience to access gainful employment. Presentation attached to Appendix 1 explaining their concept.
- 2.3 They are keen to keep the Bikeworks name and to build on what they have achieved to date. Actively seeking premises in Glenrothes with room for future expansion and to work with the existing volunteers.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 With the receipt of a more detailed business case for the development of the business:-
Provide financial support for the first 2 years of, £40,000 year 1 and £30,000 year 2, allowing the hiring of staff and purchase of equipment necessary to develop Bikeworks to make it successful and self-funding.
Areas where funding could be sought from are, for example:
- Glenrothes Local Area Budget
 - Covid Recovery Funding
 - Rate Relief
- 3.2 Cireco to continue to collect bicycles at the recycling centres for Bikeworks.
- 3.3 Employability Team to help build the skills and training requirements to allow the volunteers to gain employment where needed.

List of Appendices

1. Route Assembly – Bikeworks Presentation
2. Route Assembly website: <https://routeassembly.com/>

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973:-

None.

Report Contact

Norman Laird
Community Manager Glenrothes
5 th Floor West, Fife House
Telephone : 03451 555 555 Ext 480221 E
mail: norman.laird@fife.gov.uk

Jane Findlay
Lead Consultant, Climate Change and Partnerships
Bankhead Central, Bankhead Park, Glenrothes, KY7 6GH
Telephone: 03451 55 55 55 + Extension Number 444407
Email: jane.findlay@fife.gov.uk