

# CHESTERFIELD CYCLE CAMPAIGN



## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Published quarterly

Number 43 Spring 2008



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

Affiliated to the CTC and the Cycle Campaign Network

Printed on recycled paper



# CAMPAIGN CHAT

---

Our usual **monthly meeting** in December was cancelled in favour of a Christmas social event. Around 20 members turned up to enjoy a convivial drink and cycling chat.

The new **Healthy Living Centre at Staveley** is nearing completion and will open in early March. Its situation close to the Trans Pennine Trail affords relatively easy cycle access from Chesterfield along the canal, and from Arkwright and Inkersall along the disused railway track. The centre is due to have cctv-monitored cycle parking at the front of the building.

**Plans by Lidl** to redevelop the site of the old Kwik Save on Whittington Moor, which included extension of the cycle lanes around the roundabout, were dropped.

Instead they have decided to convert the existing building meaning that planning permission was not required and the proposed cycle measures could not be imposed on them.

The car park at Queens Park Sports Centre was temporarily closed for resurfacing in November. During this time, cyclists were allowed to divert through the park itself so that access could be maintained. The cycle lane has been re-instated on the new surface in eye-catching green paint. See the website (News section) for photographs.

After Chesterfield Borough Council failed to adequately publicise details of how to use the new **cycle locker scheme**, the Campaign has put further pressure on them and we now have posters and leaflets detailing rental costs and how to get keys. A press release and photo opportunity is also on the cards but has yet to materialise.

Work has started on a new **Toucan crossing on Derby Road**. It is situated where the Rother Washlands path comes out onto Jawbones Hill. Traffic access to this end of Derby Road has been blocked off to stop 'rat running'. This will eventually form part of the cycle path link from the town centre via the

Donkin site to Rother Washlands and Storforth Lane.

The route will leave the Donkin site at the roundabout, go southwards down the shared pavement along Derby Road then into the new flats development. From there it will exit onto Redvers Buller Road and go down Lord Roberts Road to the new Toucan.

The latest **Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Cycle Liaison** meeting took place on 10th January. Topics discussed included the Donkin Site and the route to the Eco Dome at Unstone as well as more promising news on other developments.

The Hipper Valley Trail extension to Holymoorside should be going ahead in the new financial year, after April 2008. Further afield, other schemes going ahead are the Killamarsh Greenway and Westwood-Arkwright link.

Further news on the **Donkin site developments**: The new office block beside the roundabout is almost finished and we are pleased to see that covered cycle stands have

already been installed. We have asked for a toucan crossing on Park Road, in order to link to the trail through Queen's Park but, as ever, DCC are non-committal on the subject.

One of our members emailed in to let us know about new bike parking facilities that have been installed for staff at **Chesterfield Royal Hospital**. Sadly, the 'upgrades' seem to be something of a backwards step.

The previously secure, weatherproof lockers have now been replaced with rather flimsy-looking communal sheds which have many disadvantages. Bikes may only be secured by the wheels and, as communal sheds, lights and other easily removable fittings are at risk of theft. There is little in the way of weather-proofing and thieves can gain easy entry to the sheds by crawling under the frame or unscrewing the Perspex panels. Schemes like these are baffling and a complete waste of money.

For any members working for companies with a number of cyclists, we would encourage the formation of Bicycle User Groups which raise the profile of cycling and give employers a

more obvious point of contact to discuss new facilities before implementing them.

**Lockers near the Magistrates Court** have been out of use for a considerable time due to vandalism – these had a coin-operated mechanism, rather than the keys and padlocks used on the lockers near Vicar Lane and the Coach Station. We had hoped that they could be repaired and moved to the railway station, but they are considered to be too badly damaged and have been replaced with Sheffield stands instead.

With large-scale problems of **climate change and obesity** hitting the headlines, Chesterfield Borough Council have made the rather counter-productive move of introducing £3/day car parking in the town centre. This makes it cheaper for a family of four to drive, rather than catching the bus.

