

Solon

Resident, Grenville Chapel

How do you normally travel?

By car

Do you own a bike?

Yes

How often do you use it?

Rarely!

When you do use it, what do you use it for?

Generally it would be in the summer more that I'd start using it, and I do have a studio in town and I did get in the habit for a while of cycling down.

Do you think you will use the new cycle parking?

Yes

And do you think you might cycle more?

Possibly. It's just maybe when the weather changes I might get back into it

Do you think this cycle parking is suitable for your needs in terms of space and security?

Yes, especially with the things around it – (Solon are also paying for some railings to surround the bike racks and investing in CCTV)

You mentioned you had some concerns about it being in the basement

Yes, just because it's quite creepy because it's an old church and there are different ways in and sometimes the doors get broken into and I think there might even have been a homeless person sleeping in here. But I do think that having access through the large gate will make me feel a lot better about coming

[Solon have also improved the locks as well (the copper piping was stolen from the gas)]

I think a lock would be good and then you're not taking your bike through the other way

Do you have any other comments?

No, I think it's really great that it's been funded.

Resident, Grenville Chapel

How do you normally travel?

I walk

Do you have bike?

I do have a bike. I used to work further away so I used to cycle to work then so I used to use it every day. Now I work closer I walk.

Now it would just be for if I went out for a bike ride with my daughter.

How often do you use your bikes?

Not very often because it's just been winter but we use them more in the summer.

What do you think about the new cycle parking?

That's probably been one of the deterrents for us using our bikes to be honest because it means that you've got to carry two bikes down three flights just to get on your bikes, so that effort means we don't use them as much as we would if it was a lot easier for us to get access to our bikes, so I think this will make a massive difference to us using our bikes more because it's not going to be such a headache getting them out, it's going to be a lot easier.

What do you think of the bike parking?

Well it looks great at the moment, it looks very nice, and it's going to be really nice to have somewhere safe where we can park our bikes that isn't clogging up hallways and etcetera!

Solon is going to be spending some more money on some railings to enclose the area and some CCTV.

Well spotted, we'll need that. I'd be concerned about the safety aspect without it. But I think with a cage that only people who own bikes have access to, and the CCTV that will really help.

[to her daughter] do you have anything you want to add?

I don't know, it's amazing really.

Resident, Grenville Chapel

How do you normally travel?

Van

Do you own a bike?

Yes

How often do you use your bike?

Probably once a week

And what do you use it for?

To go into town

Do you think the new cycle parking will encourage you to use it?

Yes, yes

Do you think that will change the frequency with which you use your bicycle?

Yes, I do actually

In what way?

Well, it's just not getting ruined outside, and when it's not ruined, it's easier to cycle

Where do you keep your bike at the moment?

Outside on the railings

How do you feel about that?

Well, outside on the railings it's got really rusty the bike, so I'm a bit upset about that, so I think here's much better.

I mean was happy with the bike in the corridor to be honest but if that's a safety hazard then this is the next best thing

Do you think this parking is suitable for your needs?

Yes

Resident, Grenville Chapel

How do you normally travel?

By car or by bicycle

Do you own a bicycle?

No, because the last one was stolen

What journeys would you use a bike for if you had one?

Going up to Ashton Court. Maybe on the cycle paths going out of town.

What do you think of this cycle parking?

I think it's very good. It's good to make use of a space which has been empty, and also security wise it means people going in and out which is better than having an empty space.

Would you use if you had a bike?

If I had a bike, yes, I would use it

Resident, Barton Hill

You've got one of Peddler and the Roof's new bike sheds in your garden. How did you hear about the project?

I heard about it from my neighbour across the road, and she's got one.

Why did you want a bike shed?

I thought they looked really nice, and I needed somewhere obviously to store our family's bikes so thought that would be a good idea to put in for

Was that easy?

Yes, yeah, definitely easy. I just contacted Solon and they arranged it all.

Tell me about how many bikes you have in the house. Who uses bikes?

