

Chesterfield Cycle Campaign

Campaign Update

Number 35 Spring 2006



www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk

Affiliated to the CTC and the Cycle Campaign Network

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CAMPAIGN CHAT

A belated Happy New Year. By the time you read this we will be in March and looking forward to better weather.

The Campaign is hoping to raise its profile during 2006 and gain some new members. There are lots of new developments planned in Chesterfield in the next few years and a strong Campaign will help to get more cycling infrastructure built.

A lot of this newsletter is taken up with the report of the latest Cycle Liaison Meeting but there is also news of events to come this year.

At our next meeting on March 14th some members of Pedal Pushers, the Sheffield Cycle Campaign are going to visit. The meeting will start at our usual 7.30pm and there will be free coffee/tea and cake.

There have been some successes from the Campaigns lobbying recently:

The Queens Park cycle path has been resurfaced at the western end after being left in a poor state following the work done in the park. The work was originally scheduled for January 8th but on that day Severn Trent beat CBC to it! They were building a slipway into the Hipper.

The junction of Highfield lane and Newbold Road is to be made into a roundabout. DCC have agreed to build a cycle 'slip lane' - after a suggestion from the Campaign - through the built out kerb to avoid the roundabout.

The path through the 'Pearson' recreation ground has been resurfaced. Whilst not an official cycle route it provides a pleasant through route between Old Hall Road and Old Road.

After a complaint by several members DCC have agreed to check the width of the cycle gates on the Riverside Path near Crow Lane.

These and many other subjects were discussed at a Cycle Liaison Meeting hosted by Derbyshire County Council at Chesterfield Town Hall on Jan 19th.

Two members of the Campaign committee attended. Amongst our points raised were:

1. The development of a through route from the Queens Park path through the Donkin site, crossing Derby Road, along the Rother Washlands path to cross Storforth Lane and on to the old Avenue site and the Five Pits Trail.

A. It was agreed by all that this is an important route and should be addressed

2. Provision of cycle lockers at the railway station and the new coach station.

A. Much discussion of what the best lockers are and who would police/run them. Suggested that Midland Mainline be approached. A suggestion was made that perhaps the Campaign should have a notice board next to the cycle stands at the station.

3. Development of new routes from Tapton Lock - under the Tesco roundabout and up to Sheffield Road.

A. Development of this area is awaiting outcome of new football stadium. If that comes to fruition then cycle routes in this area will be looked at.

4. Development of routes near the Lordsmill St roundabout since the new Toucan crossing.

A. There does not seem to be a long term strategy here just that part of the planning requirement for the Hipper Mill development was to build a Toucan crossing.

5. Proposed development of Walton Works and its impact on the Hipper Valley route.

A. Agreed that this was of concern and that when the plans are received the preservation of the Hipper Valley route will be part of the planning requirement.

6. Funding for the long term goal of a link from Hipper St South to the railway station using the old branch line.

A. This is recognised as a vital link especially as it would form part of the link between the Trans Pennine Trail and the Five Pits Trail. The missing railway bridge was offered to CBC by Network Rail whilst still in situ but they declined the offer deciding it was as cheap to replace as repair!

7. Potential to improve cycling provision at the junction of Linden Avenue and Stars Road and the linking of schools in that area by cycle routes.

A. Agreed that the Campaign should meet DCC to discuss the crossing. Long term problem to link the schools.

8. Identification of a route to Old Brampton through Linacre Woods

A. Greenways officer announced that next year it was planned to build a branch of the Holmebrook Valley route towards Linacre Woods. Continuation to Old Brampton would be looked at for the future.

9. Finally the Campaign asked if CBC or DCC could help fund a new cycle map of Chesterfield.

A. We await an official reply.

There was very little news of new schemes for this year.

Cresswell Village to Bolsover loop will open shortly.

Mill Lane in Wingerworth to Tupton again opening shortly.

For next year Hipper Valley 3, the extension to Holymoorside should go ahead as we understand most of the problems have been sorted out.

It was also announced that on Feb 9th and 10th a CTC Benchmark meeting was taking place in Chesterfield. This is a one and a half day conference where cycling officers get together in a town and discuss the towns cycling facilities. The Campaign was asked if they wished to take part and the Vice Chair and Secretary went along. See the separate report further on in the newsletter.

At the January Campaign meeting it was agreed to ask all Family members for the ages of their children if under 16.

This would help the Campaign to organise rides targetted at specific age groups.

Membership and renewal forms are now altered to ask for this information but if you are able to ring the Membership Secretary ASAP that would be appreciated.

Other campaigning news

A bill through parliament to allow motorcyclists to use bus lanes has been rejected. Though there is a trial in Sheffield.

The YHA has launched a hire fleet of 100 bright yellow bikes operating from five London Youth Hostels. An hours rental costs £1.50.

Bikes are available from hostels in Rotherhithe, Earl's Court, Kensington, Hampstead Heath and most usefully St Pancras.

If you have access to the internet there are some short films avbl at

www.streamcity.co.uk/clients/transport/bikes.htm

Showing various London emergency services using cydes to conduct their business.

According to 'Transport for London' since the introduction of the Cogestion charge cycling has risen by 19% in 2003 and 8% in 2004.

The charging area is due to be extended to the west in 2007 so it will be interesting to see if a similar increase occurs there.

Cycle Map

At recent Campaign meetings an update of the cycle map of Chesterfield has been discussed.

