

# CHESTERFIELD CYCLE CAMPAIGN



## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Published quarterly

Number 69 Winter 2014



[www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk](http://www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk)

Affiliated to the CTC and Cyclenation

Printed on recycled paper



# CAMPAIGN CHAT

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Since the planning application for the **Hipper Valley Trail extension to Holymoorside** was approved in June, we have been unable to find out any more information about how it will progress from here.

Unfortunately, the Derbyshire County Council officer responsible for the project is on long term leave from work and it seems that other staff are unable to provide sufficient cover to make up for her absence.

Also, the requirement to exclude horses from the route means that agreements with the landowners need to be renegotiated.

Spotted by one of our members, **Dalby Forest Bike Barn** provides a bike wash for cyclists visiting the Dalby Forest Trail Centre. Situated in the North York Moors National Park, this Forestry Commission site offers over 50 miles of trails ranging from green-rated easy routes to black-rated challenging routes.

The **Hipper Valley Trail extension to Chesterfield Railway Station** continues to progress behind the scenes. A planning application has now been submitted to Chesterfield Borough Council and can be viewed on their website at [www.chesterfield.gov.uk](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk) under application number CHE/14/00588/CPO.

The application is as we expected, using the existing bridges over 'new' Lordsmill St and the A61 plus two new



bridges over the old Lordsmill Street and Hollis Lane.

The Campaign did have concerns that the route was to be bounded by 2.4m high fencing but that has been amended and now it appears only where the route is adjacent to the live railway line. The rest of the fencing is 1.4m high.

The Derbyshire County Council **Cycle Liaison Meeting**, which is normally held quarterly with the next one due to take place in July, did not go ahead as expected. We were told this was due to a number of other staff commitments including holidays. When we followed this up in August and October, they still hadn't managed to organise anything and, at the time of writing, there is still nothing scheduled.

This year we needed to upgrade our web space package to give us more space. This should have resulted in the annual cost rising from £50 to £80 per year. However, **our web space provider GreenISP** very kindly offered us a 20% discount making the annual cost just £64/year.

GreenISP is a not-for-profit organisation that offsets its estimated 25 tonnes per year of CO<sub>2</sub> by working with TreeSponsibility, a community based Climate Action Group. It also plants a tree for each new broadband or web hosting customer and runs its offices on solar power and renewable energy.

For more information about its services, visit [www.greenisp.net](http://www.greenisp.net).

At the **August monthly meeting**, we heard a talk from guest presenter Simon Geller from Cyclenation on making **"Space for Cycling"**. In collaboration with CTC, this campaign calls for high standards of cycle-friendly planning and design, and the funding needed to deliver it.

Already this has led to a parliamentary debate and over 500 councillors across the UK have signed up to support the proposals, but Cyclenation is calling for people to continue to write to their local Councillor asking for their support.

At the time of writing, three councillors in Derbyshire had signed up.

# EAST MIDLANDS CYCLE FORUM

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Campaign Secretary Alastair Meikle attended the latest meeting of the East Midland Cycle Forum on Saturday 18th October in Nottingham.

It was also the 35th birthday of Pedals, Nottingham's cycle campaign group, so the occasion was marked by the cutting of a birthday cake!

The meeting was held in the Trent Bridge Inn and followed the usual format of speakers in the morning, then lunch and chance to chat, followed by a ride around local infrastructure.

During the morning we heard from a representative from Sustrans for the East Midlands, Pedals and reports from various groups including one from Chesterfield that our Secretary gave.

There was a very interesting presentation from the Derwent Valley Cycleway Group and their successful inclusion in a bid for £2m to get a traffic free cycleway built between Matlock and Derby.

In the afternoon we had a cycle tour which concentrated on looking at the new tram routes and their impact on cycling infrastructure. Some impressive shared paths are being built alongside the tracks and, near the station, a long road has been closed to traffic and will now only be tram tracks, cycle paths and pedestrian paths.

These meetings are always a good opportunity to exchange views and ideas with fellow campaigners.



# THIRD ANNUAL 'CYCLE IN STYLE' RIDE

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The morning of 11th October started dull, mist pervaded the area, and most cycle routes into the town were damp and chilly.



