

Avenues Bicycle Project Annual Report 2017

Registered Charity Number 1163510

The Avenues Bicycle Project has now completed its sixth 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 2,900 bikes. The average cost of recycling a bike has been £8.00 per bike. We have no fixed premises and no paid staff.

In 2017 the bike project has achieved the following outcomes:

- Supplied over 400 bikes to Margaret Carey Foundation supported HMP bike repair workshops for prisoners to access day time occupation and training opportunities, as well as providing the bike project with refurbished bikes.
- Shipped over 400 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 60 bikes to organisations working with children, young people and vulnerable adults through our *Bikes4Hull* scheme: Push Iron (KYC), Open Door, Humbercare, Preston Road Women's Centre and the Inclusive Cycling Project in East Park.
- Funded the conversion of our December 2016 container into Freetown into two classrooms for the Love of God Primary School.
- Donated our December 2017 container into Freetown to Friends of Diabetes (Sierra Leone) for conversion into a public health clinic, to be used as a base for school nurses to undertake diabetes screening programmes across the city of Freetown. We also donated four bicycles for the use of the school nurses.

The bike project has achieved the above outcomes in 2017 through:

- A well-established partnership with the Village Bicycle Project that not only pays for the shipment of our bicycles from Hull to Sierra Leone, but also ensures that they are distributed to the people who need them on the ground in rural Sierra Leone.

- The generosity of members of the public in Hull and the East Riding who continue to donate their unwanted bikes.
- Substantial bike collections by Hymers College and Howden Rotary Club.
- The dedication and hard work of a small group of volunteers who have provided over 1,500 volunteer hours across the range of volunteering opportunities offered by the bike project.
- Financial support from the Sir James Reckitt Charity, Hull City Council Community Initiative Budget, Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust, Joseph Boaz Trust, Hesslewood Children's Trust and the W.A Horncastle Trust, as well as monthly subscriptions and individual donations from members of the public.
- We have also raised funds through a clothes auction, three sponsored bike rides and the sale of refurbished vintage bicycles through Bob's Bikes on Beverley Road and on EBay.
- The continued provision of a rent free space for our shipping container by Hymers College as part of its '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 2017 objectives that were listed in its 2016 annual report:

- To send one container of over 400 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.

The bike project goals for 2018 are:

- To send a container full of 440-450 bikes to the Village Bicycle Project in Sierra Leone.
- To recycle up to 60 bikes into organisations in Hull that work with children, young people and adults through our *Bikes4Hull* scheme.

- To continue working with the Sierra Leone Association so that our 2018 container into Freetown can be utilised as a School Nursery in the mornings and a Training Workshop for school leavers in the afternoons.

2017 was another challenging year for the bike project. We had to deal with a large unexpected increase in the cost of converting our 2016 container into two classrooms in Freetown, due to design and Health and Safety issues. But we got through the difficulties, learned a lot about life and business practices in West Africa and feel more confident about this aspect of our work in 2018. Significantly, we have decided not to fund future conversions. Having learned that the donation of a container with a financial payment to cover delivery and footings is more achievable.

We also had to begin to think about how to increase our bike numbers in our next container in 2018. This has been in response to changing economic factors in West Africa that are beginning to affect the financial viability of our shipments to the Village Bicycle Project in Sierra Leone. We are confident we can meet this challenge, but it may take a little longer to fill a container, possibly into the spring of 2019.

Chris Jarrell (Coordinator), on behalf of the Trustees, January 2018