

Chesterfield Cycle Campaign



Campaign Update

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CAMPAIGN CHAT

The Campaign had a very successful 'Bike Week' during which we recruited many more members. The membership now stands at an all time high of almost 250.

With the growing awareness of sustainable travel, cycling IS the answer! The creation of a good quality cycle network must be our goal.

Chesterfield Borough Council who pride themselves on sustainability constantly need reminding of this, through our increased membership and our lobbying we can try to get the message across.

The work on the Donkin site is progressing well. In the last couple of weeks the footpath along the river to the back of P. C. World has been closed to allow for the construction of the cycle paths from Queens Park to Hipper St Sth and into the development. Whilst this will be an inconvenience to many it is for cycling's long term benefit.

Two more planning applications have been received. The first is for the Walton Works site. Some good news here as the Hipper Valley Route will be enhanced along its present route. There will be a new cycle path running north/south coming out of the site by Johnsons ironmongers and a short route to Factory St alongside the river.

One aspect that isn't so good is that traffic is expected to increase

along Goyt Side/Dock Walk. We have made representations to CBC and hope measures will be taken to protect and enhance the route of the Hipper Valley Trail.

The other major planning application is for the 'Ecodome' between Sheepbridge and Unstone. This is a major leisure resort which seems to pride itself on its Eco credentials. Unfortunately there is little in the transport planning around the site which promotes sustainable means of transport.

The Campaign has suggested various cycle routes around the site (and also public transport improvements) and we hope that something will come of this.

Work has started on the new Health Centre off Wheatbridge Road. The Campaign had some success here. Originally car access was going to be allowed from Dock Walk as well as Wheatbridge Road. This has been changed and access from Dock Walk will be for cyclists and pedestrians only. We were also successful in getting cycle racks relocated to next to the entrance from the original position on the far side of the car park.

Another minor victory is the new shops and restaurants to be built on the site of the petrol station on Chatsworth Road. This will have cycle parking at both ends.

The Campaign was not successful in its application for a grant from DCC

to help fund our new cycle map. It was explained that this was due to our marking of some routes that are not approved cycle routes we have asked which routes they objected to but have not yet received a reply!

Speaking of the Hipper Valley Route, despite the funding not yet being in place DCC still expect work to start on Hipper Valley 3, (the extension to Holymoorside) during this financial year.

Sales of Campaign mugs, pens and special belts has gone well. Most of the belts have sold but mugs with a variety of slogans are available for £4.99 and pens are £1.

The cycle locker scheme has at last started in Chesterfield. It is administered by the Tourist Office. The next goal is to get the lockers at the magistrates court relocated to the railway station.

The Campaign is also involved in discussions about a link from the TPT to Old Whittington and various tracks near the hospital that could be approved for cycling. The Secretary has also exchanged correspondence with Paul Holmes MP re the wording of the revised Highway Code with relation to cyclists.

Space has been tight in this issue so many of these matters cannot be explained in detail, come along to the meetings to hear the full story!



Adult race at 'Cydevision' Amsterdam see page 5



One of our rides leaving the Queens Park during Bike Week

DONT FORGET

The Campaign will have its stall in the market on Sep 22nd between 10.00am and 4.00pm

Do come and support us on this day which is European Car Free Day!

ALSO

As mentioned elsewhere we are hosting the EMCF meeting in Chesterfield on October 13th. Do come along (and help if you can) and meet cycling activists from the East Midlands

What the Campaign does

For the benefit of new members and also as a reminder to more established members the centre pages are taken up with a review of what the Campaign does and how it tries to achieve its aims.

We hold a monthly meeting at the Urban Study Room in the Market Hall (Chesterfield) on the second Tuesday at 7.30pm. All are welcome including non members. This meeting follows a pre published agenda and so is relatively formal. The meeting ends at 9.00pm and there is little or no time for informal chat. These monthly meetings are essential to get the business of the Campaign completed.

The committee would like to have a more informal meeting and hope to introduce such in the future. For the moment though some members of the Campaign meet at "Greendrinks" which is an informal get together of anyone interested in green issues. This takes place on the first Wednesday of each month at Chandlers Bar on St Marys Gate from 7.00pm.

Minutes and agendas of the Campaigns monthly meetings are sent out by e-mail a few days before. If you intend to come to the meeting please print these off yourself although a few copies are available at the meeting. The Secretary also sends occasional e-mails for other matters

If you have never received any e-mails and would like to please send your e-mail address to the Secretary:
secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk

The newsletter is quarterly and published on 1st June, 1st Sept, etc. It is distributed to members who have volunteered to deliver. Delivery reps usually have 5 - 15 newsletters to deliver near where they live. If your newsletter is late it could be that the rep is away. If you have not received a newsletter after three weeks please contact the Secretary.

The Campaign maintains a website which has a 'Forum', sales and pages with minutes, agenda and the latest newsletter to download. There are further pages with interactive maps and photographs of previous Campaign events.

As an official consultee of Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) the Secretary receives copies of many planning applications for comment. We regularly manage to add small bits of cycle infrastructure in this way. The trick is to get involved at the first stage of planning so that cycle infrastructure can be incorporated. We have regular contact with the planning office and other depts.

Earlier this year a Transport Users Group (TUG) was set up by CBC we were promised another meeting in June or July but nothing has happened yet. We hope this will become a useful forum for local

discussion with the Council.

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) have a Cycle Liaison Group which meets three or four times a year. There is a strategic meeting which covers all Derbyshire and then three other meetings covering South, North East and North West in more detail. Members of the committee attend the strategic and North East meetings which cover the Chesterfield area. Minutes are available on the Campaigns website.

These meetings are attended by officers from DCC, officers from town councils, cycle groups, CTC, and Sustrans.

