

Simple access improvements



A wheeling channel makes it much easier to get from street level to the front door

Up and down stairs – weightlifting not required
No need to do your back in. A wheeling channel close in to the wall (eg under a handrail) makes it much easier to get up and down a flight of stairs, and also reduces the tyre marking on walls that often happens when bikes are carried over the shoulder.

Spring doors – only one pair of hands needed
Careful adjustment to the spring action of doors makes it easier to get in and out with a bike. Also helps people carrying heavy shopping, pushing buggies, and those with mobility problems. Damage caused to doors and frames by bikes is reduced.

Information about the project for residents and housing managers

Selection

Residents have responded positively to publicity about the project in *Hackney Today*. The HomeBikePark project will try to provide solutions for as many people as possible, while making sure we choose a representative range of housing types from Hackney's estates, and test out the various different solutions shown this leaflet.

Management

Secure spaces require robust management. Lockers especially can be mis-used, so users must sign agreements to observe rules and permit inspection. The management should also link to maintenance needs, and operate by default. Regular renewal of 'rental' ensures that no-one blocks other users by retaining a space they are no longer using.

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Installation

The cost of installing equipment can sometimes be more than the equipment itself. We will work with residents and housing providers to make sure installation goes smoothly, considering time and handling issues to minimise disruption. Once in place, many facilities can be extended by simply bolting on new units.

Maintenance

Simple cleaning of debris from lockers compounds and enclosed spaces keeps the equipment attractive to use. For lockers especially it is also a hygiene issue to clear debris and litter. Careful design and installation facilitates this, by allowing for hosing under lockers or through parking stands. Sensible choice of finishes also minimises need to paint metal structures.

HomeBikePark is an initiative of the London Cycling Campaign in Hackney
www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk
www.lcc.org.uk

Supported by the Hackney Strategic Partnership
www.hackney.org



HomeBikePark bulletin

Autumn/Winter 2003/4

HomeBikePark: parking solutions for residents



Cycling is getting more popular, more quickly in Hackney than anywhere else in the country (according to Census 2001).

We know it's a quick, reliable, healthy way to get around. But for many of us it's difficult to keep a bike, safely and conveniently, where we live – especially in flats. This has been mostly overlooked by planners and housing providers.

You need your bike to be secure against theft and damage, but easy to access for daily use.

Locking your bike outside risks theft, vandalism and, eventually, rust. But space inside flats is limited, and getting from street level to your front door with a bike can be a challenge.

The HomeBikePark project is piloting solutions for easier and more secure parking for Hackney's social housing. HomeBikePark will install solutions for at least 40 cycles at a number of locations across the borough. Solutions range all the way from inexpensive space-saving ways of storing a bike indoors, all the way up to tough, thief-resistant external lockers.

We will find out what solutions work best where, and get hard data on the advantages, drawbacks and costs – valuable information for everyone who wants to solve their cycle parking problems, whether in Hackney or beyond.

a Inside your flat

Wall-mounted racks; pulley systems; 'X-fiX' adaptor allowing handlebars to turn in line with the frame.

Pro – High on convenience and security, especially if access via stairs or lift can be made easier. Generally low-cost measures to secure and support bikes, coming in under £100 per bike.

Con – Limited by space available and fixings inside the flat. Bikes may damage decoration, although measures can be taken to protect it.



b Use redundant part of building

Unused shops or similar spaces can be equipped with 'Sheffield' racks and a secure access system, or a high-density system like double-deck racks.

Pro – Still relatively convenient for owners, with good security. Low conversion costs likely if shop units are in good state of repair.

Con – Not directly associated with individual users. Visibility of bikes is an issue, but will reveal any criminal activity inside. Custom manufacture of doors and internal fixings can be required.



c Re-use other external structures

Under-used buildings such as pramsheds and garages can be equipped with beefed-up security and re-purposed for bike storage.

Pro – Building exists, reducing work required.

Con – May not be ideal size, shape or location. Costs incurred in modifying for the new use.



d Shelters and compounds

Pro – Good security, easy install. Many purpose-made designs available, incorporating lighting and security features. Electronic lock systems offer maximum security and easier 'key' management.

Con – Require more site preparation and may not be as substantial as a shop unit against attack.

Location is crucial. Units should be conveniently placed near entrance, visible from upper floors.

e Individual lockers

Pro – High level of individual convenience and control makes lockers popular. Accessories can also be stored.

Con – Less space-efficient than a compound or secure store. Careful management required to prevent abuse. High cost per bike for secure storage, around £500 per unit.



f Staff controlled (concierge)

Secure parking is linked to a concierge service for the block. Access is observed or closely managed.

Pro – Concierge knows residents. Can be very compact as access is closely regulated. High level of active security in an integrated facility.

Con – Only viable where 24-hour concierge can be afforded. High-density parking areas can be limiting to accessibility and types of bike stored.



a range of solutions for secure, convenient cycle storage at home