

CHESTERFIELD CYCLE CAMPAIGN



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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New A619 cycle path under construction

www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk

Affiliated to the CTC and Cyclenation

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CAMPAIGN CHAT

In November, a meeting took place with the **Rangers and Countryside Access Group** at Clay Cross. Among the various projects discussed were three on cycling:

- Development of cycle routes around Chesterfield.
- Development of longer distance cycle routes.
- Signing of the Five Pits trail as part of National Cycle Route (NCN) 67.

Around 40 members and their families attended the Campaign's **Christmas social** event on 13th December, held at the Crispin Inn on Ashgate Road. A buffet was laid on and the Brampton Community Band provided the music.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed the quiz set by Barry Kay with a range of topics covered. Thanks go to Barry and Pam for organising another successful social event.

Considerable progress has been made on our new **Chesterfield Cycle Map** since November and we're hoping it will be available

this Spring. Members will receive a free copy.

The Campaign has also produced a series of four local ride leaflets, these are in the final stages of production and will be available shortly.

The new '**Stonegravels Way**' path alongside the A61 sprouted barriers a few weeks ago. Installed too close together they made accessing by bike difficult, especially with panniers. They have now been altered to allow easier access.

Due to refurbishment of the Market Hall, which is taking place throughout 2012, **the Campaign's monthly meetings have moved** to a new venue and a slightly different time.

Previously 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm, meetings are now being held in Committee Room 4 at the Town Hall, starting at 7.00 pm and finishing at 8.30 pm.

Cycle racks are available outside the main entrance and also in the corner of the rear car park near to the Rose Hill East entrance.

The canal link between Mill Green, **Staveley**, and the Canal Basin is finally finished and the Basin has been filled. The previously muddy section of tow path alongside the Mill Green link has now been resurfaced.

Money has also been allocated for further resurfacing from **Dixon's Lock to Mill Green** and the section outside Hollingwood Hub will be tarmaced. At the time of writing, this was out for tender so no confirmed dates for the work were available.

Station Road car park, **Brimington**, will also have a new tarmac surface, improved access controls, new disabled accessible picnic benches, some towpath upgrade work and an interpretation panel. These are all part of a package of works to improve accessibility to the Bluebank Pools Local Nature Reserve, off Station Road.

Works are also taking place on the **Five Pits Trail** to improve access to the Williamthorpe Local Nature Reserve and elsewhere on some significantly poor stretches.

Tapton Terrace, which links

Brimington Road and Crow Lane near the railway station, has been closed to walkers and cyclists. For many years, it has been signposted as part of the Trans Pennine Trail but residents have continued to object about its use, particularly by cyclists. Formerly owned by the railway, old records mention that access rights were retained but they are not sufficiently explicit about whether they were for public access or just for the railway line. The alternative route is now via Malkin Street.

Work has now finished at **Linacre Reservoirs** and the paths on and around the lower dams are now fully open to walkers and cyclists. The work was to increase the width of the overflow slipways to enable them to handle larger volumes of water, following the incident at Ulley Reservoir in 2007. A new access road was added to get to the bottom of the lower reservoir. The main access road was resurfaced and so the big pot holes have gone.

New members

- Maria Hippey, Newbold

RUGBY GROUND AT STONEGRAVELS

A planning application has been made for 126 new houses at the Rugby Ground on Sheffield Road, Stonegravels.

As usual, the Design and Access Statement identifies the site as being well-located to encourage cycle journeys by quoting the standard 5 Km catchment area which, it says, puts Hollingwood, Calow and Unstone within cycling distance of the site. It also highlights the 'dedicated' cycle facilities on both sides of Sheffield Road.

Anyone familiar with the area will know that Sheffield Road is rather unpleasant to cycle on and the cycle facilities are not dedicated but advisory so it's common to see them obstructed by parked cars and delivery vehicles. Any potential cyclists need to be already comfortable with riding amongst traffic on busy main roads.