We also regularly talk to DCC Highways as they are responsible for on road cycle infrastructure. The Campaign is again a consultee so we get notification of new road schemes.

Off road long distance paths (Hipper Valley, Rother Washlands, etc) are looked after by DCC Greenways dept.

Members of the Campaign also attend the North East Derbys Countryside Access Network meetings.

Another group we are involved with is the East Midland Cycle Forum. This meets twice a year and comprises representatives from all the cycle campaign groups in the East Midlands, stretching

from Sheffield to Leicester & Northampton. Representatives from Sustrans and CTC also attend.

The next meeting to be held on Saturday October 13th will be hosted by ourselves at the Winding Wheel (see elsewhere in this newsletter). This is the fourth meeting of the Forum and the first time it will be held in Chesterfield. CBC have given the Campaign a grant of £300 to help stage the event.

A brief resume of proposed new schemes:

Hipper Valley route will be extended West to Holymoorside this financial year.

As part of the Donkin redevelopment Hipper Valley will be extended to Hipper St South (behind PC World).

The Donkin site will have cycle paths around its edge with a Toucan crossing by Frankie & Bennies to give access to Hasland. A route will also go through the site eventually to another new Toucan across Derby Rd to the Rother Washlands path to Storforth Lane. long term this will link to the Five Pits.

The canal and Trans Pennine Trail will be extended through the old Lavers and Trebor site.

Walton Works housing development should see improvements to the Hipper Valley.

We keep a close watch on the new football ground development.

In Europe again

Readers may remember the Secretary's article last year telling the story of his family cycling to Sweden. This year's trip was less ambitious but just as interesting.

Son (11) has a KMX recumbent 3 wheeler and Dad (Secretary) has wanted to go to 'Cycevision' which is a recumbent event held in the Netherlands.

We decided to go 'en famille', Dad as usual on Brompton towing a Radical (Dutch made) trailer, Mum on Batavus (Dutch) roadster and daughter on son's old (Bought in Holland) bike. As you gather we have quite a feeling for Dutch equipment!

Virgin trains won't take the recumbent bike so we reluctantly drive to Newcastle and leave the car at the ferry terminal. Whilst waiting in the ferry queue three other recumbents arrive to the delight of son. About 12 bikes in all on the ferry.

On arrival the next morning at IJmuiden we set off for Amsterdam. About 25 miles. We had a vague idea of the route from the internet and a (strangely) poor Dutch cycling map. Weather was glorious and the route well signed. Lots of it on cyclepaths at the side of roads but as always superb infrastructure. Got lost in Amsterdam but various locals helped out and we

eventually arrived at our hotel next to the Vondelpark.

The next day the children insisted the first thing we had to do is hire a 'canal bike', basically a pedalo. Great for seeing the city though. Rest of the day spent seeing friends.

Next morning cycle 5 miles to Velovision. Daughter entered a race for children (on the KMX) in the Velodrome, came second. Son entered race on the outdoor track and came third. Lots of recumbents to look at and try out for both adults and children. In an adult race on the outdoor track a Quest velomobile in the lead was timed at 80Kmh (50 mph).

Near our hotel there was a 24 hour manned bike park which cost 50 cents a day (30p). Much safer than the streets even if you could find a vacant rack.

On the way home we cycled across Amsterdam and caught the Russian built Hydrofoil back to within 5 miles of the ferry terminal. They carry 20 bikes on the roof!

Cycling through Amsterdam is amazing, just occasional cars, trams and lots and lots of bikes. At several crossroads we couldn't get across as a family due to the number of bikes crossing our path. The multi storey cycle park at Amsterdam Central has to be seen to be believed!

Where to next year? Troyes (twin town) has a 28Km off road cycle route - Campaign trip?

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Campaigns financial year ended on 30th June, 2007. Audited accounts will be presented at the Annual general Meeting to be held on Tuesday 11th September 2007 at the Urban Studies Centre commencing at 7.30pm. Copies of the accounts will be available for all members at that meeting.

After that date any member wishing to receive a copy should contact the Campaign Treasurer, Barry Kay, on (01246) 555943.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting officers of the Campaign are elected. Nominations should be submitted to the Campaign Secretary, Alastair Meike, 4 Inkerman Cottages, Chesterfield S40 4BP in writing or by e-mail by 9th September.

The following form may be used:-

I hereby nominate _____ (Name) to stand as

_____ (Office) for Chesterfield
Cycle Campaign for the twelve months commencing 11th September
2007.

Signed _____ Date _____

Print name _____ Membership No _____

Campaign Officers:

Chair / Secretary / Membership Secretary / Treasurer / Vice-Chair / Bides, routes /

Social Secretary / Newsletter editor, production / Other

Chair Joe Clark
Vice Chair Barry Kay 01246 555943
Secretary & Newsletter Alastair Meikle 01246 520820
secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk
Membership Pam Kay 01246 555943
Website www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk
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**Chesterfield shops
giving a discount to
campaign members**

Organic Heaven
Theatre Yard

J E James Cydes
Whittington Moor

To report road faults tel: 0845 505 8058

Membership Form

Full Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____

Email _____

Membership Type (please circle)

Adult £5 Family £10* Unwaged £2.50 Under 18 £1

*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 the CCC Membership
Secretary, 9 Ashgate Avenue, Chesterfield, S40 1JB

NB these details will be stored on computer

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the
Urban Studies Room at the Market Hall, Chesterfield.

Future meeting dates:

11th September, 9th October, 13th November, 11th December

'Greendrinks', an informal gathering of 'green' minded people takes place
on the first Wednesday of the month from 7.00pm at Chandlers Bar, St
Marys Gate, Chesterfield.