We were due to assemble at the Vintage Tea Rooms on Beetwell Street at 10am, but at that time only Nigel Vernon and Barry Kay were there, Nigel having earlier surveyed the Hipper Valley Route for puddles etc and declared the route fit for purpose (just!). Shortly thereafter all participants most, stylishly dressed, rolled up with their bicycles. One member, Jennifer Frazer, brought her bicycle in its original mail-order box! The bike was quickly assembled on site by willing hands (after first purchasing a

metal file to widen the forks!).

At around 11.05am the cavalcade of 25 proceeded on to Beetwell Street, thence over the bridge from West Bars into Queen's Park, and along the cycle route to Boythorpe Road. We went over the Toucan Crossing there and into Dock Walk, then via the back of Robinsons' works, past Morrisons and on to Walton Road.

We crossed the Toucan Crossing on Walton Road, and joined the path along the side of Walton

Dam. By this time the morning mist had lifted, and the sun shone. The swans were in evidence on the Dam together with this year's cygnets now almost fully-grown.

We cycled across the edge of Somersall Park and exited into Linden Avenue as far as Chatsworth Road. Here we entered the the main traffic-stream riding two-abreast with the younger riders on the inside all en route for Nonna's Restaurant and Bar on lower Chatsworth Road. By now the day had warmed up, and some shedding of outer clothing took place. This stretch of the ride, however was not without incident as a car being driven by a motorist who appeared anxious to pass our group (by this time bunched into a solid two-abreast mass for

mutual protection) brushed into Simon Redding who was riding in the outside column ostensibly to protect younger riders on the inside. The same car when suddenly faced with oncoming traffic brushed Simon again pushing him off his bicycle, fortunately neither injuring him nor damaging his cycle. The motorist then drove off without stopping. Simon has reported the incident to the police.



Although distressed by the incident we were undeterred, and continued via Manor Road and Springfield Avenue to Nonna's where complimentary coffees, hot chocolates, croissants etc were gratefully received.

Thanks to all for participating, Alastair for organising this activity which is always enjoyable, and to those helping to marshal at the junctions. The

efforts made to cycle in style with regard to individual clothing was very attractive and shows it can be done! And the wonderful bicycles old and new-ranging from the 1920s to straight out of the box!

We look forward to 2015!

Barry Kay

## **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

### **Free Buffet**

**Tuesday 9th December 2014  
at the Crispin Inn, Ashgate Road  
7.30 pm onwards**

Preceded by a short cycle ride from the Town Hall.  
Meet by the front steps for a 7.00 pm start.

**Please let us know if you will be attending for food.**

Although the buffet is free, we would like to know how many people to cater for. Please let the Secretary know if you would like food. Donations towards costs on the night are appreciated. If you're not eating, just turn up!  
Vegetarian options will be available.

Contact Alastair Meikle, Secretary on 01246 520820  
or email [secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk)

# NATASCHA ENGEL MP MEETS CAMPAIGN

North East Derbyshire MP Natascha Engel attended our October meeting and spoke about her interest in cycling and her experiences, which unfortunately includes being knocked off her bike by a car door.

She was interested in why there is limited cycling infrastructure in her constituency and listened to our experiences of trying to contact North East Derbyshire District Council. Her secretary has since contacted various councillors and officers and has given the Campaign details of supportive people!

We had 15 people at the meeting and Natascha joined in with the usual issues we deal with at our meetings such as looking at planning applications with a cycling 'eye'.

Tracey Conroy from Dronfield was at the meeting so we spent some time focusing on cycle provision in Dronfield, and how providing it could be taken forward. After that we moved on to the Avenue site at Wingerworth, and how we could ensure better cycling infrastructure can be put in place there.

We finished the evening by

watching a short film about cycling in Copenhagen and everyone agreed it had been a very useful meeting.

The following day, Natascha mentioned our meeting in her e-bulletin. This is what she had to say:

*"As a keen cyclist, I really enjoyed attending a meeting of the Chesterfield Cycle Campaign yesterday.*

*The group has more than 270 members and has been successful in improving cycle routes in and around Chesterfield. North East Derbyshire is very badly served by routes and facilities for cyclists and we discussed what we could do to improve this.*

*Dronfield is ideally located between Sheffield and Chesterfield but there aren't any cycle routes connecting the three together. I am going to be working with the campaign to try and make this a reality."*

# STONEGRAVELS WAY EXTENDED AGAIN

On 26th August, work began on the new section of the Stonegravels Way cycle path, which forms part of Route 1 of the Chesterfield Cycle Network.

