

‘Can you help? I need somewhere to park my bike!’

Finding a place to park your bicycle can be difficult, and the fear of having a bike stolen or damaged can stop people cycling altogether. This guide explains how you can get secure cycle storage installed near your home or workplace. This advice is specific to Southwark, but the general principles apply elsewhere. There are three basic stages.

A. Tell everyone who might be able to help

1. Suggest a location at www.cyclehoop.com/rentals The information will be passed on to Southwark Council.
2. Suggest a location at www.urbancycleparking.org.uk The information will be passed on to TfL and Southwark.
3. Contact your councillors: www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200038/councillors_mps_and_meps/1367/your_councillors

Please copy in Southwark Cyclists southwark@lcc.org.uk and the Cabinet Member for Transport. (See link above to find current Cabinet members.) Learn more and see what others have done by visiting www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk

B. Talk to your neighbours

It’s really helpful to show your idea has support – and not just from people who would use the cycle parking themselves. Most people will support the idea of a bike hangar on their street if you explain that it allows twelve people to cycle for one car parking space. You could ask people to sign a simple form like this:

I support the installation of a bike locker on [name of street], so that local people have the opportunity to park their bikes securely.

Name	Signature	Address and postcode	Email address

C. Apply to Southwark’s ‘Cleaner Greener Safer’ scheme

This annual scheme allows Southwark residents to suggest small projects which would improve the borough. If you put forward an idea, the Council will do the rest for you. Apply online at www.southwark.gov.uk/cleanergreener safer. It takes about ten minutes to fill in the form and the closing date is usually the end of October. The word limits are strict, so keep it simple. The most important question is: *Do you have support for your project?* Discuss your idea with neighbours, councillors, local shopkeepers, school governors, members of the local Tenants and Residents Associations. You can also talk to the CGS officers for advice. If you live on a housing estate, talk to the Housing Officer. A sample application is shown overleaf – feel free to adapt the wording to suit your situation.

A bike hangar in Webber Street, SE1



Cleaner Greener Safer Sample Application

Q1: What would you like your idea to be called?

(Name of your street or estate) cycle parking

Q2: What is your idea? Please include a brief description of the idea and what issue your idea will solve.

To install secure, on-street 'bikehangar' or individual bike lockers for the use of local residents.

Flats on our estate are too small to store bicycles, and they cannot be kept on balconies or

The houses on our street have narrow halls and small front gardens. There is nowhere to store bikes for a whole family.

Q3: How will your idea benefit the area and wider community?

We can't cycle because we have nowhere to keep bikes. We would like to cycle to local shops, to school and work. This would reduce air pollution, benefitting everyone. Cycle parking will help families to cycle together, improving health and reducing obesity.

Q4: Location of your idea? Please be as specific as you can.

On the street in front of house no xx

In front of xx block of flats on xx road. (It doesn't have to be right outside your home, if there's a better space nearby.)

Q5: How much do you think your idea would cost?

You don't have to work out the cost in detail: individual bike lockers cost £800; hangars for six bikes cost £5,000.

Q6: How does your idea make your area cleaner and/or greener and/or safer?

Secure parking will reduce theft of and damage to bikes locked to railings at street level, designing out crime, and will encourage local journeys, creating a sense of community and increasing safety. Cycling to the front door is often a safer option for late-night workers than walking home. Cycling improves air quality for everyone – creating a cleaner environment.

Q9: Do you have support for your project? If yes, please give details

This might include councillors, housing officers, a Tenants & Residents association, neighbours, local shopkeepers...

What next?

Cleaner Greener Safer decisions are usually announced at community council meetings in January or February. If you're not successful, you could:

- start a petition – go back to your neighbours
- contact Southwark Cyclists about other avenues of funding
- if you live in a private block, ask whether the leaseholder or residents association would consider purchasing a hangar.

Some tenants have asked their block management company to build a secure cage in an underground car park – it's surprisingly straightforward.

Good luck! And please do let us know how you get on. Email: southwark@lcc.org.uk