It would be three – so my partner, my daughter, and I haven't got one yet but I will be getting one, and my grandson's got a little bike, so yeah, we'll fit all them in hopefully.

So you don't have a bike at the moment?

No I don't, I would like one. I'm planning on getting one hopefully, now I've got somewhere to put it. For the summer would be nice.

How do you travel at the moment?

Car! Lazy! I used to be on foot, now it's the car. Yeah, lazy! But hopefully I'll get a bike and then I can use it to go to work so it will benefit me in the long run.

Do you think the bike shed makes it more convenient to cycle?

Yeah, cause there's not really nowhere to store bikes unless you've got covers, and then they're outside in the elements, so I think putting it away it will be so much easier.

So where have you been storing the bikes until now?

Usually in my hallway or upstairs or somewhere. It's hard to get up, down or move them, in and out as you can tell!

Resident, Barton Hill

How did you find out about the bike parking project?

There was an article in our Solon magazine so I enquired

And then what happened?

So initially, I think they were meant for community areas so it was really nice I think by asking the question I think it raised a few, oooh, is that OK, shall we give them to individual residents, so I think it was quite nice that we were able to get them because I think originally it was communal.

And you've had your bike sheds for a couple of months now?

Yeah

And have you used it a lot?

Yes, we've got three bikes in there. |Mine's at the front because I go out at least once a week through the winter on my bike, and I treated myself to a hi viz jacket which looks really fetching, and in the summer I'll use it a lot more.

And do you have the kids' bikes in the shed as well?

Yeah, my 14 year old son's bike is in the shed. He's not using it much at the moment, but he will with the better weather. And yeah, my 7 year old daughter's bike is in the shed.

You were the first shed on the street – quite a few other people have seen yours – tell me how that's developed.

So, I asked Solon I think if I could let the neighbours know and they were really keen that a few of us had them so I just put the word about and initially Toni had one and then more recently more neighbours have had them and I think they look really nice all in a row

They've all got green roofs haven't they?

Yeah, I'm looking forward to that blooming, the roof.

I like how there are so many on the street – you started the ball rolling

Yeah, it's really nice.

Do you have any other comments?

The guys, Andre and Albert were really friendly, really accommodating. And it's just nice I believe that they are a local business, really small so it's really nice that it's win-win for everybody, isn't it? It's nice for the tenants, nice for the housing association, nice for the council, and for the small business, so I think it's really good for everybody.

Resident, Barton hill

You are currently having your bike shed built by Peddler and the Roof. Can you tell me how this came about?

I was told by my neighbour, so then I applied, and then Travelwest got in touch with me. My neighbour said she had seen an advert in the Solon area magazine, so she gave me the information that I needed.

Why did you want a bike shed for your garden?

Just because for the fact that my bikes at the moment are in the garden, not in a shed, so, they're in the way of my French doors, so in the summer I would like to be able to just walk out the doors and not climb over bikes. And just obviously it's going to help look after them so they're not going to go rusty, and it's going to be more secure in a bike shed, rather than just in my garden.

How many bikes do you have in your household?

We have four

Do you cycle regularly?

I kind of don't really at the moment. I don't really do it through the winter, but summertime I would.

Do you have anything else you want to say?

Just that I'm really happy I got it, because I see people with them in their front gardens, or they might have the ones that's not a complete shed, and I always think "I could really do with one of them". They're just really handy. Yeah, I'm really happy and really pleased that I've got one.

Resident, Easton

Could you tell me how you heard about the project?

I had one of Solon's newsletters come through the post actually, and I was reading through it and I noticed that it said "do you need bike storage?" and I thought "ooh, that applies to me" – I called up and it seemed that it was actually only specifically for places with communal entrances which doesn't apply to me because I have a house, but then I spoke to Kylie and she said if there is money available for houses then they would let me know, and then I got a call to say yeah, it was getting the go ahead. So yeah, it was good

And then what happened?

Then Amanda from Travelwest, and two of the people that actually build the shed came round and spoke to me to ask where I wanted it and did a few measurements. And I heard back from the people that build it just before Christmas I think it was, and they said oh yeah, we can come and we can do it on this day, and they started building away and it was up in a couple of days.

