



THE
BRISTOL
BIKE
PROJECT

Impact Report 2020/21

We are a comprehensive community bike project, repairing and rehoming unwanted bicycles. We aim to help people from all walks of life get out on two wheels and for it to be an inclusive and empowering experience.



Empowerment

We empower people within our community by providing access to affordable and sustainable transportation, and encouraging an ethos of DIY and DIT (Do It Together!)



Community

We strengthen our community by providing an inclusive, vibrant and supportive space for people from all backgrounds to come and work alongside one another.



Education

We deliver an educational experience for all, and offer people the opportunity to have contact with positive role models.



Sustainability

We promote sustainability by saving bicycles and their working parts from landfill, encouraging reuse wherever possible, and offering an alternative to buying new.

From humble beginnings in a back garden to buying our own premises, we've come a long way. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic saw us adapting how we do things to help keep our key workers rolling, our volunteers connected, and our community spirit alive. Despite everything, here's what we achieved in 2020...

Empowering people through two wheels

We've empowered **over 2,400 people** to become independently mobile through our Earn-a-Bike programmes since 2008.



Usually we take donations of unwanted bikes, repair them with the help of our volunteers, and rehome them with marginalised people across Bristol who really need access to affordable transport. However 2020 saw us having to adapt.

With our community workshop having to close to volunteers and service users, our amazing team of mechanics continued to prepare bikes for our Earn-a-Bikers, who were still able to come and collect them.



In 2020, we refurbished and rehomed bikes to **198 people**.

Keeping our community rolling



Meanwhile, our trading arm **remained open to key workers**, prioritising their services and repairs to help them stay mobile.

Thanks to Bristol City Council funding, we were even able to offer them a £100 discount on sale bikes.

In 2020 our mechanics **serviced 1487 bikes**, and **sold 222 discounted refurbished bikes** to help people get around safely during the pandemic.



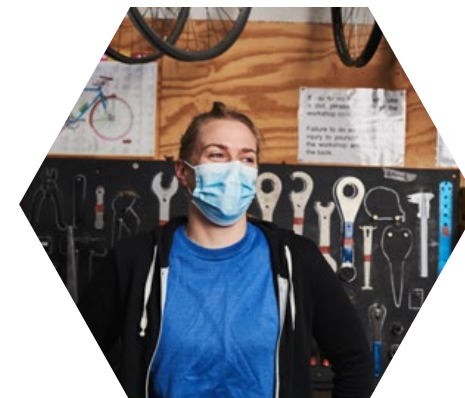
Learning to DIY!

Against the odds, we were still able to share some skills and encourage a DIY and DIT (Do It Together) approach to bike mechanics.

During a brief trial period we successfully supported 12 womxn to fix their own bikes before we entered the second UK lockdown.

“Coming back to Womxn’s Night to volunteer during the pandemic was the pick-me-up I needed. Reconnecting with a community of friends to do something practical together felt amazing and helping others fix their bikes when most bike shops were fully booked was a bonus!”

Jo Hellier,
WxN Coordinator



In 2020 we launched our Young Womxn’s Build a Bike research and pilot project to improve wellbeing through access to a bike and the skills to fix it. We offered 6 young womxn a place and finished the project in 2021.



Our volunteers got into the DIY and DIT spirit throughout 2020, sharing their favourite bike hacks via our monthly newsletters.

From chain cleaning to wrapping bar tape, our amazing volunteers filmed themselves and continued to share their skills virtually. Some of our favourite hacks will be shared in our upcoming volunteer-created zine!



Volunteering at BBP

Our diverse community of volunteers and members continued to thrive in 2020, despite us having to close the doors to our community workshop.



From weekly newsletters and Zoom meetups, to the solidarity calling network created by volunteers to keep in touch with isolated members of our community, there were plenty of opportunities to connect, share stories and skills, and give everyone a voice who wanted it.

All 30 of our staff, coordinators and directors started out as volunteers at BBP!

“Before the pandemic prevented us from volunteering, the volunteer sessions were my favourite evening of the week: a place to meet old friends and make new ones, and give back to the community. With zero background in mechanics, I thoroughly enjoyed the DIY/DIT ethos. There is a certain pride associated with learning hands-on skills and seeing the results of your progress.

I look forward to returning to the volunteer sessions, catching up and having weekly discussions about the news, politics and parties!”



Our Co-op

We are proud to be a co-operative, led by more than 90 active members, putting our community at the heart of decision-making.

We share the co-operative values of **self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity** and **solidarity**.

In 2020 we continued to meet regularly via Zoom to make collaborative decisions. As a group we agreed to introduce an annual ‘opt in’ — where members are prompted to remain or be removed from our member list — to make sure our membership continues to be engaged and active.



The other big decision we made together in 2020 was to pursue the purchase of our own premises in Easton, with thanks to Power to Change for offering us the funding we needed to do so!

Our New Premises Working Group continued to work tirelessly throughout the year, helping us secure the perfect new home for our co-op, future-proofing the Bristol Bike Project in a way we never thought was possible.

“The NPWG was set up after we were notified that Hamilton House was being redeveloped, and its role has been to help identify possible locations for new premises, developing ideas for layouts, identifying architects and builders and providing general support to the project manager.”

Dave Bennett,
BBP Volunteer



Reaching out to communities across Bristol and beyond

We get referrals from over 50 organisations in and around Bristol, including Ashley Community Housing, a social enterprise working to resettle refugees through labour market and social integration.

