



Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw Job description for Chatty Chums

1. Introduction

Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw is a charity that was set up in early 2018 to give free rides to local people experiencing limited mobility or social isolation. In March we were awarded over £7k from town and borough councillors locality budgets to buy a rickshaw and operate the project for its first year.

Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw is entirely run by volunteers, most of whom are rickshaw riders. Chatty Chums accompany passengers in the rickshaw when no friend or carer is available.

2. Description of role

- a. The rickshaw rider has responsibility for the safety of the machine and passengers, and in that sense is in charge. The role of the Chatty Chum is to sit with the passenger and provide companionship during the ride and assist the rider in ensuring the trip goes smoothly.
- b. You will meet the rider where the rickshaw is garaged in the town centre, or be picked up *en route* to collecting the passenger. You will remain with the passenger throughout the ride and dropped off or returned to the town centre afterwards.
- c. The purpose of the rickshaw ride is to get people out of their four walls and into the world, to cheer them up and decrease their isolation. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to chat to the passengers and listen to their stories.
- d. Volunteers and the rickshaw are fully insured.
- e. You are not required to do any physical lifting of passengers, or to have any relationship with the passengers beyond the rides. It is important to remember that we are simply offering friendly bike rides; we are not carers or a befriending service. Having said that, we anticipate developing links with other services that our passengers might find helpful.
- f. You should allow a two-hour window for your shift, but some will be shorter.

- g. Once you have confirmed your availability, and been allocated a shift, you must turn up for the ride or give us at least 3 days' notice so we can find another volunteer.
- h. All volunteers must adhere to our Safeguarding policy which is designed to protect vulnerable people from harm. This involves being vigilant for signs of abuse and reporting any concerns to Ann Williamson (see separate policy for details).
- i. You will receive Safeguarding training, and be DBS checked.

3. Requirements

We need people who are considerate, good listeners and happy to chat while accompanying vulnerable people of rickshaw rides round Bury.

If you are trustworthy, reliable, and can offer at least 3 two hour shifts per month to help isolated and less able people, this would be a great opportunity to help your community.

All Chatty Chums will be DBS checked.