

AWARD-WINNING CYCLING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OPENS IN RBKC

West Londoners learn how to recycle bikes and FREE All-Ability Cycling Club launches

30.09.10 From today, west Londoners will be able to learn how to repair, maintain, and even build their own bike at a new community cycling hub, Bikeworks West, in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Cyclists of all ages and abilities will also be able to join Bikeworks new All-Ability Cycling Club where they will learn cycling skills, on a range of specially-adapted bicycles, at Little Wormwood Scrubs Adventure Playground.

The bike maintenance trainees will also be doing their bit for the environment. Working with broken and abandoned bicycles, each bike they recycle will equate to 15kg of waste diverted from landfill.

Bikeworks West will soon also offer cycle-related training and employment services for local, disadvantaged people. It is seeking to further develop local partnerships in the West London area to deliver these training programmes.

The new Bikeworks West facility is located in the north of the borough underneath the Westway between the Westway Sports Centre and Ladbroke Grove tube station.

Jim Blakemore, Co-Director at Bikeworks, says:

"We are very proud to be opening the doors of our new West London hub today. Since we launched two years ago we've used bikes to help thousands of people in East London. With the new hub we hope to be able to help West Londoners overcome health issues, learn to cycle, build their own bikes, find work, become qualified and get off the streets."

Kathryn King, Road Safety and Travel Plan Manager at Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, adds:

"We are delighted to support Bikeworks in their expansion into West London. They are providing a fantastic new facility for the Kensington and Chelsea community, with the opportunity for local residents to gain new skills and access to reduced cost bicycles. I'm sure it will be well used by residents."

Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown, Cabinet Member for Transportation, Environment and Leisure at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, added:

"Bikeworks have done excellent work in east London and I look forward to that same drive and determination being brought to Kensington. I am sure the local residents will enjoy the opportunities to learn useful skills as well as put many old bikes back into use, rather than have them rust away."

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Bikeworks is a Community Interest Company (CIC) based in Tower Hamlets, East London, providing a range of cycling- and bike-related services. Bikeworks has been operating since 2006.

For further information, or to arrange an interview with Jim Blakemore, please contact Sarah Bullock on:

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