

CHESTERFIELD CYCLE CAMPAIGN



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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CAMPAIGN CHAT

Welcome to a bumper Autumn edition of the Campaign newsletter!

On 26th May ten members of the Campaign went to the Get Cycling Show at Nottingham Racecourse using train and bus. The trip was an opportunity to try out a wide range of different bicycles, including some wacky ones, as well as visit exhibitors and watch demonstrations. This is an annual event so for a flavour of what might be happening next year visit www.getcyclingshow.info.

The first local event of the Summer quarter was the Campaign's Family Bike Ride on 31st May, open to members and non-members alike. The good weather prompted a respectable turnout of 29 cyclists for this gentle 5-mile circuit taking a route along the canal to

Tapton Lock, up Lockoford Lane and back through Tapton Golf Course.

Recently, concern was raised about the development of Plover Hill Farm, off Wetlands Lane. The track into this farm also provides a very useful access point into the Royal Hospital from Brimington, and shortens the journey considerable compared with going right around the site to the main entrance at Calow.

Unfortunately this track isn't officially a public right of way and, had the farm development extended to include the track, then this cycle- and pedestrian-friendly access could have been lost altogether. In order to protect against future threats, it would be beneficial to press for it to be officially declared a right of way. The landowner,



Chesterfield Borough Council, can choose to do this if it wishes and the Campaign will be investigating this possibility further.

In a previous issue we've covered cycle parking at the Hospital. Currently, the only parking available is exclusively for staff use and there is nothing for visitors or outpatients. It seems ironic that an institution charged with looking after the town's health should be so geared towards sedentary motor travel and be more difficult to access on foot and by bike. This site needs somewhere suitable to secure bicycles and encourage sustainable travel - members can help by contacting the hospital to let them know that you would like to see parking facilities installed. On a more positive note, we have been asked for information to help the Hospital set up the Cycle to Work scheme.

Seen in Derbyshire County Council's 'Insight' newspaper, £15,000 is being invested in a Five Pits Trail extension to Temple Normanton. No further details are known at this stage.

Membership levels briefly rose

to 299 in June following the Campaign's presence at Queen's Park during Bike Week, but soon dropped to 283 again after several members recruited during May Day 2007's half price offer did not renew.

As part of our promotion of the Cycle to Work scheme to business and other organisations, we have been trying to persuade local councils to sign up. Apart from setting a precedent which will might influence others, it will hopefully give them a greater insight into road conditions for cyclists and lead to better road schemes. More on page 6.

The installation of a new pedestrian refuge on Brimington Road by Derbyshire County Council has prompted a number of complaints by cyclists. More details on page 10.

Members of the committee attended the latest gathering of the Transport Users Group on June 10th. Topics again included carrying bikes on buses but this idea is being rejected by the bus operators as impractical, despite schemes already being operated in Sheffield and Wales.

Beneficial routes would include Chesterfield-Matlock and Town Centre-Royal Hospital as these trips both involve steep hills but are important routes for employees at both Derbyshire County Council and the Hospital. Easier access into the Peak District for the many leisure trails would also help to cut motor travel.

On July 26th, almost 40 cyclists took part in a 'sustainability tour' – a joint event with Transition Town Chesterfield. The tour took in some of the town's sustainable buildings looking at the solar panels on Queens Park Leisure Centre, a

water wheel at Cannon Mill, a living roof on a domestic building and ground source heat pumps at the Tourist Information Centre.

Cycle paths are being constructed in the area of the new Junction 29A of the M1 motorway. The road going towards Poolsbrook has a wide shared path and it continues around the new roundabouts that have been put in for 29A.

Eventually, it will link in to the new industrial estate there; some of this work has already been done but is currently closed off as it is not yet complete.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- Drew Boyle, Calow
- Samantha Meadows & family, Linacre Woods
- Phillip Leedham, Long Duckmanton
- Sue McCarthy, Brockwell
- Dominic and Anne Frazer & family, Newbold
- Anthony Vickers, Whittington Moor
- Nicola Helps & family, Walton
- Alan Ashburner, Boythorpe
- Guy and Alison Barnett & family, Ashgate
- Richard and Anne Nowak & family, Boythorpe
- Roger Bates, Boythorpe
- Zoe Frost (child), Somersall
- Tony Keeton, Town
- Simon Geikie and Elaine Sparks & family, Brampton
- Graham and Julie Brown & family, Brampton
- Kunle and Modupe Ayonrinde & family, Walton
- John and Barbara Lower, Highfields

BIKE WEEK 2008

We had a successful Bike Week this year, with a good turnout for all of the events.