Having corresponded with MP Paul Holmes on the matter, it seems that parking problems around the railway station and limited parking space in the forthcoming Chesterfield College development have

prompted the move. Whilst his point that you can't *force* people to abandon their cars is valid, then surely we need to create incentives which make buses, cycling and walking more appealing by tackling issues like safety, reliability and cost.

Tom, our webmaster, is working on improving the appearance of the **Campaign website** and some of the changes are already visible. Remember that you can use the online forum to discuss cycling-related issues and access past newsletters and meeting minutes. We are also aiming to expand the site over the next year with a range of useful information on cycling in and around Chesterfield. If anyone would like to help with writing content for the site, please contact the Secretary.

The **Trans Pennine Trail diversion** is still in force in Staveley, due to ongoing roadworks set to finish in March 2009 (see Winter 2007 newsletter). Signs indicating the route should be in place but are regularly interfered with by vandals, although Sustrans rangers Pip and Paul are doing their best to keep on top of the

problem. The Contractors have agreed to put more permanent signing in place but, as yet, nothing has happened.

The Campaign conducted a survey during 2007, with forms being available at stalls and sent out with membership applications and renewals. Full results are available on the website but under-35s are notable for their near-absence from the survey, highlighting the potential benefit to be gained from introducing young people to cycling whilst still at school.

Following trials before Christmas, **Sheffield Cycle Campaign** have succeeded in gaining a regular cyclists' service on Sheffield Supertram on the last Sunday of every month. If you fancy joining them, check out their website at [www.pedalpushers.org.uk](http://www.pedalpushers.org.uk).

Despite assurances to the contrary, there are **still no cycle stands outside the NEDDC office** on Saltergate since refurbishment of the reception. We will continue to pursue this to ensure they are not forgotten.

**Concerned about climate change?**

a free showing of the film  
**an inconvenient truth**  
A GLOBAL **WARNING**

**Chesterfield Library Lecture Theatre**  
Friday 29th February  
Doors open 6.30pm  
Film starts 7.00pm

Representatives of "Everybody's Talking About Climate Change"  
Discussion of "Transition Towns"

For more information contact 01246 210704  
or [secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk)

DERBYSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Everybody's talking about climate change

# SUSTRANS CONNECT2 WINS £50M

---

Following voting in December to decide the recipient of a £50 million National Lottery grant, Sustrans' Connect2 project was the overwhelming winner with nearly 42% of the votes. It aims to invest the cash into footpath and cycle route developments in 79 communities around the country, including our nearest project in the Rother Valley area.

Sustrans has earmarked about £800,000 to pay for improvements to footpaths around Chesterfield Canal, links into the National Cycle Network

at Rother Valley and developments in Killamarsh.

This includes a new off-road footpath and cycle track from Halfway Tram Terminus to Killamarsh. Station Road, between Halfway and Killamarsh, can be dangerous and intimidating for pedestrians and cyclists due to the very narrow footways and busy traffic, which includes many lorries. The town should also get two new footbridges across the River Rother and nearby railway line.