The original plans for the site featured no cycle facilities whatsoever, although there are obvious opportunities to include some basic provision. Pedestrian access is shown from Taptan View Road and this could be upgraded to be a shared path. There is also a pedestrian access

ramp across the front of the development leading down to Sheffield Road providing potential to avoid conflict with motor vehicles at the main entrance junction.

The site is directly opposite Stonegravels Lane and, in conjunction with a toucan crossing, could be safely linked to the new Stonegravels Way cycle route. Derbyshire County Council's Transport Assessment also supports a connection to this cycle corridor as well as provision of a shared, ramped (rather than stepped) access to Sheffield Road as a car-free alternative to the main entrance.

The Campaign submitted its comments to CBC Planning and conditional permission was granted on 30th January. At the time of writing, the decision document wasn't available so we don't yet know whether any cycle conditions were actually imposed.

Planning ref: CHE/11/00717/FUL

NEW RESTAURANT & TAKEAWAY

A planning application has been made for a new restaurant and hot food takeaway on land next to the KFC Drive-Thru at Lockoford Lane.

The Campaign has submitted comments relating to provision for cyclists on the site.

Four cycle racks are being provided, but they are situated close to the rear delivery entrance and alongside bins. We have asked for some protection, such as a barrier, to be given to parked bikes so that they are not damaged by activity in this area.

Despite being directly adjacent to a shared cycle and pedestrian path, only a narrow footpath link has been provided into the site, with cyclists required to use

the main motor traffic entrance. The path should be widened to allow cycle access too, and we've also suggested a cycle access path to the racks around the edge of the car park so that cyclists do not have to mix with turning and reversing cars.

Finally, we've asked that Sheffield stands are provided and installed with a minimum of 1 metre between them, but ideally 1.2 metres.

Planning ref: CHE/11/00716/FUL

SUPPORT PEAK CYCLE LINKS

Peak Cycle Links is a local charity set up in August 2010 to promote, deliver and manage popular cycling and walking routes in the Peak District.

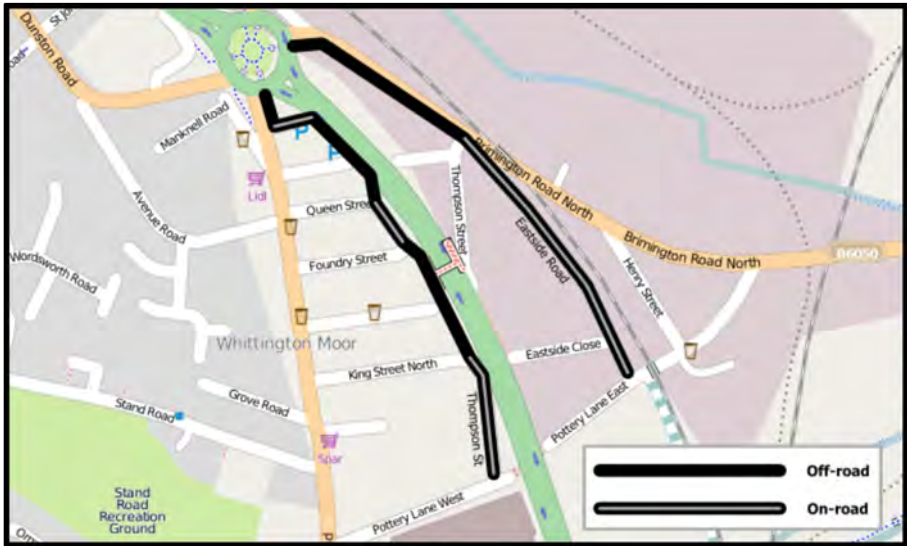
One of its particular aims is the creation of a 60-mile circular cycling and walking route dubbed the White Peak Loop. The proposal builds on the existing High Peak, Tissington

and Monsal Trails with new connections planned between Wye Dale and Parsley Hay, via Buxon, and between Bakewell and Cromford.

The charity is appealing for supporters and they require volunteers for practical tasks as well as money. For more information visit their website at www.peakcyclelinks.org.uk.

