

SCC-BIKE STORAGE –report

ACTION POINT: The SCC can write to the Transport and Environment Committee of the Council supporting the proposal from the Bike Team.

Alan Tinto of the Bike Team at the Council explained to me what they have been doing and what they think can happen next.

The trial of the various on-street bike storage bins in the city, including the Southside, has been very successful. The system has been very popular. When we spoke, there were 60 people waiting for 17 spaces– but the trial offered the spaces for free!

What they are proposing is that the Council roll out 20 new locations/year(each has 12 bike spaces) and that the renters are charged £5 to £10 per month. This is very expensive; car parking spaces are cheaper! But this cost reflects what it costs to produce, maintain, administer etc these secure bike store spaces. I did suggest that car parking permit costs could be increased to subsidise bike spaces but he felt that would not go down well just yet! However, I think we should support their proposal wholeheartedly. The demand is there and the trial has been thorough in every way.

I think more effort needs to go into providing bike storage in backgreens or even front gardens of tenements. This would need investment by landlords/owners but it would also add value to the property. Although some maintenance would be needed so cooperation or a system would need to be overseen by owners, bike sheds in back greens would have the advantage of not needing to be so expensive (as they would not need to be so heavy and impact proof), nor would they need to be Streetscape approved. Part of the problem at the moment with bike sheds in gardens is that planning permission is needed to put them up. Spokes has been campaigning to change this so they are classified as "permitted development".

Related to this is another

ACTION POINT: we could write to the Planning department to support Spokes' suggestion.