## **EAST MIDLAND CYCLE FORUM**

**Saturday April 5th, 11.00am - 4.30pm**

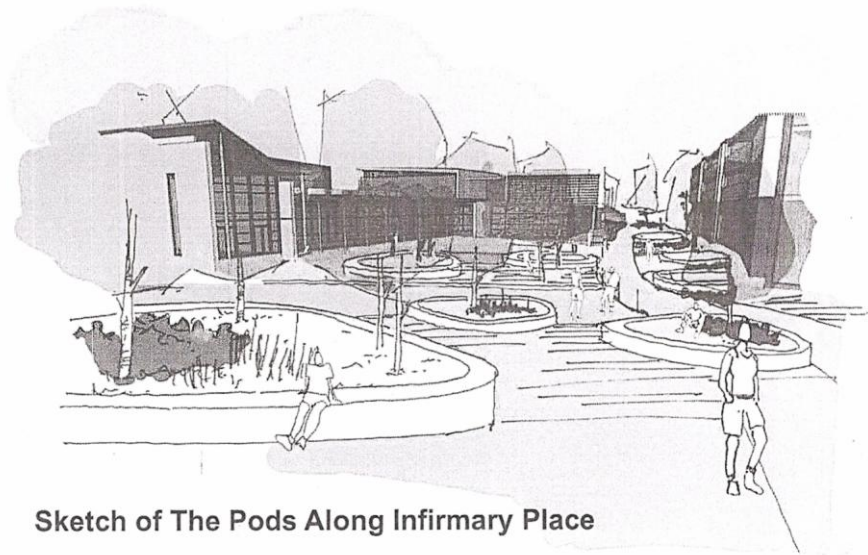
**Winding Wheel, Chesterfield**

Come and meet representatives from cycle organisations throughout the East Midlands. Speakers, lunch and a led ride around some of Chesterfields cycle network.

**Cost £4 per person inc lunch.**

We will need volunteers to help run this event, they will have free entry. Volunteers required to meet delegates at the railway station and escort them to the winding wheel, volunteers to help sign in delegates and also to help with parking bicycles and marshalling the ride. Contact the Secretary if you can help.

# CHESTERFIELD COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT



**Sketch of The Pods Along Infirmiry Place**

Chesterfield College have submitted plans for a massive £37 million development to improve facilities for students and improve access at the Infirmiry Road campus.

A major feature of the redevelopment is 'The Walk', a pedestrian boulevard along the line of the existing road. Pods, featuring a raised grass dais with trees and shrubs, provide places to sit.

Disabled parking will be incorporated into The Walk and vehicles will be allowed limited access via an intercom and retracting bollards.

Consideration is being given to upgrading access between Infirmiry Road and the canal tow path, over the existing footbridge.

The College will also be taking various measures to encourage cycling. These include appointment of a Travel Plan Coordinator, setting up a Cycle2Work scheme for staff, encouraging the formation of a Bicycle Users Group and providing information about cycle training and the local cycle network.

Work will be carried out in three phases and take about a year.

# BEHIND THE SCENES

---

*by Alastair Meikle, Secretary*

It can often seem that work on the ground furthering the cycle infrastructure of Chesterfield is pretty slow. I would be the first to agree but I would like to describe the sort of work that the committee of the Campaign do.

There have recently been a series of meetings attended by members of the committee that produce little tangible reward but are putting the case for cycle infrastructure and getting our voice heard and I feel are beginning to have an effect.

As is often reported in our newsletter we regularly have meetings with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) using their Cycle Liaison Group. Questions can be asked by any of the attending groups and there is usually the correct person from DCC there to give an answer. We are also briefed as to DCC's plans for cycle infrastructure in the near future.

We meet Chesterfield Borough Council through the Transport Users Group which is a new

group still finding its feet. Once settled down we hope that it will prove useful. We are also 'consultees' to the planning department. This means we receive details of planning applications and road alterations for us to comment on.

A reply is always sent but this is where the process goes slightly wrong! We rarely hear the outcome unless we pester or wait for building to start! Several of our suggestions have been incorporated into schemes so we do have a say.

We were made aware last Autumn of an 'Accessibility study' for this area which may well prove beneficial to our cause as one of its aims is to link up urban areas with cycle routes.

In Chesterfield there is another problem - namely air quality, especially along Derby Road and Chatsworth Road. The government requires local authorities to tackle this and it has been suggested that promoting cycling is one way for CBC and DCC to show they are trying. I have had a couple of meetings about these issues



and feel there is a possibility we may benefit although it is early days.

There are many reasons why cycling, which seems the obvious urban mode of transport to us, isn't given greater priority. The entrenched views of both CBC and DCC officials in some departments, refusing to accept any 'new' views on cycle provision. The general public who have been used to years of cheap parking in Chesterfield and relatively free running roads. We must show by example how urban cycling can improve our environment and that it can form a viable alternative

transport system. I feel it is all about using 'appropriate' transport for your journey. In Chesterfield local journeys can be accomplished by foot, cycle and bus unless carrying large loads or when the weather is particularly bad! Chesterfield enjoys a good train service but access to the station is not particularly good - this is to be addressed at the next Transport Users Group.

