

Avenues Bicycle Project

Annual Report 2016

Registered Charity Number 1163510

The Avenues Bicycle Project has now completed its fifth year of recycling bicycles in Hull and East Yorkshire for the benefit of children, young people and adults in Hull and West Africa. This year we have recycled over 500 bicycles, bringing our total since 2011 to over 2,500 bikes.

In 2016 the bike project has achieved the following outcomes:

- Supplied over 400 bikes to Margaret Carey Foundation supported HMP workshops for prisoners to access day time occupation and training opportunities, as well as providing the bike project with refurbished bikes.
- Shipped over 800 bicycles to the Village Bicycles Project in Sierra Leone. These bikes have benefitted schoolchildren, students and adults who often have to walk up to four hours a day to get to school, college or work.
- Supplied over 40 bikes, and various lights and locks, to the Youth Development Service in Hull for young people attending the Push Iron Friday afternoon session where they learn how to build and maintain a bike.
- Supplied over 40 bikes to organisations working with children in Hull and the surrounding area: NSPCC (Grimsby), Child Dynamix and Preston Road Women's Centre.
- Donated 30 refurbished bikes to Hull Help for Refugees for use in a refugee camp in Greece.

The bike project has achieved the above outcomes in 2016 through:

- The generosity of members of the public in Hull and the East Riding who continue to donate their unwanted bikes.
- Bike donations from Leeds Grammar School (compliments of Recycle), Reverse the Cycle and Howden Rotary Club.
- The dedication and hard work of a small group of volunteers.
- Financial support from the Sir James Reckitt Charity, Hull CC Community Initiative Budget, Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust and the Joseph Boaz Charitable Trust, as well as monthly subscriptions and individual donations from members of the public. We have also raised funds through a car boot sale, a clothes auction, a sponsored bike ride and the sale of refurbished vintage bicycles through Bob's Bikes on Beverley Road, Hull.

- The provision of free storage space earlier in the year by Sewell's Group and more latterly by Hymers College, which has partnered with the bike project for future bike collections through the 'Hymers in the Community' program.
- The skilled work of prisoners working in Margaret Carey Foundation supported bike workshops in HM Prisons Lindholme, Liverpool and Humber.

The bike project has met all of the 2016 objectives that were listed in its 2015 annual report:

- We have sent two containers of bikes to Sierra Leone. This is one more container than listed in the objectives for this year.
- We have successfully developed links with the Freetown Society (Hull) and the Sierra Leone Association (Hull). The Chair of the Freetown Society has been co-opted onto the Steering Group and we are working together on a project to support primary schools in east Freetown. A member of the Sierra Leone Association has attended a container loading and helped out with bike collecting, as well as providing background information and advice about life in Sierra Leone.
- The bike project has a small financial reserve for 2017.

The bike project goals for 2017 are:

- To send one container of refurbished bikes to the Village Bicycle Project in Sierra Leone.
- To work with the Freetown Society and the Conforti Community Association (Freetown) to donate an empty container to the Love of God Primary School in east Freetown for conversion to a classroom.
- To rebrand our work of supplying bicycles in Hull and the surrounding areas for children, young people and adults under the banner of a *Bikes4Hull* scheme.

2016 was a challenging year for the bike project during which we had record numbers of bikes donated at the same time as having to find a new storage facility. But we managed to get through with the help of our friends and supporters. 2017 promises to be an exciting year as we begin a new partnership with Hymers College and develop our new Bikes4Hull scheme, and continue to put into practice lessons learned.

Chris Jarrell (Coordinator), on behalf of the Trustees, January 2017