

Press release
25 January 2011

Hackney and Uganda cycling exchange gets off to a flying start

A cycling themed youth exchange born on a Hackney Homes estate has started a partnership between Hackney and a small town in Uganda, East Africa.

The project planned by Cycling Club Hackney's manager and head coach Keir Apperley, started with a trip to Uganda in December to make contact with locals. Partly sponsored by donations from Hackney Homes staff, Keir met with local people and developed relationships.

Plans were also made for December 2011 when keen cyclists from Hackney will travel to Uganda to go on a three week tour meeting local people and teaching good cycle maintenance.

The trip will also coincide with the delivery of a container loaded with cycles and related equipment sent out in partnership with Re-cycle Bicycle Aid for Africa. <http://www.re-cycle.org/>. Uganda's cycling enthusiasts will then be invited back to London in July and August 2012 where they will receive quality training on first aid, coaching, bike maintenance, road safety and with time permitting even get a chance to witness the London 2012 Olympic Games live!

Keir Apperley said: "Cycling is a great environmentally friendly option for getting around, for fun, work and for those with a competitive streak. This exchange programme would like to deliver first class training and skills to participants from Uganda with the goal of setting up centres of cycling in the new regions around the country. As for Hackney's young participants this project will be an exciting opportunity to learn first hand about life in Uganda, make a positive contribution, develop connections and expand horizons whilst improving their life skills in the process."

For more information or and to support this project, contact Keir Apperley email: keir@cyclingclubhackney.co.uk. You can also check the following websites

<http://cyclingclubhackney.co.uk/>

<http://interlinkx.blogspot.com/>

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Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 020 8356 3522, or email olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an arms-length management organisation managing around 30,000 council properties in the borough of Hackney.