

Bike Recycling

Excellence in Cycling

The project provides low cost bikes to the local community. This opportunity is available for those who cannot purchase a brand-new bike and have a need for traveling sustainably to work. The money generated from these sales is then reinvested into running costs. For those residents identified as having a need for a bike (access to the job market), but do not have the means to purchase one, we are able to donate a bike through the scheme. Children's bikes are donated to those whose families do not have the means to purchase a bike - the bikes are donated once children have completed Bikeability cycle training at school. The project collects bikes from recycle centres, public donations, and the local Police. We look for bikes that have tidy frames with little rust to ensure they will be desirable to the communities that they are donated to. The bikes are fully serviced and returned to a road worthy condition. Where possible we recycle components, which are then fitted to the bikes.

Local Authority

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Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Bedford Borough Councils

Who Was Involved

Part-time mechanic (Chris) - collects bikes and services them, ensuring they are suitable for re-use.

Serviceable parts are re-used from bikes that cannot be recycled. Full-time manager (Nathan) - works with local community groups, schools and businesses and identifies stock. Central Bedfordshire's Travel Choices Hub (Dunstable) - have a selection of bikes for sale.

Budgeting

The project is funded through our Access Fund – Bedfordshire STARS, partnered with Luton, Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils. We have funding secured until March 2020. Our budget for this project is £42,500 per year. This covers our workshop and storage costs, plus our mechanic and equipment. The money generated through the sale of bikes is re-invested into the scheme.

Project Development

One of the major barriers highlighted through our Bikeability training was the low ownership of bikes. There are several areas of economic depravity in the area, so the idea was developed to run a bike recycling scheme to help support residents, at the same time as linking in with public health objectives. We already had a fleet of bikes available from our Bikeability scheme, so looked to expand this. We called on the expertise of

a local bike mechanic who had helped run a similar project in the area many years before. With his experience, we were soon able to get the project up and running. At first, we were only able offer bikes to communities in Luton, but as the project grew and became more successful, we started to get a substantial supply of bikes arriving. With the opportunity to use the Access Fund to support the scheme, we have been able to expand it across the whole of Bedfordshire. A brochure listing all bikes available is accessible online and at the Hub.

What Was The Outcome

To date the project has sold 51 bikes generating an additional £2800 back into the project. We have donated 171 bikes to those unable to afford a purchase. Case study; We met Holly at a Travel Choices event held at *NOAH (Dunstable) called 'Back into Work'. Holly was looking to get back into training and could not afford a new bike. During the event we were able to advise Holly about the bike recycling scheme and how to apply. Holly took a look at the scheme's brochure and once the paperwork was approved, visited the Travel Choices Hub to collect her bike. Holly was delighted with her new mode of transport. "I am really happy and can't wait to start cycling to training courses." she said. We security marked the bike, provided Holly with a Personalised Travel Plan (which provided her with route options) and a secure lock. With her new bike, Holly was able to attend more educational courses and improve her chances of getting back into work. Holly is now volunteering for a local project

How Does This Project Meet The Criteria

Enabling individuals and target groups to cycle for their journey to education, work and within the community, where they wouldn't usually be able to do so. Pupils whose families cannot purchase a bike, now have the opportunity to cycle to and from school, plus social trips. Pupils are equipped with cycle skills after taking part in Bikeability courses, which then give confidence to ride their new bike. By identifying barriers to those seeking training and employment, the scheme has enabled individuals/ groups to travel sustainably whilst improving confidence and use the cycle skills gained from our cycle training, to seek opportunities which would not have otherwise been possible. Many individuals who have taken advantage of the scheme have gone on to access training, volunteering and paid work, at the same time as improving their fitness levels and mental health. Participants of the scheme have reported that their self-esteem, motivation and overall lifestyle has now improved.

Bike recycling project

Councils give homeless bikes new lease of life

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Bedfordshire Police is donating 11 recovered bicycles, for which owners were never found, to Luton Council's bike recycling project.

The project is run by Luton Borough Council, in partnership with Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils. They are working together in order to promote sustainable transport.

The recovered bikes will undergo repairs and will then be made available to people across the county. The bikes will be offered to people who are looking for jobs and need help commuting, homeless people in shelters in need of transport, and parents who want to reduce travel cost and

time when collecting children from school.

PCSO Rachel Carne said: "Having a free way of commuting is something which is often underestimated. Hopefully, the bikes will be soon be in the hands of people who need them the most, and provide them with the much needed help to improve their lives."

Eight police bikes will undergo servicing and will be used by officers during proactive community patrols.

Councillor Paul Castleman said: "The bike recycling project gives more people access to cycling who would otherwise miss out. The programme focuses on the delivery of a range of interventions to promote walking, cycling and bus use to access stations on the Thameslink route between Luton Airport Parkway and Bedford."



Recovered bikes donated to Luton Council's bike recycling project.