

New scheme brings e-bikes to Ledbury

Written by Ledbury Area Cycle Forum
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Would you love to cycle more but find local hills and windy days too much like hard work? Now is a good time to try out an electric bike and see how well it can work for you. Thanks to funding from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme, topped up by the Colwall Car Club, the Ledbury Area Cycle Forum now hosts its very own community e-bike, which people can borrow for a fortnight to 'test-ride' free of charge. This Ledbury e-bike is an extension of the scheme already running in Malvern and Colwall.

E-bikes come with a hearty local endorsement from Coddington cyclist Colin Palmer, who regularly cycles long distances in Britain and Europe in the company of friends whose disabilities mean they couldn't manage a human-powered bike. He recommends that anyone who feels that cycling is just too energetic for shopping, getting to work, or enjoying our delightful Herefordshire country lanes should give electric bikes a try.

"They're great fun to ride, feel just like an ordinary bike with a bit of a boost when you want it, and at any time you can choose just how much help you want from the motor" says Colin. "Many converts reckon it actually improves their fitness as they get out on the bike more regularly, and commuting to work by e-bike proves a big money-saver, without needing a shower at the end of the ride." On average an e-bike will cost about 2p to recharge which is the equivalent of 1000 mpg. Unlike electric cars, the battery can be removed from the bike and charges from an ordinary 13A socket.

Investing in an e-bike might seem daunting (£1500 to £2500 for a decent model). This is where the new scheme can help, by giving you the chance to test ride an e-bike. You can book your test fortnight well in advance, pick up the bike in Ledbury town, experience the joys of an e-bike, and then get help to choose one that is right for you.

For more information, please visit <https://transitionmalvern hills.org.uk/wp/electric-bike-loan-scheme-2/>

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