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Charity leader could 'Copenhagenize' Wales

Director of Sustrans Cymru, Steve Brooks, has just returned from Copenhagen where he has been discovering what lessons can be brought back to Wales from a city that has been transformed into a bicycle-friendly urban centre.

Steve was announced as the first recipient of the new [Walter Dickie Leadership Bursary](#) at the WCVA AGM and Annual Lecture in November 2017.

Steve used the bursary to fund a study visit to Copenhagen for the annual [Copenhagenize Masterclass](#) to learn how they helped transform their city.

Copenhagen has been ranked [the top cycling city in the world](#) for two years in a row. There are more bikes than residents, with 375km of cycle track stretching across the city making it easy to get around without a car. Steve hopes to bring some of this sustainable attitude to city-planning back to Wales.

The bursary also paid for Steve to enrol on the 'New Technologies and Changing Behaviours' course, part of the Global Challenges in Transport programme run by Oxford University's Oxford Leadership Programme.

Steve will join WCVA today at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay to re-launch the leadership bursary which was set up in 2017 to commemorate a great charity sector advocate, Walter Dickie.

The Walter Dickie Leadership Bursary will be open for applications from today until 19 October 2018 and aims to help leaders in the charity sector to develop their entrepreneurial leadership skills.

Charity leaders in Wales are encouraged to apply, and come up with interesting ideas to support their own development, by visiting [WCVA's website](#).

To bolster the impact of Steve's activities Sustrans organised mentoring and ongoing strategic advice to complement his learning. Steve will now apply the experience he

has gained from his studies to his role as a charity leader and share learning with his peers in the charity sector.

For more information, please contact Simon Dowling on 0300 111 0124.

Notes to editors

- WCVA is the national membership organisation for the third sector in Wales. Our vision is for the third sector and volunteering to thrive and improve well-being for all. We do this by *influencing, connecting and enabling*.

About the Walter Dickie Leadership Bursary

For more than ten years Walter Dickie supported WCVA as a trustee where he played an instrumental role in guiding the organisation and helping to set up the groundbreaking Communities Investment Fund which lends money to social businesses.

The fund still runs today and remains the cornerstone of WCVA's ongoing social investment activity. Thanks to Walter's dedication, WCVA has been able to lend over eight million pounds to community organisations, many working in the most deprived areas of Wales.

Amongst a myriad of successes, the fund has helped save the last pubs in rural communities, given a kick start to the extreme sports boom in North Wales, provided a safe environment for children whose foster care has broken down, brought old buildings back into community use, created hundreds of jobs and enabled communities to control assets in their own towns and villages.

As a member of WCVA's board Walter Dickie's expertise, experience and commitment to the third sector have had a profound impact on the work of WCVA and his passion and warmth will long be remembered by those who had the pleasure of working with him.

The £2,500 bursary is awarded annually to someone in a leadership role within a third sector organisation in Wales and hopes to reflect Walter's passion for travel and for learning.

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