On **13th June**, an audience of more than 60 people turned out to a film screening at the Central Methodist Church, organised by the Transition Chesterfield group. *'The Power of Community'* film explored how Cuba had to adapt its whole economy after oil imports were restricted when the USSR collapsed.

The Cuban people rapidly developed organic urban gardens, extensive public transport, and improved recycling systems, and also rediscovered a stronger sense of local community. The film inspired much discussion about what we could be doing here in Chesterfield to make our town more sustainable and resilient.

On **14th June**, the Campaign held a stall and Dr Bike at Queen's Park Fun Day. There were bikes to try out, 'pedal-powered smoothies' available and there was a good turnout by both members and interested public. Six new members signed

up on the day, briefly taking membership numbers to a record high of 299.

On **20th June** around 40 people took part in the Critical Mass ride; an event which highlights cycling and is intended to draw attention to the general 'cycle unfriendliness' of urban roads. The ride saw a wide variety of bicycles including tandems, trailers and recumbents.

After the ride, some riders went home whilst others continued on to the Peacock Inn at Cutthorpe for the Campaign's annual pea & pie supper. In all, a total of about 55 cyclists for both events on this day.



DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

As mentioned in the Campaign Chat, we've been trying to encourage Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to take up the Cycle to Work scheme. If they do, then we have had indications that Chesterfield Borough Council might also follow their lead. DCC is the Highway Authority responsible for road schemes in Chesterfield, and better insight into cycling would hopefully lead to more well designed facilities.

The principles and benefits of the scheme have recently gained greater attention within DCC to the point where they are now liaising with councils in Derby and Rotherham, who already run Cycle to Work, to see how they could organise it themselves. They are also looking at supporting facilities; the showers have recently been refurbished, they have taken delivery of 10 new lockers and want to set up training to ensure employee safety.

During Bike Week, DCC's events included a virtual Tour de France, which encouraged employees to contribute to a

collective 'cycled miles' target and a cyclists' breakfast. This year's participation was a creditable 81 and a vast improvement on last year's 30.

As part of a target set by the government, schools are being encouraged to develop School Travel Plans (STP) which increase the numbers of children travelling on foot or by bicycle. Grants are available to participating schools of £3,750 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary and special schools. This money is usually spent on cycle storage and surfacing improvements. In Chesterfield, 30 schools already have a travel plan, 5 are producing one and 8 don't have anything in place yet.

Of the 30 schools with a STP, 47.2% of pupils walk to school, but a disappointing 0.4% cycle which is well below the national average. Clearly more needs to be done for cycling and, given that many parents' perception of the danger is greater than the reality, some investment in training and safer routes would be beneficial.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

EcoDome at Unstone

Many of you will have read in the press that planning approval was granted to the proposed EcoDome development at Unstone on 19th May. In actual fact, outline permission has been in place for some time, and May's meeting considered reserved matters for the first of three phases of development.

The Campaign was invited to comment on the planning application by the Council, and members spent a significant amount of time reviewing the application and preparing a response. It was therefore enormously disappointing to discover that most transport issues had already been settled at a 2005 planning meeting and the effort was wasted.

Our suggestions included developing cycle routes from Chesterfield, and providing new routes; one alongside the A61, potentially towards Dronfield, and one to Unstone.

However, in August we had an opportunity to meet with the owner of the site. We were

extremely pleased to see that many of the opportunities we hoped for will actually be developed on site.

All existing public rights of way will be diverted around the boundary of the site, with the exception of the bridle path connecting Broombank Road to Highgate Lane in Dronfield. Currently this route is virtually uncyclable, but it will have its surface upgraded as part of the development which should make passage considerably easier, although unfortunately the gradient is still fairly steep in places.

The footpath parallel with the A61 bypass will be upgraded as a cycle track, with improved surfacing. At the end of the development site, where the boundary turns away from the A61 towards Dronfield, a 'zig-zag' arrangement to the path is being considered to make the steep gradients a bit easier here.