PROGRESS WITH CYCLE SCHEMES

Progress is now being made on this year's cycle schemes at Whittington Moor and Tapton.



A new section of route will go from Pottery Lane East to Whittington Moor Roundabout and forms part of Route 7 of the Chesterfield Cycle Network.

The Secretary, Alastair Meikle, met on site with the Derbyshire County Council engineer working on the project to see and discuss the plans.

The first part, along Eastside Road, will be on-road until just before the junction. At this point there is a short existing section of cycle path to

Thompson Street, constructed last year as part of the BMW development. From Thompson Street, the pavement will be widened to 3 metres all the way to the roundabout subway.

Each side entrance will have kerbs across it like a driveway, so that the shared path appears to have right of way across them.

We have also asked DCC to refrain from adding give way markings for bikes, to reinforce this appearance.

The only major obstacle is a large road sign in the path close to the Little Chef. The budget for the work is £30,000, although we were told this won't be enough to complete all of the work. At this stage we're not sure how this will affect the proposals.

Also in this year's cycling budget, plans are being drawn up for an adjacent route on the west side of the A61. Forming part of Route 1, it will connect Pottery Lane West with Whittington Moor roundabout via Thompson Street and Queen Street North.

Elsewhere, construction has started on a new off-road shared path alongside the A61 at Tapton, which will form part of Route 5 of the Chesterfield Cycle Network.

Cyclists heading north along Brimington Road will be able to leave the carriageway just before its junction with the A61 and join a shared path which is being widened to 3 metres. It will continue up the hill, past the crematorium to the top side of the cemetery. A new toucan crossing will be installed to help cyclists cross the busy A61 and continue along Wikeley Way.

CONNECT2 ROUTE GETS NEW BRIDGE

The Sustrans Connect2 project to create a cycling and walking route between Halfway in Sheffield and Killamarsh has passed another milestone.

On the morning of 5th February, new bridges over the River Rother and nearby railway line were successfully lifted into place. This route complements the TPT access ramps built recently at Forge Lane and the south end of Rother Valley Country Park, also part of the Connect2 project financed with money from the BIG Lottery and

South Yorkshire and Derbyshire Local Transport Plan funds.

When completed, the final route will run from Halfway tram stop, using existing walking and cycling routes as far as James Walton Drive, before following a new path which will run parallel to, but away from, the busy main road.

HEALTH PROMOTION EXHIBITION

On 12th December at the Chesterfield hotel, there was a NHS/PCT- organised event promoting health awareness among affiliated departments at both local and county level.

The Cycle Campaign were asked to attend to promote the health aspect of cycling amongst the staff members of the various participating groups. Those attending were generally employees of the NHS and other groups. The exhibition was very 'in house' and

members of the public were not generally in attendance. There was quite a lot of interest in our stall, we being the only voluntary organisation involved. Lots of publicity information was given out, and we obtained one new member.

The Campaign was represented by Joe Clark, Chris Allen and Barry Kay. The occasion was enjoyable, we met lots of new people - the refreshments were pretty good too!

TPT DIVERSION AT TAPTON

Early in 2010, Tapton Golf Course gained planning permission for a new driving range situated in an area crossing the current path of the Trans Pennine Trail, necessitating its diversion.

The initially proposed new route received a number of objections on safety grounds and was rejected. Subsequently, the developer explored other options and has put forward an alternative route.

The new route cuts through a wooded area which exists to the south east of the proposed driving range between the range and the main course 18th hole. It would be 3 metres wide with a Top trek surface, and would be 50 metres longer than the old route at 310 metres.

Although no decision had been reached at the time of writing, the Planning Committee recommendation is to approve the new diversion.

CHESTERFIELD BREEZE RIDES

For women only!

WHAT: Breeze network – the biggest ever programme to get more women into riding bikes for fun – comes to Loundsley Green/ Holmebrook Valley Park.

WHY: Three times as many men as women cycle for fun – and British Cycling wants to change this.