“The bikes provided by BBP provide our clients from refugee backgrounds a chance to explore a new city. They are an opportunity to exercise and enjoy nature during lockdown. Saving money on buses when on benefits makes their money last longer and cycling means our clients can access a wider range of services to support their integration into the UK.”

Meg Coakeley, Ashley Community Housing



Another organisation we work closely with is Creative Youth Network, who build relationships with young people to help them reach their potential and live fulfilling lives.



**CREATIVE
YOUTH
NETWORK.**

“At Creative Youth Network we regularly work with Bristol Bike project, referring young people onto the courses to help them gain skills and acquire a bike or fix their current one. The staff are always so welcoming and helpful and have an amazing ability to connect with young people. The work they do in the community is simply amazing!”

Kate Walker, Creative Youth Network

Think your organisation would work well with us? We're always looking to collaborate, so get in touch!

Access to affordable transport is a major obstacle for asylum seekers in the UK, who are not allowed to work and are entitled to just £37 a week to cover the costs of living.

On top of that, many asylum seekers in Bristol are required to attend regular appointments at a reporting office 8 miles from the city centre or risk jeopardising their asylum claim. Supporting asylum seekers in tackling this issue was the reason BBP came into being over 11 years ago.

Lianet and Yagne, a couple seeking asylum in Bristol, got in touch asking for our support. They needed a way to get around the city, and this was becoming increasingly urgent as they were soon to be moved to a BS13 postcode on the outskirts of Bristol.

Lianet and Yagne are both members of Borderlands - a Bristol-based charity which supports asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants. They were also keen to support others in their position by volunteering for Borderlands, and having bicycles would enable them to do this.



Lianet

“I am really thankful with my bike, it is amazing, I love it! It is the best bike I have ever had. I use it almost every day. In my economic situation I feel it gives me freedom and helps me relax, just going out for a ride is all I need. I feel very satisfied with all the services of the Bike Project and know they are working hard to help anyone, so my respect for them.”

Sustainability



Each month, we receive **over 100 unwanted bicycles**.

Some bikes have sat abandoned and lonely for years in sheds, train stations or the city dump before making their way to us.

Our volunteers work hard to spruce them up before they are rehomed through our **Earn-a-Bike programmes**.



Some bicycles are **refurbished** and sold to the public, offering an affordable and sustainable alternative to buying new, factory-made bikes. Profits support our community work.

Bicycles that can't be salvaged are stripped for **usable parts** that are reused in other bikes.

In 2020, we sold **222 second-hand bikes**.

Unusable parts are passed on to other organisations for **reuse, upcycling** or **recycling**.

Scrap metal gets **recycled**. Old inner tubes are crafted into neat **cycling accessories**, like wallets. Tyres are transformed into awesome **playpods**.

In 2020, we saved **over 1000 bikes** from landfill!

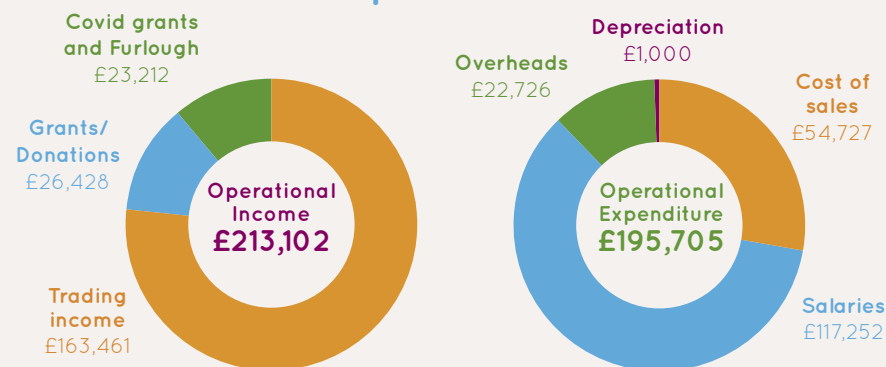
How we roll

With the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic the last year has been challenging. However, through a combination of hard work, prudent financial management, supporters' donations, the furlough scheme, and Covid grants we have managed well.

This year has also seen exciting developments in terms of securing our new premises - the result of a lot of hard work by staff and members over the years. To fund the purchase of the building we secured a large Power to Change grant and significant private donations. We completed the purchase from our own accumulated reserves and in July 2021 we moved into our new home!

We would like to thank all donors, funders and customers for continuing to support us.

Operations



New premises project (to 31/3/21)

Grants and donations income to date **£292,638**

Expenditure to date **£304,078**

Supported by

travelwest+



school for social entrepreneurs



Support The Bristol Bike Project

For just £10 a month you can get more bicycles to people who really need them. In return, we'll help you keep yours rolling smoothly with **1 free service a year!**



Supporter perks

- Annual free bike service
- 10% discount on servicing and repairs, secondhand bikes for sale and new parts in our shop
- 50% discount on secondhand parts (and sometimes even for free!)
- 10% discount on our maintenance courses
- Free entry to our weekly Bike Kitchen and Womxn's Night
- A BBP cycling cap or t-shirt (fair-trade organic cotton)
- A set of BBP stickers
- A monthly e-newsletter complete with invites to BBP events
- A warm glow deep down inside!

A regular monthly donation of £10 helps us keep our valuable services rolling, but if you'd rather make a smaller monthly donation or one-off donation that's amazing too.

Becoming a BBP supporter

Help more people get out on two wheels by heading to bit.ly/BBPdonate and donating £10 a month.

Thank you!



☎ 0117 951 3078

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