The path alongside the River Drone will also become a cycle route with separate, parallel paths for cycling and walking

along the top of the flood defence beside the river. This will allow cyclists to avoid a significant section of the busy Unstone to Dronfield road.

Potentially, this could form the start of a continuous route following the River Drone all the way into Dronfield. However, this is something that would need further investigation to determine whether it is practical.

One of the main difficulties to address is how cyclists will be able to access the site and the tracks across it. The owner acknowledges that the main road to Dronfield presents a significant barrier to walking and cycling and he has invited us to help formulate a proposal for cycle access. At the time of writing, the Campaign is reviewing planning drawings in preparation for a site visit.

Football Stadium and Tesco

On 1st July, a planning meeting was held at the Winding Wheel to consider the application to develop the former Dema Glass site. This was attended by members of the Committee. Chesterfield Borough Council

planners gave an hour's presentation on the development, stating how it met all of the development plans and objectives and would be of benefit to the town.

No one from the floor was allowed to speak unless they had lodged an objection before the meeting. Various people tried (mainly local residents) but the Council response was that all of their objections had been answered previously.

However, despite planning permission being granted, it needed to be referred to the Secretary of State because the inclusion of a Tesco store represents a departure from the Local Plan. This additional approval was received before the end of July.

Other than a vague statement saying that cycle links would be enhanced, there was no indication that any of the Campaign's objections or suggestions had been considered. However, a Travel Plan has yet to be produced so we will be aiming to have some input there.

QUEENS PARK BRIDGE LANE PAINTING

Thank you once again to the six volunteers who carried out the early morning direct action activity to re-instate the cycle lane on the Queens Park Bridge in June of this year.

Neither the Borough, nor the County Council will take responsibility for marking the cycle lane over the bridge, claiming that the existing parapet railings are of insufficient height to guarantee cyclists' safety. Neither, however, will either council provide an alternative route for cyclists to exit the town centre from the Market Place to the south without them having to use pedestrian crossings, or negotiate extremely busy, heavily-trafficked areas.

The Campaign is aware of the difficulty of cyclists and pedestrians mixing as they use the bridge, particularly the inexperienced cyclist, those with families, and those laden with shopping as they return home. The cycle lane empowers pedestrians to direct cyclists into the lane if those riding over the bridge are inconveniencing

them. Even a dismounted (walking) cyclist takes up more room than a pedestrian, and is better confined to the cycle lane than trying to weave through the pedestrians.

Campaign members, and all cyclists, are encouraged to use extreme care when crossing the bridge and use a bell or a polite request to warn others of their approach. Remember that the elderly, children running freely and those with pushchairs, etc., are unable to manoeuvre quickly. When the bridge is very busy then cyclists must obey the discretionary signs and **DISMOUNT**.

We look to all members to use the bridge sensibly so that we can continue to access this convenient route without inconvenience or hindrance to non-cyclists. We should also try to discourage any cyclist we encounter using the bridge in a reckless or irresponsible way not to do so for their own safety, and the safety of others.

Campaign Committee

BRIMINGTON ROAD

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) recently proposed an enhancement of the cycle provision along Brimington Road to adjust speed limits and re-mark ... or so we thought! Plans were received and the Campaign returned its comments, generally favourably.

A different story emerged when the work actually started. Adjacent to the exit from Tapton Terrace a wide refuge was built in the centre of the road, apparently to aid cyclists crossing. Cyclists travelling along Brimington Road have been re-routed onto the pavement around the new pinch-point.

The Campaign felt that DCC misunderstood that Tapton Terrace was the official cycle route when, in actual fact, cyclists using the Trans Pennine Trail (Sustrans route 67) should continue straight on along Brimington Road. Worse than that, the on-off points were badly marked, kerbing not altered and cyclists now had to 'give way' to rejoin the traffic flow.

Following several members' complaints, the Secretary contacted DCC only to be dismissed with talk of how the scheme had been devised by cyclists and that it was much safer. After a campaign of emails from members DCC agreed to a meeting in Matlock. The Secretary pressed for the meeting to be on site which DCC eventually agreed to.