The committee work towards improving what infrastructure we already have, linking up that infrastructure and bringing cycling to the forefront of the general public's urban transport thinking.

## LETTER FROM A MEMBER

---

I am a fair weather cyclist who lives in Walton and travels frequently to the USA. In LA and Denver they have wide dedicated cycle tracks and they integrate cycling with public transport in a simple but very effective way. In both cities the buses have a small bike rack at the front. This allows one to load and unload a bike quickly and easily. By doing this people are encouraged to cycle more

knowing that if they want to get home quickly or avoid the rain, they can. My view is that many more people would cycle if this facility was offered in the UK.

*Secretary: "At our various meetings with both DCC and CBC we have talked about cycle carrying buses but they are not very receptive. My own goal would be to get a Chesterfield to Matlock bus carrying bikes."*

# EVENTS

---

## **FAMILY RIDES 2008**

Following on from our successful rides during Bike Week 2007.

The rides will start from the bike racks outside Queen's Park café (by the bridge). Meet from 2.00pm for a social chat and rides depart at 3.00pm.

### **Saturday 29th March**

A re-run of our Bike Week 4-mile ride but this time out on the Holmebrook Valley Trail, across Ashgate and return to Queen's Park along the Hipper Valley Trail.

### **Saturday 31st May**

This time a run through town and out along the Trans Pennine Trail to Tapton Lock and return.

The rides will be accompanied by Campaign members at a pace to suit all but individuals ride at their own risk. By their nature, these rides are suitable for children and returning cyclists to gain experience whilst enjoying cycling in a group.

Let's try to make this different – do you have an unusual bike?

Tow a trailer? Why not bring the kids on a trailer bike or in a trailer.

We hope to run further rides on Saturday 26th July and Saturday 27th September. Look out for announcements in the next newsletter.

## **RIVER CLEAN-UP**

Volunteers are needed to clean up rubbish from around the River Rother and Chesterfield Canal, much of it swept up by last year's floods.

If the 17th February clean-up didn't go ahead due to bad weather, then the next date is **Sunday 2nd March** starting at 9.30am from Tapton Lock Visitor's Centre, Lockoford Lane (off Tesco roundabout).

Protective gloves, tools, training and safety instruction will be provided but please wear old clothes and sturdy, grip-soled footwear.

You can ring the Visitor's Centre on 01246 551035 for more details. Also, ring them the day before as bad weather may lead to cancellation.

# OTHER CYCLING NEWS

---

## £140M FOR CYCLING

The government has announced £140 million of new funding for cycling programmes, channelled through Cycling England which has already managed £30 million of cycling schemes since 2005. The money will be spread across three years starting with £20 million in 2008/9 and £60 million in each of the two subsequent years.

## TACKLING OBESITY

Two further government announcements look set to have benefits for cycling too. Behind the headlines about compulsory cooking in schools, The Department for Health's Obesity Strategy offers some helpful suggestions about encouraging cycling. Also, the National

Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published guidance on creating an environment to promote physical activity. Both recognise the values of encouraging health authorities and professionals to engage with the local planning process.

## NEW MEMBERS

Chris Auton, Eckington  
Karen & Michael Undrell,  
Newbold  
Jack Jerram, Newbold  
Martin Baxter, Dunston  
Michael Bevilacqua, Calow  
Sue Hall, Holymoorside  
Martin Moloney, Holymoorside  
Robert Kirby, Brimington  
Paul Holmes, Dronfield  
Chris & Stella Walsh, Walton  
David Watts, Boythorpe  
Ian Openshaw, Brimington

<b>Chair</b>	Joe Clark
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Chris Allen
<b>Secretary</b>	Alastair Meikle, 01246 520820 secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barry Kay, 01246 555943
<b>Membership</b>	Pam Kay, 01246 555943
<b>Website</b>	Tom Foster
<b>Newsletter</b>	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 the Urban Studies Room at the Market Hall Chesterfield. The next meetings are on 11th March, 8th April, 13th May and 10th June.

**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](http://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.