

CycleCities - searching for good practice.

Merton Council played host to a series of workshops for the European CycleCities project. The project funded under the INTERREG IVC European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme.

The project is looking to produce good practice guides to enable cities across Europe to increase the desire to cycle.

Partners are from Greece, Slovenia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal and the UK.

The first workshop featured Brian Deegan the Principal Technical Planner - Cycling from Transport for London (TfL) and Mark Strong from Transport Initiatives (www.transport-initiatives.com).

They discussed with the partners the process of how in order to produce the new cycle design guide for London due to be published in 2014 have reviewed cycling across Europe for good practice.

Partners experienced a 'Boris Bike' journey to the events at London Councils by Southwark Bridge. The variety of bike sharing systems across the world was a feature of the next workshop – Tim Caswell from HourBike (<http://www.hourbike.com>) presented his company model which has been rolled across the UK including Reading, Dumfries and Lincoln. Tim had also been an advisor on the New Moscow bike sharing programme a real challenge because it is the city with the worst traffic congestion in the world based on TomTom's Annual Congestion Index. <http://velobike.ru/>. These models were discussed in comparison to the Barclay cycle Hire "Boris Bikes" <https://web.barclayscyclehire.tfl.gov.uk> and the Brompton Dock <http://www.bromptondock.co.uk/> models. The project will assess them on success, flexibility, sustainability, and cost to install and maintain.

The final workshop looked at the London models for cycle training for both children and adults. Liz Brooker from Lewisham Council and Keith Filby from Merton Council presented the models used by both boroughs and Mark Strong from Transport Initiatives (www.transport-initiatives.com) gave an overview of other UK models used. One of the key issues on this subject was should cycle and pedestrian training be part of the national curriculum as it is in Germany?

The results of the good practice research will be presented at the CycleCities project conference in Piraeus in November 2014. To find out more about CycleCities

<http://www.cyclecities.eu/>