

Langley Fitzurse CE Primary School sustainable scooter rack

Best Project under Â£1,000

Langley Fitzurse is a primary school located in a rural village location in north Wiltshire. Due to the nature of the catchment, car use is on the high side and as part of their school travel plan, the school wanted to address concerns caused by parking congestion and also encourage more sustainable modes of travel. The school applied to the Council for assistance through the Taking Action on School Journeys Challenge (TAOSJ) funding scheme to request on-highway measures and a grant for a parents' waiting shelter. The school also wanted to provide some scooter storage as the lack of this had been highlighted in parent surveys, along with an increasing percentage of pupils using this mode of travel.

Local Authority

Ruth Durrant, School Travel Plan Advisor, Wiltshire Council. South West region ruth.durrant@wiltshire.gov.uk

Who Was Involved

Ruth Durrant advised the school on the travel plan update and funding scheme. Lizzy Moor, Finance Officer, and Becky Harris, Headteacher were the travel plan leads at the school. Lizzy also organised 'Safe Scootering' training for pupils, delivered by the Local Authority Road Safety team, the result of which was an increase of children deciding to scoot to school.

Budgeting

The cost was £62.50 +VAT and was paid by donation from the school's PTA (Parent Teacher's Association).

Project Development

Lizzy researched options for various 'standard' school scooter racks made from galvanised steel, but the costs of these run into hundreds of pounds and their style would not be in-keeping with the rural school environment. She found instructions for a simple, effective wooden scooter rack on the Sustrans website and coincidentally noticed that a school she visited one evening had one of these racks which looked perfect for Langley Fitzurse's needs. As the rack had been built by the other school's caretaker who had since retired, Lizzy was determined to find someone to build a similar rack for her school. She made contact with a local organisation, Wiltshire Wood Recycling, who made wooden plant boxes and compost bins to ask if they could build the scooter rack and they were delighted to assist. The school is thrilled with the rack and have recommended Wiltshire Wood Recycling to other schools looking for scooter racks (and even wellington boot racks!) made from recycled wood.

What Was The Outcome

The school has a cost-effective scooter storage which is so well used that a further rack is needed and will be bought soon. The school now has facilities in place to be able to encourage more sustainable travel options such as scooting, or scooting from a park and stride locations, and parents will not have to take the scooter back with them. Safe Scootering training for children will be run every year from now on so that children have continual access to this as they move up the school years.

How Does This Project Meet The Criteria

This shows a joined up approach, both between different initiatives which together will lead to behaviour change, and between different agencies. It is a sustainable solution, both in terms of supporting a “greener” mode of travel, and having been built out of recycled materials, and well as supporting local jobs and enterprises. It also shows initiative on the part of the school, which is a crucial element of a successful travel plan. And last but not least, it demonstrates very good value for money.

