

# Bike scheme inspires a community

## INNOVATION

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ABANDONED BIKES from Leeds universities' campuses are helping to transform communities in rural South Africa.

An ongoing project has seen bikes sent to Mnyakanya High School in Kwa-Zulu Natal to support the Bambisanani Partnership charity's 'Cycle to Success' programme.

Each summer for four years staff and students from the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University travel to South Africa to teach bike riding and maintenance to pupils, some of whom walk two hours each day to access education.

More than 20 bikes a year are refurbished and shipped to Mnyakanya, with new bikes acquired through fundraising, and spare parts and tools funded by the Rob Stephenson Trust. Shipping giants Cardinal Maritime transport the bikes free of charge.

Student volunteers receive sports leadership and cycling proficiency training in the UK before travelling to teach up to

35 children aged 12-15 how to bike ride in just one week. Students from Leeds and Mnyakanya also link up in a wide range of cultural activities.

Mrs Pk Zondi, Bambisanani coordinator at Mnyakanya High School, said: "Cycling was not that familiar in our community until this initiative was introduced. I could not believe to see even the elder people in the community showing interest in cycling. Mnyakanya young cyclists inspired the elder. We do not have enough words to pass on our gratitude and thanks to the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University for changing the lives of our young people."

Andrew Lockwood, who spearheaded the project and is a trustee of The Bambisanani Partnership said: 'Setting up the bike hub at Mnyakanya has been hugely beneficial to all involved. We now hope to expand the project'.

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**PARTNERSHIP:** A team from Leeds universities pass on cycling knowledge in Kwa-Zulu Natal