At the meeting it rapidly became apparent that the plans the Campaign had commented on were not the plans that had been finally drawn up! In fact DCC's final plans had not even been adhered to 'on the ground' resulting in some dangerous rejoins of the carriageway.

After initial hostilities between Campaign members and DCC, a basis of agreement was established. DCC officials acknowledging that the scheme was poor.

They agreed to some of our proposals to make the scheme better and will be drawing up plans to modify the layout. We await the new plans.

This episode has highlighted one or two points. The plans that the Campaign commented on were then modified by DCC to a point that the Campaign would certainly not be in favour of. The modified plans were not resubmitted for comment so we had no idea what would actually be built, but DCC claimed that cycle groups had been consulted and approved of the plans!

In the Secretary's emails he copied them to both DCC and CBC councillors, this definitely helped in bringing the matter forward as did the excellent response of Campaign members in contacting DCC officers and councillors.



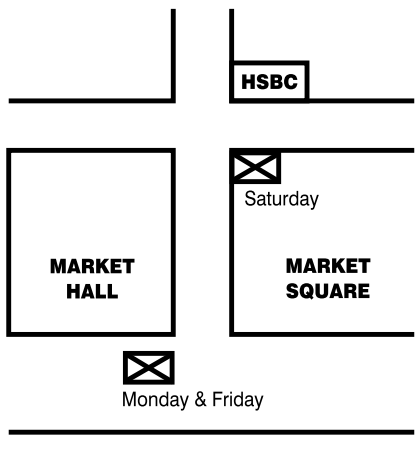
Thank you to those Campaign members who came to the meeting on Brimington Road. The Secretary feels that the DCC Traffic officer involved now has a better understanding of cyclists' needs.

LES ROPER MARKET TRADER

10% discount for members on production of Campaign membership card - from mid-September.

Bikes/accessories, brake cables, gear cables, tyres, inner tubes, puncture repair kits, brake pads, V brake pads, chains, wheels, cycle repairs, wheel repairs, wheel rebuilding and truing.

Batteries, watch batteries, watch straps, key cutting, clocks, leather belts, money belts, dog collars, leads and harnesses.



MOUNTAIN BIKE XC WORLD CUP BID

A consortium of partners known as 'Cycle Peak District and Derbyshire' are bidding to hold the 2010, 2012 and 2013 UCI Mountain Bike Cross Country World Cup events here in Derbyshire. It's an exciting proposal which will involve not just the event itself, but a whole host of cycling upgrades.

The World Cup course will be situated at Chatsworth on a 6km specially constructed course to the north and east of the main house.

Alongside this will be a 'trail legacy' that will vastly improve facilities throughout the county and make Derbyshire a major centre for cycle tourism. This will feature:

- **Urban links to the countryside.** A Greenway from Derby city to Bakewell via the Derwent Valley Heritage way is a high priority but the plans also include a route from Linacre Reservoir to the Chatsworth World Cup track.
- **Mountain bike super routes** including a 'trans-Derbyshire' route from Chesterfield to Buxton.
- **Trail improvements** comprising 80 individual projects, surface improvements and links to connect the existing network.
- **Development of mountain bike hubs** with facilities and information to allow access onto the trails network, including a proposed hub at Linacre Reservoir.
- **Improvement of the general mountain bike infrastructure**

But that's not all! The proposal also seeks to raise the levels of cycling participation in the area by supporting cycle training and development including Bikability training, after-school clubs, festivals and competitions, cycling travel plans, company support to buy bikes plus many more. A County Cycling Development Officer would also be appointed to coordinate these plans.

It promises to transform cycling in the area and we wish them every success with their bid.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual Accounts

The Campaign's financial year ended on 30th June, 2008.

commencing at 7.30 pm. Copies of the accounts will be available for all members at that meeting.

Audited accounts will be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 9th September 2008 in Meeting Room 1 at the Market Hall

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2008

At the Annual General Meeting officers of the Campaign are elected. Nominations should be submitted to the Campaign Secretary, Alastair Meikle, 4 Inkerman Cottages, Chesterfield S40 4BP in writing or by email by 7th September.

The following form may be used:

I hereby nominate _____ (Name) to stand as
_____ (Office) for

Chesterfield Cycle Campaign for the twelve months commencing 9th September 2008.

