



Thank you for joining us at the Wheels for All National Forum. Please see the minutes from the meeting below. If you need any support with what is noted down or have any enquiries please contact hello@wheelsforall.org.uk

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Volunteer Support from Babcock:

John Donovan from Babcock International discussed their initiative to support Wheels for All through volunteer work. He mentioned that Babcock employees get one full day of paid leave for voluntary work and encouraged the use of this day to support Wheels for All events. John provided his contact details for further coordination.

Introduction: John Donovan introduced himself as a principal mechanical engineer at Babcock International Group and a member of their disability network. He explained that the network supports employees with disabilities and encourages social activities.

Volunteer Initiative: John highlighted Babcock's initiative where each employee gets one full day of paid leave, called a "Be Kind Day," to do voluntary work. He noted that there has been a low uptake of this initiative and encouraged employees to use this day to support Wheels for All events.

Contact Details: John provided his contact details and encouraged event organizers to reach out if they need volunteers. He mentioned that Babcock has large hubs in Warrington, Plymouth, and other locations across the country.

Encouragement: Rhys reiterated John's message, encouraging participants to use the volunteer support offered by Babcock and to reach out for coordination.

Volunteer Requests:

Emma Roberts from Cornwall and Janine from Bristol requested volunteers from Babcock for their respective events. John agreed to advertise these opportunities and share his contact details for further coordination.

Cornwall Request: Emma Roberts from Cornwall requested volunteers for their weekly sessions and an upcoming event in St. Austell. John agreed to advertise this opportunity and mentioned that Plymouth, a nearby hub, could potentially provide volunteers.

Contact Sharing: Rhys will facilitate the sharing of contact details between Emma and John for further coordination outside the meeting.

Bristol Request: Janine from Bristol Cycling Centre requested volunteers for grounds maintenance and bramble clearance. John agreed to connect her with his operations team in Bristol for further coordination.

Follow-Up: Rhys confirmed that they would follow up via email to ensure that contact details are shared and plans are made for volunteer support.

Regional Offers in Greater Manchester and Yorkshire:

Yvonne, the regional manager for Greater Manchester and Yorkshire, discussed the distinct differences between the two regions. She highlighted the extensive offers available in Greater Manchester and the ongoing efforts to establish inclusive cycling opportunities in Yorkshire.

Greater Manchester: Yvonne explained that Greater Manchester has a wide range of offers available in each of its 10 local authority areas, with one to two sessions per week in each area. She highlighted the support from Transport for Greater Manchester and the B Network.

Yorkshire: Yvonne noted that Yorkshire has fewer existing sessions and highlighted the efforts to establish new opportunities. She mentioned working with North Yorkshire Sport and Yorkshire Sport Foundation to create inclusive cycling activities.

Working Group: Yvonne discussed the creation of a working group in Greater Manchester, which has agreed on a set of standards for cycle maintenance and volunteer training. The group aims to bring volunteers together to share knowledge and expertise.

Challenges: Yvonne mentioned the challenges in Yorkshire, including the need to re-establish opportunities and create new ones. She is working with various partners to address these challenges.

Challenges in Yorkshire:

Yvonne mentioned the challenges in establishing inclusive cycling opportunities in Yorkshire due to the lack of existing sessions. She is working with various sports partnerships to create new opportunities.

Establishing Sessions: Yvonne highlighted the lack of existing Wheels for All sessions in Yorkshire and the need to create new opportunities. She is working with sports partnerships to address this gap.

Active Travel Strategy: Yvonne mentioned Rotherham's active travel strategy, which includes running taster sessions to identify needs and create inclusive cycling opportunities.

Bike Active North Suffolk (BANS):

David George from BANS shared their journey of establishing a new group for adult disability group rides. He discussed their governance, volunteer base, and the challenges they faced, including funding and local authority engagement.

Establishment: David George explained that BANS was established to fill a gap in adult disability group rides in the region. The group runs three sessions every fortnight on Tuesdays.

Governance: David highlighted the importance of robust governance and risk assessment. The group has six trustees, 16 volunteers, and a designated safeguarding officer.

Funding: David discussed the challenges of fundraising and the importance of unrestricted funds. He mentioned various fundraising activities, including a Land's End to John O'Groats ride that raised £1400.

Volunteer Base: David emphasized the need for more volunteers and the importance of having a diverse volunteer base. The group has an equal balance of male and female volunteers and a wide age range.

Local Authority Engagement: David mentioned the difficulties in engaging with local authorities and the importance of publicity and recognition. The group received the Active Suffolk Award for enabling groups.

Insurance Challenges: David George and Arron discussed the challenges of obtaining liability insurance for their cycling groups. David mentioned that they found a solution through Cycling UK, which offers third-party liability insurance as part of their membership benefits.

Insurance Solution: David explained that they found a solution for liability insurance through Cycling UK, which offers third-party liability insurance as part of their membership benefits. This was crucial for covering clients and carers.

Cost Comparison: David compared the costs of different insurance options, noting that Cycling UK's membership fee of £88 per year was significantly cheaper than other options, which could cost over £1000 annually.

INTERACTIVE QUIZ

Funding Successes:

Martine shared their success in securing unrestricted funding from Garfield Western Foundation and Post Code Society Trust. She highlighted the importance of having a broad reach and inclusive governance.

Funding Sources: Martine mentioned that they secured £77,000 from Garfield Western Foundation and £10,000 from Post Code Society Trust. She emphasized the importance of meeting the criteria for these funds.

Inclusive Governance: Martine highlighted the importance of having a broad reach and inclusive governance, with a high percentage of people with disabilities on their governance board and session workers.

Inclusive Cycling Culture:

Participants discussed the inclusive cycling culture in the Netherlands, which was identified as having the most inclusive cycling culture in Europe.

Future Plans and Opportunities:

Participants shared their future plans and opportunities, including new volunteer recruitment, funding applications, and upcoming events. Alan mentioned their success in securing funding from Morrisons Foundation.

Volunteer Recruitment: Participants discussed plans for new volunteer recruitment to support their activities. This includes reaching out to local communities and organizations for support.

Funding Applications: Participants shared their experiences with funding applications and the importance of securing funds for their activities. Alan mentioned their success in securing funding from Morrisons Foundation through an online application process.

Upcoming Events: Participants discussed various upcoming events and activities, including new sessions, community engagement events, and fundraising activities.

Kinetic Booking System:

Nancy introduced the Kinetic booking system, which is being rolled out to manage bookings, payments, and reporting for cycling sessions. The system is GDPR compliant and offers various features to support the management of inclusive cycling activities.

Affiliation Network:

Nancy introduced the Wheels for All affiliation network, which offers two levels of membership (bronze and silver) with various benefits, including access to resources, support, and the Kinetic booking system.

Follow-up tasks:

Volunteer Coordination: Share contact details between John and Emma Roberts to discuss volunteer support for the event in St. Austell. (Rhys)

Volunteer Coordination: Share contact details between John and Janine to discuss volunteer support for the Bristol Cycling Centre. (Rhys)

Presentation Follow-Up: Respond to the messages in the chat regarding the areas Babcock works in and their office locations. (John)

Funding Workshop: Send out a poll via email to gather interest and preferences for the content of a fundraising workshop. (Nic)

Kinetic Demonstration: Schedule a 20–30-minute workshop to demonstrate the Kinetic booking and scheduling tool. (Nancy)