The project was due to take around thirteen weeks to complete, so should hopefully be finished by the time you read this. Certainly, by the last week in October the edging and foundation layer appeared to be substantially complete with only the section around the footbridge missing.

We have raised concerns with Derbyshire County Council about obstruction by motor vehicles. The turning end of Infirmary Road tends to get very congested at college finishing time with many drivers parking in this area waiting to collect people.

Parts of the path bounded by double yellow lines can be enforced by traffic wardens, although not all of them seem to be aware that the restriction applies to the full width of the highway including pavements. However, the section of path bounded by the hatched yellow box would be an issue for police. DCC have promised to keep an eye on this and perhaps put double yellow lines along the edge of the hatched box so that enforcement falls within the remit of wardens. We have also suggested that bollards may be required if a persistent problem emerges.



Updated map of St

Stonegravel Way

# **CAR DEALER TAKES ON TESCO SITE**

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Go Outdoors have pulled out of developing the old Tesco site, and planning permission has now been granted for car dealership Arnold Clark, which will occupy the whole site.

The application form makes no mention of any cycle parking being provided, and plans show that there is no obvious customer cycle parking.

“Cycle storage” is shown at the rear corner of the site farthest from the main entrance in an area marked as staff parking and a storage compound. It appears to occupy the area of a single car parking space but there is no information about the style or quantity of stands.

The Transport Assessment and

Travel Plan serves up the usual platitudes about the site being accessible by cycling from anywhere within an 8 Km radius regardless of road conditions, and offers Meltham Lane as option for cycle access which is all very well for those comfortable with cycling on dual carriageways and multi-lane roundabouts but not much use for anyone else. What it doesn't make clear is how visitors will manage to locate the cycle parking once they arrive.

## **PRESENTATION TO IAM MEMBERS**

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On 18th September, the Campaign was invited to speak at an Institute of Advanced Motorists social meeting to talk about cycling and our campaigning work.

There were about twelve people present and, after some informal chat, Alastair Meikle gave a short presentation about the work of the Campaign and how the cycle infrastructure in the

town is being built which was well received!

He then went on to give a presentation about Bikeability cycle training and some of the

procedures it recommends. This provoked some alternative views in the room, especially the technique of 'taking the lane' when approaching junctions.

Taking the lane provides a number of safety benefits to cyclists. For instance, moving into 'primary position' when approaching a side road improves the cyclist's visibility by putting them into the place where drivers are most likely to be looking. If any driver at a side road overshoots the give way line, the cyclist has more room to manoeuvre. In addition, if the cyclist is turning left they are in a better position to overtake any parked cars that

may be around the corner.

A couple of motorcyclists were especially vocal in disagreeing with it suggesting that, as they were going faster, they might undertake the cyclist! However, other IAM members present said that this would be bad driving and that they should wait behind. Apparently the IAM have a similar idea for motorcyclists calling it the 'command position'.

All in all it was a good opportunity to foster better relations between cyclists and drivers, and to raise awareness about why cyclists ride as they do.

## **AMBITIOUS LONDON CYCLING PLANS**

Two new Cycle Superhighways were unveiled in London in September, including an 18 mile continuous East-West cycle route, dubbed the "Crossrail for Bikes".

The routes, which will run East-West from Tower Hill to Westbourne Terrace, and North-South from Kings Cross to Elephant and Castle, will be "substantially segregated" and will see road space reallocated to those on bikes.

Bikes already make up 24 per

cent of all rush-hour traffic in central London and Transport for London (TfL) says the routes chosen have seen a reduction of around a quarter of motor traffic in the last ten years.

For more information and pictures visit [tfl.gov.uk/campaign/cycle-superhighway-consultations](http://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/cycle-superhighway-consultations)

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WAY PROGRESSES

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Significant work is taking place in Shirebrook and Scarcliffe on redeveloping the Archaeological Way which aims to link nearby communities to services and provide a safe way for families to access the countryside.

Work to link the Langwith branch line to Poulter Country Park began in August to create a three metre wide multi-user trail and install a bridge over the A632 at Langwith.

The link will form part of the Archaeological Way, an 11-mile multi-user trail between Pleasley Pit Country Park and Creswell Crag.