The present map dates from about seven years ago and it is felt that a new version would show the progress that has been achieved around the town.

Discussion has centred on whether the Campaign should produce a new version 'in house' or if funding could be found to produce a 'glossier' version.

The Secretary had a meeting with Brian Morris at the 'LINKS' office. This is an organisation which can advise groups where to get funding from.

From that meeting the Campaign has found out it is possible to apply for a Lottery grant and a CBC 'Sustainability Grant'. If successful this money would allow us to employ 'Cycle City Guides' to produce a map for us.

The grant would cover the cost of the map so providing income for the Campaign from any sales.

It was agreed at the last meeting that we should pursue this and by the next newsletter we should have an idea if the money has been forthcoming.

Cover Picture

The photo was taken during the CTC Benchmark Conference in Chesterfield. It was taken during the tour of cycling facilities by the delegates seen here on the Holmebrook Valley Trail by the underpass of Loundlesy Green Road.

CTC Insurance

The Campaign can arrange for members insurance through the CTC. The current rate is £12.50 per person per year. This gives £5 million third party public liability insurance and free cycling related legal advice. If you are a CTC member you get this automatically, but if not and you would like to take advantage of this facility speak to the Vice Chair 01246 555943

Update distribution

The Campaign has a network of volunteers who distribute the update when it is published quarterly. We are currently looking for a volunteers in the Walton area (7 newsletters). Please contact the secretary if you could help.

Web site

On the Campaign's website can be found the minutes of the last meeting, a copy of the latest newsletter, a membership form, list of events and photos.

Twin:Town

Following an enquiry from the towns twinning officer the secretary met a representative of Troyes. Whilst there does not appear to be a cycle campaign in Troyes there is a scenic 28 mile multi user trail going East from the town past lakes and countryside. Work is proceeding to extend this to a circular route.

www.pnr-foret-orient.fr/fr/velo/voie.htm

Events

Don't forget the visit by

Pedal Pushers

The Sheffield Cycle Campaign

Urban Studies Room
March 14th 7.30pm

More dates for your diary:

Saturday April 8th

Friends of the Queens Park are holding a Spring Event in the park (Chesterfield). There will be many things to do and look at including the return of the boats on the lake. The Campaign will have a stand with a display of bikes and 'Dr Bike'. Please come along, bring your bike and make yourself known at the stand, a piece of cake to all members showing a current membership card!

If you are able to help on the stand (if only for a short while) the secretary would be glad to hear from you.

May Day

The Campaign will have a stand at the Market. Again all help welcome.

Sunday June 25th

The Three Valleys Project have asked the Campaign to run a Dr Bike at the Tapton Lock Visitors Centre. They are organising a cycle ride that day from the Rother Valley Country Park to the Five Pits Trail. There will be a bus and trailer provided to connect the two trails

Details of this ride are available from Tapton Lock Visitors Centre

CTC Benchmark visit to Chesterfield

Whilst attending the Cycle Liaison meeting on Jan 19th the Campaign learnt that Chesterfield was to host a CTC Benchmark conference on February 9/10th.

This is a series of meetings held in various towns nationwide for council officers responsible for cycling to look at facilities and exchange views whilst also hearing about how (in this case) DCC provides cycling infrastructure.

There were representatives from Stoke, Leicestershire, Derby, Hereford, Northampton as well as DCC officers from School Travel Plans, Countryside Officers etc. Chesterfield was chosen to be Derbyshires town and was the last of the Midland area conferences.

The day started with a talk by DCC about the Local Transport Plan, priorities and ways of funding cycle infrastructure.

Around mid morning a group of about 20 set off to tour cycle facilities around Chesterfield. The route took us from the town Hall through the Market Place, over the Queens Park bridge (much discussion and disbelief that cyclists should be asked to dismount).

After that along the Holmebrook Valley trail to a lunch stop at the Olde House.

In the afternoon we went through Littlemoor to the cycle roundabout under Whittington Moor roundabout. Then on road to the Trans Pennine Trail/Chesterfield Canal.

Along the canal to Tapton Lock Visitors Centre. Back to the Town Hall via the railway station.

On our return we had two more talks. One showing examples of cycleways in Derbyshire and one by Wayne Bexton the Derbyshire Greenways Officer.

The next day was attended by the Vice Chair only. The day consisted of a discussion of what had been seen on the 'tour' the previous day. The delegates rating the facilities and categorising them into headings such as 'do more' or 'stop doing'.

Representatives of CBC and DCC were of course present and hopefully took on board some of the comments.

One comment that arose on our 'tour' as we crossed over the Queens Park bridge was 'why was cycling not allowed'? Many delegates commenting that they had bridges in their area with low railings that allowed cycling!

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To report road faults tel 0845 605 8058

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;

14th March, 11th April, 9th May, 13th June

Next newsletter will be published in June, any articles for inclusion to the secretary by 1st May please.

Chesterfield shops giving a discount to campaign members

Organic Heaven
Theatre Yard

J E James Cycles
Whittington Moor

Cross Country
Cycles
Clay Cross

Astir Cycles
Mansfield

Membership Form

Full Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____

Email _____

Membership Type (please circle)

Adult £5 Family £10* Unwaged £2.50 Under 16 £1

*Please state all names and ages of children under 16

Please send this form to the CCC Membership Secretary,
15 Dowdeswell Street, Newbold, Chesterfield, S41 7ER
NB these details will be stored on computer