

SUGGESTION:
SELKIRK
BIKING
HUB
& HOSTEL



ARGUS BIKE BASE



BIKE HUB

Cycling center with
bike rental and storage



LOCATION

Argus Centre,
Selkirk



HOSTEL

Low-cost accommodation
for cyclists



FACILITIES

Workshop, communal
kitchen, lounge

Suggestion: Selkirk Biking Hub & Hostel – “Argus Bike Base”

By Caroline Cochrane (Selkirk Resident)

Executive Summary

This proposal outlines the suggestion of creating a dedicated Biking Hub and Self-Catering Accommodation at the Argus Centre in Selkirk. The project aims to transform the site into a vibrant, all-season facility that supports cycling tourism, local economic growth, and outdoor recreation. Designed in the style of a youth hostel with modern facilities, the Argus Bike Base will attract mountain bikers, gravel riders, road cyclists, and adventure tourists alike.

Vision & Objectives

To establish Selkirk as a premier base for cycling tourism in the Scottish Borders by developing a welcoming, eco-conscious hub for riders of all ages and abilities.

Objectives

- Convert the Argus Centre into a multi-use biking base with dormitory and self-catering accommodation.
- Provide bike-friendly facilities including secure storage, maintenance station, wash areas, and trail information.
- Host events, skills workshops, and community cycling programs.
- Generate employment and boost tourism revenue for the local economy.

Site Overview: The Argus Centre

- Located near Selkirk town centre and close to key trail networks (Tweed Valley, Innerleithen, Glentress).

- Existing structure suitable for renovation and adaptive reuse.
- Ample space for parking, bike storage, communal lounge, and accommodation.

Facilities & Services

Accommodation

- 20 bed capacity: of dorm room.
- Shared bathroom
- Fully equipped communal kitchen and dining area.
- Comfortable lounge with Wi-Fi and route planning resources.

Cycling Infrastructure

- Secure indoor bike storage (CCTV monitored).
- Workshop with tools and bike stands.
- Bike wash station with drainage system.
- Drying room for wet gear.
- Trail maps, GPX downloads, and local guide recommendations.
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Community & Events Space

- Multipurpose room for events, training, and education (bike maintenance workshops, first aid, group meetups).
- Pop-up café or vending area with local produce and snacks.
- Option to host cycling events, charity rides, and youth bike clubs.

Target Audience

- Touring cyclists and bikepackers.
- Mountain bikers and gravel riders using Tweed Valley trails.

- Adventure tourists seeking affordable, friendly lodging.
- Local clubs and grou

Sustainability & Values

- Eco-friendly renovations using local materials where possible.
- Recycling and composting initiatives.
- Partnerships with local cycle hire, guides, and outdoor businesses.
- Social enterprise model: prioritizing affordability and community benefit.
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Economic Impact

- Supports Scottish Borders' regional tourism strategy.
- Encourages longer visitor stays and higher local spending.
- Creates 3–6 part-time/full-time jobs.
- Spin-off benefits to cafés, shops, and service providers in Selkirk.
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Funding & Development Plan

Potential Funding Sources

- South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)
- VisitScotland Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- Scottish Cycling Development Fund
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Private sponsorship from cycling/outdoor brand
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Next Steps

1. Conduct community consultations and stakeholder engagement.
2. Commission architectural and business planning support.

3. Apply for feasibility funding and identify development partners.
4. Establish a steering group or CIC to manage the project.

Conclusion

The Argus Bike Base will position Selkirk as a rider-friendly destination that taps into the growing demand for active, sustainable tourism. It aligns with local and national objectives for rural regeneration, health and wellbeing, and low-impact travel.