

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Windrush Bike Project CIC
Name of the project TFN funded:	Community bike workshop
Date Funded by TFN:	18/05/2017
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>1. To be a safe and therapeutic space where people can come and work on old bikes for their own use or for sale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We secured funding from Awards for All to expand our work with vulnerable people. We have had 4 volunteers who have been referred to us through organisations and attend regularly. Over time they have undertaken a range of jobs including dealing with customers. A further 20 volunteers have contacted us directly, and use our service for a range of reasons. Over the 9 months from May to February the project clocked an amazing 700 volunteer hours. We ran a successful build a bike course at the ICE centre in Carterton, and have 2 more build a bike courses booked in for March and May. • We still have much to do to contact potential volunteers and create the right environment so they feel confident enough to attend. The team have put in a lot of work publicising our offer and we have had meetings, visits, demos, and offers of buddying with six organisations working in Witney. This process is taking longer than we anticipated but we are starting to see the results of our work with 2 more referred volunteers starting in March. 3 of the team have attended Mental Health First Aid training and we are working closely with other organisations in the area. This is what one volunteer has said: • “It benefits my own mental well-being. Working with my hands is important, psychologically, to me and helps, somehow, to make some of my other stress easier. It is work, but without being like work. I have seen people so grateful for what seems a simple task to me, it is very rewarding. I get to learn from the other mechanics, I get to share my experience. It is a lovely inclusive, good natured undertaking”. • We have expanded our opening hours to include a closed session on Mondays for people who don't want to come along to a public session. This is a quieter, calmer session and is very popular with certain volunteers. • Our main challenge, as well as outreach to engage with potential volunteers, is our premises. We worked outside from May to October, and then we were given the use of a small indoor space. This was great for storing our equipment but people still had to work outside. We have to vacate this shed in June and are looking for a permanent home big enough so that people can work inside, and with an area

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	<p>where people can take a break from the work when they need to. One of our successes is that we have sold more second hand bikes than we thought, and so could pay a small rent in the future.</p> <p>2.To be a community space where people can get advice and support to maintain their own bikes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open workshop is a new concept to Witney. Most drop-in customers have requested advice or have asked us to work on their bikes. There have been fewer people who wanted to work on their own bikes. However, those that have worked on their own bikes have found the experience very positive. • “Having a friendly mechanic on hand to help me change the brake blocks and chain was invaluable. I was able to go home and repair the rest of the family's bikes with my new skills, thank you”. <p>3.To recycle old bikes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers working on old bikes has been a great success. At each session we can have up to 4 volunteers refurbishing old bikes. • We now have a formal arrangement with Dix Pit recycling centre and take bikes from them. So far we have saved 440kg of bike from going to scrap. Volunteers have accompanied staff to Dix Pit, choosing bikes to take and removing usable spare parts from other bikes. The bikes we refurbish are sold at prices that people on low incomes can afford. <p>This is what volunteers have said:</p> <p>“It is Immensely satisfying that we are salvaging bikes for reuse to increase the cycle foot (tyre) print in West Ox. There is a great team spirit - particularly through the inspirational mechanics.” - Volunteer, September 2017</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	30%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	25
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	300
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	£8,174 from Awards for All

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Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	No - the difficulties of finding a premises have consumed a lot of our time. We have had 3 opportunities that have fallen through, and are actively perusing a partnership with another social enterprise in Witney to secure premises in the medium term.
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	We found that the process forced us to refine our ideas, and focus on the people who came through our doors rather than the bikes. The training and opportunity to pitch was an excellent experience and the support from donors gave us the confidence that we were doing something that mattered.
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	This is a quote from the youth leader at Yellow Submarine following a Build-a-bike course: "I just wanted to thank you again for the wonderful project, which was hugely enjoyed by the lads. As I have mentioned previously, the three boys in question, choose not to participate in 'structured' games or activities, which can often lead to them becoming disengaged and disrupting the other young people. Having the opportunity to take complete ownership of something, with a clear (and desirable) end goal, was something they really took pride in. They loved spending 1:1 time with Will, who was excellent with them, offering clear instruction and treating them as individuals".