The rides are organised by women who have been trained as volunteer champions by British Cycling, and are designed to fit around the work and family lives of busy women.

WHERE: Meet at Loundsley Green shops, Cuttholme Road, S40 4QU.

The Holmebrook Valley Park Cafe ride is the perfect ride for women starting cycling or returning to it and wanting to build confidence. All off road, and a cafe stop half way!

Bikes and helmets are available to borrow on the day-no need to reserve just turn up!

WHEN: Third Sunday of every month, at 1045am beginning Feb 2012.

WHO: Michelle Meikle volunteer Breeze champion, Chesterfield.

CONTACT: michelleameikle@gmail.com or www.goskyride.com/breeze



BARCELONA CYCLE TOUR

by the Secretary, Alastair Meikle

In September 2011, my family and I travelled overland by train and ferry to Majorca stopping off at major cities.



Whilst spending a few days in Barcelona we decided to try one of the many bicycle sightseeing tours advertised.

They all seemed to be the same price so we plumped for one by 'Barcelona Ciclo Tour'. We were told to meet outside the Hard Rock Café in the middle of Barcelona and we quickly identified a few people hanging around at the appointed time. Our guide arrived and turned out to be a Dutchman living in Barcelona. We had gone for the 'English' tour so apart from us

there was a group of Americans and two Australians.

We walked with our guide to the bike rental office and after we all paid we were given our bikes; typical European town bikes, hub gears, some with coaster brakes and some not. We set off winding our way around the old part of the city with seemingly no regard for if we should have been cycling! Our party of around twelve squeezed down little alleys, bumped up and down kerbs, but nobody seemed to mind.

Eventually we came down to the seafront and cycled along a wide traffic free path to the beach where we stopped for a drink. After a long chat with our guide we headed off to Gaudi's Sagrada Familia. Our route took us along a dead straight wide dual-carriageway with the cycle lane adjacent to the overtaking lane (in the middle), sometimes segregated by small raised

bricks and sometimes only by a white line. Access to this lane is by 'Toucan' style crossings at each set of lights. The guide and I discussed this and quite rightly he pointed out how useful they are for a through journey, no worrying about crossing side roads or parked cars opening their doors. Can't imagine it in Chesterfield though!



We cycled back to the centre along quieter streets to see some more of Gaudi's architecture and ended up back at the bike rental shop in the dark. It is a good way to see a city.

Apart from looking at all the bike hire schemes which most European cities seem to have, this was the only bike riding we did. Our route took us from Paris to Barcelona overnight.

Ferry to Palma (Majorca), train and finally tram from Palma to Port de Soller. Our return trip was similar except we caught a daytime train from Figueras (just inside Spain) which is the end of the high speed line at the moment which is being built from France to Barcelona. A 14-coach double-deck Trains Grand Vitesse took just less than six hours to cover almost 1000 Km and arrived exactly on time.

FOSSIL FUEL TO PEDAL POWER

Transition Chesterfield's Fossil Fuel to Pedal Power project has gone very well and is now coming to the end of its current period of funding from Climate East Midlands.

Out of the project, 7 events around Chesterfield have been attended with a bicycle roadshow, including a Dr. Bike service at many of them, 3 people have gained a Bike Inn - Certificate of Attainment - professional bike mechanic qualification, 60 people have attended bike mechanic training led by these three; and most recently, 6 people have been working on building 2 cargo bikes in a workshop they have set up in a garage.

One bike - a 'postie' style bike will be finished in January, whilst the second more ambitious bike, more in keeping with the Larry Vs Harry 'Bullitt' will be finished in the next couple of months and you'll see them being used in Transition Chesterfield's activities.

Also through the project, 48 people have completed

cycle training sessions at levels from beginners to riding in busy traffic systems - Bikeability Levels 1-3 - delivered by Wheely Fun Wheels instructors.

To keep the FFtPP project running, the team would like to set up a community bike workshop, which might include



additional activities such as bike recycling. Funding or access to space is the current restraint.

