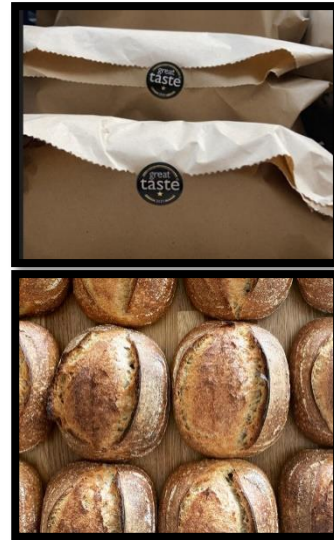


**Company name:**

**Bradbourne Bakery**



**Location: Sevenoaks, Kent**

**Project outline; Brief history of company/Description of the aim of the project/What will be needed to achieve the desired outcome?**

Bradbourne Bakery is an award-winning micro bakery in Sevenoaks, Kent. It was launched in 2018 by lifelong bread enthusiast Annabel Carter after the high street bakery closed and there was nowhere locally to buy good bread. Initially Bradbourne Bakery offered a made-to-order bread collection service from Annabel's home in Sevenoaks, but as demand grew, and the pandemic changed face-to-face interactions, the business adapted. Annabel began delivering her bread to households across Sevenoaks.

In 2020 the bakery was named Best Bakery in Kent at the National Bakery Awards, and in 2021 Bradbourne Bakery's customer nominations earned it a place as a finalist in both the Kent Life Food and Drink Awards, and the Muddy Stiletto Awards. Bradbourne Bakery's signature white sourdough was awarded a coveted gold star at the 2021 Guild of Fine Food Great Taste Awards. Business was going well, but Annabel had two issues: she wanted to reduce the carbon emissions from delivering bread by car, and she wanted to reinstate customer interaction.

In 2021 Annabel commissioned London Green Cycles to design and build a Christiania electric-assist cargo bike, with a branded lidded box capable of transporting a day's worth of bread to customers. With funding support, she would be able to buy this bike and transform her deliveries to zero

emissions, as well as creating a portable shop front that she could use at pop up events in her local community, allowing customers to buy directly from the bike.

**How the business first engaged with LoCASE/How did it hear about LoCASE/ease of application process etc.**

Annabel first approached Rob Robinson, Sustainable Business Project Manager at Low Carbon Kent in April 2021. Rob was immediately enthusiastic about the proposal and helped advise Annabel to choose between two eligible funding streams. The best fit was felt to be the LoCASE scheme, and before putting time into the application process, Rob liaised with the grant panel to ensure that Annabel's project was both eligible and a good fit. If successful, it would be the first time LoCASE had supported the purchase of an electric bike for carbon emissions reduction. Once Rob had established a good fit, Annabel wrote the grant application, which was a straightforward process with clear guidance. Questions arising during the drafting of the application were promptly and clearly answered, and an application was submitted for consideration at the May 2021 panel. A grant of £1,286 was awarded, which was around 30% of the project cost, and close to the amount requested. Release of the funds at agreed milestones has been clearly communicated and promptly processed.

**Result of the project upon completion/What was achieved/What did you gain by participating/How much grant did you receive/What will be your projected savings on Fuel bills & CO2 (if known)**

The LoCASE grant was a critical part of the project being realised. Annabel was able to use the LoCASE grant offer as leverage to secure further funding from The Naturesave Trust and was able to start the bike build in autumn 2021. The branded bike arrived at Bradbourne Bakery in February 2022 and has now become an integral part of the micro bakery's offer, used for all deliveries twice a week, with the first pop up sale scheduled for March 19th. Sustainability has always been important to Bradbourne Bakery – as all the bread is made to order there is no food waste – and now to be able to say to customers that their bread has been delivered emissions-free is a fantastic achievement for a small business. As the first electric cargo bike business in Sevenoaks, the hope is that this will encourage other small businesses to move to this exciting and green mode of transport!

**Summary of the project from your own perspective, in your own words/Did the project achieve what it set out to do/Did it deliver the result/s you were hoping for/Would you recommend the LoCASE Project to other SME Businesses?**

I would absolutely recommend LoCASE to other SME businesses. In my earlier career I have been both a grant fundraiser and a grant recipient, and have also helped organisations design grant application processes, so I came to this application with experience from all sides. It was a very smooth process, and I was particularly impressed with the people behind the process – I always knew who I could pick the phone up to, and I always felt that they were both knowledgeable about my application, and enthusiastic about what I wanted to achieve. It felt like being part of the same team. Thank you!