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Membership No. _____

Campaign Officers:

Chair/Secretary/Membership Secretary/Vice-Chair/Rides,
routes/Social Secretary/Newsletter Editor, Production/Other

EVENTS & DIARY

7th September, 10 am Ride to Matlock from Holymoorside. Meet at the Bull's Head in Holymoorside for a 10 am start. The route will go up Harewood Road, left and along Flash Lane then down Farley Lane into Matlock. Lunch at Greenway Café (www.greenwaycafe.co.uk) then return via Tansley, up Whitelea Lane to top of Slack Hill, along Screeham Lane and back down into Holymoorside. If you are interested, please contact Will Robb by e mail – will@sueandwill14.plus.com - or phone Alastair on 01246 520820.

20th September, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Harvest Swap at Hunloke Community Garden. Phone Jessie Marcham on 01246 210704 for more details.

22nd September European Car Free Day. A Critical Mass Ride is proposed for this day, but no details have been finalised yet. Phone Jessie Marcham on 01246 210704 for more details, or check the Campaign website.

25th September Accessibility Meeting attended by the Council and Campaign committee members to discuss cycle routes.

28th September (Sunday)
Family ride. Meet at Queen's Park cycle racks (near the café). Start time to be announced. Ride to Rother Valley Country Park along the Trans Pennine Trail, returning by tram and train.

8th October, 7.30 pm Illustrated Lecture, Winding Wheel Concert & Exhibition Room, "Cycling Home From Siberia". *30,000 miles, 37 months, 16 boat rides, 28 countries, 1 bicycle. In 2004 Rob Lilwall left his job as a geography teacher in Oxfordshire and instead decided to do something far more relaxing ... he flew to the Far Eastern edge of Siberia and spent the following three years riding home on his bicycle - via Papua New Guinea, Tibet and Afghanistan. Along the way he endured camping at minus forty, a bout of malaria, and being robbed at gunpoint. Rob's lecture combines epic photographs and stunning video footage to tell the gripping story of a frightened person who chooses to push himself to the edge.* Tickets £5.50 or concs £4.10. Please email newsletter@chesterfieldcc.org.uk if you are interested in going.

MEMBER ACTION

Although a lot of campaigning work is carried out by a few core members and committee, there are still things that everyone can do to help. The example of Brimington Road on page 10 shows how your contribution can make a difference.

Campaign Publicity Poster and Leaflet: We have now produced two posters, one general and the other health specific, as well as a leaflet outlining the purpose of the Campaign. These are available to [download from our website](#) and we need your help to distribute them widely across Chesterfield. Can you help us to display posters or distribute leaflets at your local doctors' surgery, library, sports club, playgroup, allotment, workplace or anywhere with a suitable notice board? The secretary is

keeping a list of locations already covered so that your efforts aren't duplicated. Please contact Alastair if you can help – details below. At the time of writing, we are considering having the leaflet printed – if you don't have access to the internet we may be able to provide you with printed copies so please ask.

Chesterfield Royal Hospital Bicycle Parking: We would like to put more pressure on the hospital to install bike parking facilities for the general public. Currently only staff parking is available. You can help by sending an email or letter to make them aware that there is a demand for parking. Contact details on their website at www.chesterfieldroyal.nhs.uk/about/contact/

Chair	Joe Clark
Vice Chair	Chris Allen
Secretary	Alastair Meikle, 01246 520820 secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk
Treasurer	Barry Kay, 01246 555943
Membership	Pam Kay, 01246 555943
Website	Robert Kirby webmaster@chesterfieldcc.org.uk
Newsletter	Nicola Peck newsletter@chesterfieldcc.org.uk

Chesterfield shops giving a discount to Campaign members:

Organic Heaven
Theatre Yard
J E James Cycles
Whittington Moor

GET INVOLVED!

Campaign Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Meeting Room 1 (across from the Urban Studies Room) upstairs at the Market Hall Chesterfield. The next meetings are on 9th September, 14th October, 11th November and 9th December.

Greendrinks is an informal gathering of 'green' minded people and takes place on the first Wednesday of each month from 7.00pm at Chandler's Bar, St. Mary's Gate, Chesterfield.

Visit the forum on our website at www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk to contribute your ideas and opinions.

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

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.