



Waltham Cross Pedal Party

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Introduction

The Herts Sport and Physical Activity Partnership, in collaboration with British Cycling and Broxbourne Council, successfully launched Hertfordshire's first British Cycling Pedal Party in Waltham Cross. This initiative was born from the need to fill the gap left by the underutilised Bikeability courses in local primary schools and to support the Council's active travel and sustainability agendas.

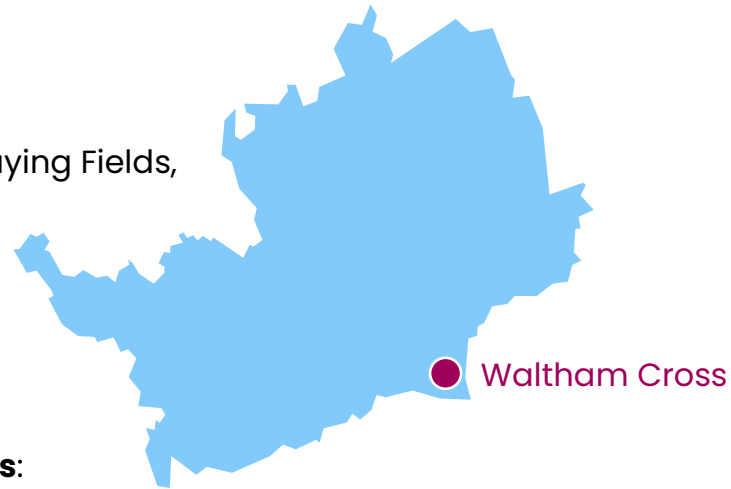
Project background

Waltham Cross faced a significant challenge with primary schools not adopting Bikeability courses, leading to a gap in cycling education for children. Recognising this need, Broxbourne Council, which had prioritised Active Travel in its Corporate Plan, partnered with the Herts Sport and Physical Activity Partnership and British Cycling to introduce the Pedal Party event. This event aimed to promote cycling among families and children, encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle while supporting environmental goals.



Implementation

The Pedal Party was held at Waltham Cross Playing Fields, chosen for its excellent amenities and accessibility by bus and train. The event featured various activities, including:



- **Adult Learn to Ride and Confidence Skills:** Sessions to help adults gain or regain confidence in cycling.
- **Children's Learn to Ride and Fun Skills:** Engaging activities to excite children about cycling.
- **Led Community Rides:** Guided rides to encourage community participation.
- **Dr Bike Maintenance Sessions:** Free bike maintenance to ensure safe and functional bicycles.

Bikes, helmets, and locks were provided for free, with equipment transported to the venue on the event day. This effort was part of a broader initiative linking to a new community bike hire scheme by Broxbourne Healthy Hub, Herts County Council, and the Herts Sports Partnership.



“We came down on the off chance someone could fix my son’s bike. The chain has been broken for a while and he’s been eager to get on his bike for the summer. The DR Bike mechanic was so so helpful and managed to fix it in no time! My son was absolutely elated and even managed to learn to ride at the end of the session, something we have been trying for some time. We couldn’t thank you enough!”

Partnerships



PARTNERS

BRITISH CYCLING

HERTS COUNTY COUNCIL

BROXBOURNE BOROUGH
COUNCIL

STANLEY BRIDGE CYCLES

BROXBOURNE HEALTHY HUB

PAVILIONS SHOPPING CENTRE

Deputy Mayor Cllr Patsy Spears

Cllr Paul Seeby

Cllr Sacha Sanatli

Outcomes and Benefits

- 34 Participants: Engaged in various cycling activities, with a high demand for Dr Bike sessions.
- Increased Interest: Many participants expressed a desire for ongoing cycling activities.
- Community Engagement: The event fostered a sense of community and interest in cycling.

Key Learnings

High Demand: The need for more bikes and resources to meet the high demand.

Booking Management: Importance of managing participant bookings to ensure adequate resources.

Extended Engagement: Staying longer to accommodate participants can enhance satisfaction and interest.

Quick Release Pedals: Necessary for future events to streamline bike transitions.

Next Steps

1

Develop Academy.

Establish a British Cycling Cycle Academy in to continue promoting cycling and revitalising the playing field space.

2

Workforce Development

Put on localised training opportunities to develop more ride leaders and community activators in the area.

3

Community Led Rides.

Support the Council and newly trained volunteers develop a new borough wide community bike ride programme.



Conclusion

The first British Cycling Pedal Party in Waltham Cross was a resounding success, marking a significant milestone in promoting cycling and active travel within the community. The event not only addressed the gap in cycling education for children but also responded to the broader need for alternative modes of transportation, given the high percentage of residents without car access. Through the collaborative efforts of the Herts Sport and Physical Activity Partnership, Broxbourne Council, and British Cycling, the Pedal Party brought together families and individuals of all ages, fostering a sense of community, excitement, and enthusiasm for cycling.

The overwhelming turnout and positive feedback demonstrated the community's strong interest in cycling, highlighting the potential for further initiatives. The event has paved the way for ongoing efforts to enhance cycling opportunities in Waltham Cross, including the development of a permanent British Cycling Cycle Academy. By building on the momentum of this successful event, we are confident that we can continue to empower residents to embrace cycling, leading to a healthier, more active, and connected community.