How long have you had it now?

I would say since before Christmas so coming up to three months.

And have you or anyone else in your family been using it?

I haven't been able to use it yet due to not having locks, but hopefully as of today, now we have locks we should be able to use it so it should be good.

Who has bikes in your house?

My two boys both have bikes currently. I don't have one but it is something I want to invest in in the future.

Where do you keep the bikes at the moment?

In my kitchen! Taking up lots of space and I want to get a dinner table and stuff. But once I clear it all out then I'll be able to get my dinner table and we'll have easier access to be able to get to the park and stuff, because lugging it through the house is quite long winded, so yeah, it'll be nice to just go outside and go like right let's get the bikes, off we go come back, put them in, jobs a good'un.

Overall how do you feel about it?

Really good, really happy. Yeah, I'm really happy. It's not too big it doesn't block any vision having it in the front garden. It's a nice storage space. It will be really great once I get the bikes in there and yeah I'm pleasantly pleased.

Any other comments?

Go Solon! I think it's a really good project. I'm glad that Solon put it on, I'm glad I made the phone call, and I'm even more glad that I was able to get it even though I have a house and not a flat. So yeah I think it's a really good project, and hopefully other people in the same boat will be able to get it in the future.

United Communities

Resident, Fishponds

How do you normally travel?

I travel on bike, yeah.

Is that to go everywhere?

Most of the places, everywhere close, yeah.

How often do you use your bicycle?

I use my bike very often.

Before you had the new storage, where did you keep your bike?

I used to keep my bike outside behind in the garden

How did you feel about your bike being left there?

Well I know I have a safe lock on it, so I never really worried about it that so much

How do you feel about the new bike parking?

Yeah well I feel comfortable and up with it, like, the bicycle have a home where you and I am right now, more protected, more safe

Do you think you will use this new bike storage?

Yeah, yes. It's very alright and very convenient.

Do you think the new bike shed will change cycling for you?

It will make more easier, but normally if it rains it's gonna save paint, it's gonna save everything.

Do you have any other comments?

No, it's very already and I think nothing about for the time, and now's the right time so we transfer the shed and the safe place for the bike.

Resident, Easton

How do you generally travel?

We normally walk, because everywhere I walk is nearby. But my son is bugging me to use his bike!

How often does your son use his bike?

At the moment he doesn't really use it, he has his lessons starting on Friday so every Friday he'll have lessons with the school, so I need to bring his big bike to the school so that they can fix it for me, at the moment it's not, I put it together but I don't know what I've done wrong, cause it's kind of wobbly – so that they can fix it so that he start using it, and he knows how to ride it now so he'll be using it a bit more often

Where do you keep the bike at the moment?

In my bedroom

How is that for you?

It's not – it's up against the wall like this – one wheel up, one wheel down.

What do you think of the new cycle parking?

I think it's perfect actually, it's what I need. It's enclosed so I don't need worry about the bike being stolen, leaving it out there at night locked just on a bar, because I don't think I would leave it out there if there was just a bar to be honest. So it's a lot easier.

Do you think it meets your needs in terms of space and security?

It does. It does. Because I wouldn't leave it outside the flat because people, anyone could come in here. My last bike was stolen from back there. So yeah, it meets my bike.

Do you have any other comments?

No, just hopefully no one wrecks it!

Resident, Easton

Can you tell me how you normally travel?

We have our own car, so we use our own car.

Do you own a bike?

I don't own a bike, but my two daughters do.

How often do they use their bikes?

At the weekends, after school

Where do you keep the bikes?

In my flat. By the door, by the front door which is really squashy and then I have to keep my vacuum cleaner there as well and then it opens on top of each other, and my shoe rack is there as well and it all gets a bit too much

How do you think the new cycle shelter will change things for you?

It's better for us. We can get through and in and out of the door properly. Actually we couldn't even open our front door, we have to squeeze through, and so it's actually really good that the bikes can be kept there outside.