

FARCYCLES LIMITED

Enabling cycling to thrive in our community



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Cycling was positively encouraged during the pandemic, although with significant restrictions.

Cycle Park

As an open space use of the Cycle Park was allowed throughout and it was a popular destination for many families, coming from significant distances to experience its unique design.



Regular cycle teaching resumed in July for small children, and we have held 3 Road Safety weeks for children of 9-13. We are also teaching some adults to ride a bike, our oldest being 70! It's never too late



Additions to the Park include 2 pieces of outdoor gym apparatus – intended for parents while they watch their children cycle, they seem to be mainly used by young ones! These, and maintenance work, were part-funded by FTC.

A local tree surgeon brought wood chippings, carved wood bike racks and a giant wood toadstool to the Park.

Thanks to the generosity of The Woodland Trust and eForest we have now planted 700 trees in the area. The dry spell last summer was particularly difficult and regular watering was needed.

Farcycles Shop (aka Re-Cycles)

With a surplus of donated bikes at the Cycle Park, we opened a pop-up shop in August we thought, just for a few weeks! With the owner allowing us to continue; a loyal band of volunteers to man the shop and do repairs (including several who did this at home while shielding); and the generosity of the local community in donating bikes, we have stayed open (with breaks when the local situation demanded).

We have refurbished approximately 180 bikes during this time, saving them from landfill or languishing in the shed, and enabling more people to cycle locally. Funds raised are used for local cycle projects. We have donated bikes to those who



could not afford to buy a bike, and also given 7 bikes to GWH for the junior doctors to use for relaxation in their time off.

With an established and successful model, we are now looking for more permanent premises.

Infrastructure

We continue to lobby for improvements to allow more local cycling. For many people this means having safer routes to use, protected from traffic. Thanks to money from s106, the first part of a cycle network has recently been completed – a route from the Town Centre to the Health Centre.



A 20mph limit in the town centre looks likely, and should ideally extend to areas around schools.

A shared-use path along Park Road has been given low priority by OCC, although the road is due for resurfacing this year.

Cycling

Our Saturday rides have had to comply with Covid regulations, cycling singly, in pairs, or (as currently) groups of 6. We have rides of varying lengths, and speeds, to suit everyone.

On Sundays we have a series of Adult Confidence Rides which are aimed at getting people back to cycling regularly.

The annual sportive, Tour de Farcycles, was cancelled last year, but we are planning to go ahead this year on Sat 17 July – there are rides of 30-80 miles, with enticements of cake stops en route and a lunch at the finish.

Thank you once again to Faringdon Town Council for your financial support for these projects.

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