Councillor Joan Dixon, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Economy and Transport at Derbyshire County Council said:

*“The Archaeological Way will help to regenerate the communities the trail passes through and promote exercise and tourism.*

*“Once complete it will give local people the chance to get to local places easily and safely.”*

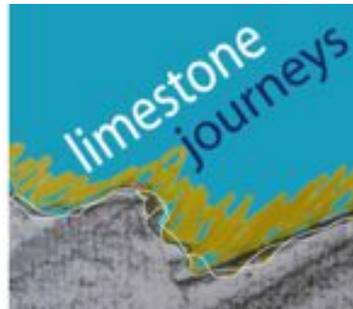
The Archaeological Way is the largest scheme of the Limestone Journeys project which secured £1.9 million from Heritage

Lottery Fund in 2011 to deliver a five year plan of environmental and community projects.

The overall cost of the project is £691,000 which has come from the Local Transport Plan, Heritage Lottery Fund and European Regional Development Fund.

Work is expected to be completed by December 2014 and open to the public by February 2015.

The final missing links of the trail from Pleasley Vale to south of Shirebrook and Poulter Country Park to Creswell will be finished once further funding has been found.



# BIKE NIGHT FANTASIA

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Bike Night Fantasia was held in the Queen's Park on October 31st jointly organised by Wheely Fun Wheels and Chesterfield Borough Council.

The idea was for the public to decorate their bikes with lights and join the parade around the cricket pitch on the old cycle track. The Campaign ran a stall with our usual maps and other cycling literature available.

Sustrans had a stall too promoting the new traffic free route to the railway station and giving away free drinks! Chesterfield Borough Council gave away hot dogs too.

The first fifty people to sign up on the website could claim a free set of front and rear bike lights. Forty six people took advantage of this offer.

On the night the weather was calm and warm and soon after the start time cyclists started arriving, most with all sorts of lights decorating their bikes. All the bikes from the Wheels for All inclusive cycling centre were decorated and available for test rides.

Locally based Charity Shop DJ MCed the event using a pedal powered sound system including a record player and selection of singles for riders to choose.

The mayor and mayoress tried out one of the Wheels for All machines and then judged the three prize winners. After the prize giving forty seven riders set off together creating a lovely scene across the park with all their lights twinkling.



# GATEWAY ENHANCEMENT

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During September and October further “Gateway Enhancement” work has been taking place in the town, this time outside Chesterfield Railway Station to improve the approach into the town centre for visitors arriving by train.



The work is being carried out by landscape architects TEP in partnership with Chesterfield Borough Council and incorporates a ‘rain garden’ which operates by diverting drainage from the road into a planted filter bed instead of going direct into the sewers.

The system will slow down the release of water into the formal drainage system but also improve its quality. This will

help control the flow of water at source rather than it causing flooding in other parts of Chesterfield.

The project also includes some minor improvements for cyclists. The geometry of the Crow Lane junction is being tightened to slow drivers leaving the station, particularly those making a left turn towards the A61.

The crossing point on the A61 slip road will be wider and tinted paving used to emphasise its presence to drivers. The cycle path will remain segregated, as before, highlighted by different-coloured paving.

Across the car park entrance, we would have ideally liked a raised plateau so that the cycle track ran at a continuous level instead of dropping down to road level. This would also have created a hump to slow down drivers and draw attention to the fact that pedestrians and cyclists will be crossing.

Unfortunately, we weren't consulted on this occasion so didn't get the opportunity to provide feedback. However, we have been assured that the dropped kerb will be flush with the road to create a smooth transition.

The works are next to North Midland House, the town's first railway station, and to pay homage to its heritage the pavement will feature replica railway tickets displaying the locations people could have travelled to in the early days of Chesterfield's railways.

## **CLOWNE RAIL LINE TO BE DEVELOPED**

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The disused railway line running through the centre of Clowne has recently been bought by Derbyshire County Council with a view to developing it as a trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

On 22nd October, officers from the Council held a consultation to gain local knowledge on the Branch Line and learn how this facility could best be developed to serve the local community.

Details are almost non-existent at the moment, but a look at the map shows the Clowne Branch

Line runs from Poolsbrook via Clowne to Creswell. Given that the Robin Hood Way already allows cyclists to ride from Creswell to Clumber Park and NCN6, this potential new trail will open up many miles of new that are routes directly cycleable from Chesterfield.