Anyone able to offer space,

funding, or leads on opportunities, please contact Andy Holdaway. Email adholdaway@yahoo.co.uk or call 01246 210704

BRIMINGTON ROAD CYCLE LANES

In January, we were consulted by Derbyshire County Council about changes to the parking restrictions on Brimington Road, south of the railway bridge.

Since the closure of many nearby business, increasing parking capacity here was seen as an opportunity to relieve some of the pressure on Riverside Estate caused by railway users parking there.

Proposals included:

- removing the northbound on-road cycle lane and upgrading the pavement to a shared path
- allowing parking on the southbound side and marking the cycle lane along the outside of the parking bays.

Although the Campaign is not opposed to the use of well-designed shared paths, we highlighted the need to address the problems of conflict with turning traffic and the delays created by having to give-way several times. We also pointed

out the dangers of putting cycle lanes within the 'door zone' of parked cars.

Following an on-site meeting, it emerged that Brimington Road is due to be resurfaced soon and the contractors need information on relining.

This was seen as an opportunity to make these parking changes, but a short deadline and the complications of re-accommodating the cycle lanes means that the layout will now probably remain as it is.

Therefore, we have instead asked if the cycle lanes can be repainted to the standard defined in the Nottinghamshire Cycle Design Guide, recently adopted by DCC. This recommends a preferred width of 1.5 m and a minimum of 1.2 m.

NEW BIKE RACKS IN TOWN CENTRE

Chesterfield Borough Council approached the Campaign in January to ask our views on suitable locations for new bike racks around the town centre.

They have £1500 to spend from money gained through a Section 106 agreement associated with planning consent for the continued use of land for a car park at Spa Lane.

Our selections were extremely limited because the racks needed to be sited on CBC land, and most of the roads and pavements in the town fall under the remit of Derbyshire County Council. The Committee discussed the available options and reached a consensus very quickly.

Our choices, in order of preference are:

1. Glumangate: On the corner of Rose Hill outside the

Derbyshire Building Society.

2. New Beetwell Street: Near to the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the Yards.

3. Saltergate: At its junction with Elder Way, beside the Co-op Entrance.

4. Chatsworth Road: On the wide area of pavement between Lidl and the toucan crossing.

5. Packers Row: At its junction with Church Lane. This was an unpopular choice and strongly discouraged because it will obstruct the proposed Cycle Route 1 through the town centre.

The money was due to be available at the end of February.

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

EVENTS

April 20th, 6 pm: Bicycles, Vegetables and Cinema. Short bike ride at 6 pm followed by entertainment at Fig Tree Theatre, New Queen Street from 7 pm. £5.00 per person. Booking essential: only 25 places, contact the Secretary. Promoted by Wheely Fun Wheels.

May 7th, 10 am to 4 pm: May Day. Stall in Rykneld Square or the Winding Wheel to be announced. Campaign participation in the Parade starting from the Town Hall at 11 am.

June 16th – 24th: Bike Week

June 30th/July 1st: Canal Festival, Staveley Town Basin with Campaign stall, volunteers needed.

July 8th: Inkerman Park event with Campaign stall.

August 27th: Chesterfield Green Fair with Campaign stall.

September 22nd: World Car Free Day (Will you notice in Chesterfield?)

October 6th: Cycle in Style. part of Chatsworth Road Festival.

TUAG RESUMES

On 23rd January, the Transport Users Accessibility Group (TUAG) had its first meeting in nearly two years, after being disbanded following the local elections in 2010.

The Group brought together representatives from Community Forums, Cycle Campaign, bus users, Living Streets, Rail Future and Campaign for Better Transport

as well as a number of councillors.

The first meeting's discussion mainly centred around parking in the town and ideas for the future provision of parking. The Secretary also raised the issue of the cycle stands that East Midlands Trains installed as a condition of their car park planning permission, but which have since been removed.

GET INVOLVED!

Campaign Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm at the Town Hall in Chesterfield. The next meetings are on 13th March, 10th April, 8th May and 12th June.

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.

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.