# NANDO'S BREACHES PLANNING

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When Nando's chicken restaurant applied for planning permission to take over the former Blockbuster retail unit at Alma Leisure Park on Derby Road, initial plans showed the cycle racks moved to a secluded location down the side of the building.

As security issues often influence people's decision to cycle, the Campaign recommended that the racks were moved to a more visible location where they would be overlooked by diners. In addition, the racks were rather closely spaced which would have made them difficult to use and prevented customers from being able to park two bicycles per stand.

We were pleased to hear that our comments were taken on board by the developers and revised plans show that the

racks will be situated at the front of the restaurant, and with a wider spacing.

Unfortunately, when the restaurant opened on 22nd November the cycle racks weren't there, even though this is in clear breach of the planning permission Decision Notice which states that the cycle parking must be installed on site before the building can be brought back into use. We have reported this to Chesterfield Borough Council and they have said that they will pursue installation.

## POLICY & FINANCE

**Chair:** Joe Clark

**Vice Chair:** Chris Allen

**Secretary:** Alastair Meikle, 01246 520820  
secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk

**Treasurer:** Chris Allen

**Committee Member:** Barry Kay,  
01246 555943

## MEMBERSHIP & PUBLICITY

**Membership:** Pam Kay, 01246 555943

**Website:** Robert Kirby  
webmaster@chesterfieldcc.org.uk

**Newsletter:** Nicola Peck  
newsletter@chesterfieldcc.org.uk

**Publicity:** Vacant - volunteers please  
contact the Secretary

# WANT TO CYCLE IN DRONFIELD?

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Member and Dronfield resident, Tracey Conroy has been motivated to start up a new campaign in Dronfield following frustration at the lack of family friendly cycle routes, or even suitable parks, in the area.

She takes the view that it's important to get children outside and away from screens and tablets but, whenever they want to go for a bike ride, they have to load up the car with four bicycles and drive to an off-road cycle path.

When she started to do research on the internet, there was a lot of information on the health benefits of cycling and that it could be much more forgiving on joints than other forms of exercise such as running. After seeing the success of Park Run, a weekly get together for runners, she felt this could also work for cycling with an off road cycle trail to create a community environment that would appeal to a wider audience including children, women and older people.

Having initially attended a meeting to set up a community group, Tracey has since met with a number of organisations

including Friends of Dronfield Station, Ramblers Association, Dronfield Footpaths Society, Dronfield Civic Society and Derbyshire County Council.

The Greenways Officer at DCC spoke of a long-term proposal to connect Dronfield and Unstone with the Trans Pennine Trail, and also Apperknowle and Eckington.

However, the Peak Resort development at Unstone could be the catalyst to kick start some of these dormant projects. Having also met with developer Rupert Carr, Tracey has discovered that his plans for the Resort include a public greenway beside the River Drone supported by facilities including new toilets, car parking, horse box parking and a café.

For more information please visit her Facebook page:  
**Cycling 4 Everyone - Dronfield.**

# GET INVOLVED!

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**Campaign Meetings** are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7.15pm in Room 2, Market Hall, Chesterfield. The next meetings are on 9th December (Social at the Crispin Inn), 13th January, 10th February and 10th March.

**Greendrinks** is an informal gathering of 'green' minded people and takes place on the first Wednesday of each month from 7.00pm at various venues - see [www.greendrinks.org/Derbyshire/Chesterfield](http://www.greendrinks.org/Derbyshire/Chesterfield).

**Visit the forum** on our website at [www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk](http://www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk) to contribute your ideas and opinions.

**To report road faults**, telephone Derbyshire County Council on 08456 058 058.

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## Membership Form

Full Name ..... Tel .....

Address .....

.....

Email .....

Membership Type (please tick)

Adult, £5 ..... [ ]      Family, £10\* ..... [ ]

Unwaged, £2.50 ..... [ ]      Under 18, £1 ..... [ ]

Optional donations welcome.....[£            ]

\* Family membership includes 2 adults and all children under 18 living at the same address. Please give names and ages of all children below:

Please send this form, together with a cheque or P.O., payable to "Chesterfield Cycle Campaign" to: CCC Membership Secretary, 9 Ashgate Avenue, Chesterfield, S40 1JB.

NB. These details will be stored on computer.