

# Chesterfield Cycle Campaign



## Campaign Update

Number 34 Winter 2005



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

Affiliated to the CTC and the Cycle Campaign Network

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## CAMPAIGN CHAT

The signalisation of the Chatsworth Road/Old Road junction is taking place. Whilst not including any cycle crossings it should make 'on road' cycling safer.

Representatives of the Campaign have been involved in a 'scoping exercise' about the old Robinsons site at Walton Works. This is to be a residential development. The exercise looked at the whole Hipper corridor from Boythorpe Road to Walton Dam identifying assets and producing a concept statement of design principles for the area. Of particular concern to the Campaign is the possible increase in traffic along Goyt Side, part of the Hipper Valley route. It is hoped that a better quality route will be developed in this area.

The biggest news is the receipt of the planning application for the old Donkin site off Derby Road. Whilst the main plan is for an enormous DIY store, included with it is a new 'urban park' running along the old railway line from Park Road to Hipper Street South. This will have a cycleway running through with links to Derby Road and a Toucan Crossing to go on to Hasland (see Regular Rides). Most of the footpaths will also be shared routes and the Campaign will work to get this linked to the Rother

Washlands route. On the planning application the old railway line is clearly marked 'future cycle route to station'. This is a long term goal of the Campaign and once complete would form a superb cycling network to the west of Chesterfield with a level route to the station and Trans Pennine Trail.

The new version of the Cycling Map of Chesterfield is making progress. The Campaign is hoping to arrange rides along sections of cycle routes to check signage etc whilst compiling the new map. Details of rides will appear on the website or check with the secretary.

The Campaign is also looking for members to 'adopt' an area. This would be an informal arrangement with the member reporting any problems to a coordinator for action. Again we are looking for volunteers!

The secretary recently attended a seminar about the Chesterfield Canal. Whilst not directly involving cycling there was a presentation about the development alongside Brimington Road bringing the canal to a new basin at the side of the old Trebor factory. This will extend the cycle route along the canal avoiding the cycle lanes on Brimington Road.

The next Campaign meeting on Tuesday December 13th will be held in The Market public house (in New Square very close to our normal venue) for a seasonal get together.

There would be good cycle connections from the station area. One other piece of news is that Tapton Terrace will remain.

Building work should start on the canal basin area by 2008. Although it is anybody's guess when the canal will be finished.

As many of you will be aware the Chesterfield section of the canal is cut off from the rest of the network. For the missing section of canal near the Rother Valley Country Park it was suggested there could be a landmark boat lift, something like the Falkirk Wheel (3rd most popular tourist attraction in Scotland), to attract tourists to the area. Chesterfield would be a good railhead for cycle tourists of course.

There is little progress on the extension of the Hipper Valley Route to Holymoorside. We understand that there is a problem with one land owner over whose land the route would run being worried about creeping urbanisation. The Campaign will raise this matter at the Chesterfield Cycle Liaison meeting in January at the town hall.

Cyclists Dismount signs have appeared either side of the Queens Park bridge. We hope that cycle lane markings will soon appear along Boythorpe Road, linking the Toucan crossings.

## Events

At the last Campaign meeting we discussed organising two 'family' rides during 2006. One to include some of the works of art on the Chesterfield Art Trail. The second along the Trans Pennine Trail alongside the Chesterfield Canal.

More details and dates will be published in the March Update or see the website.

The Campaign is planning to run stalls in town during the May Day celebrations and Bike Week. We may combine a Dr Bike event at Tapton Lock Visitors Centre (during Bike Week) with the family ride along the TPT.

The Friends of the Queens Park are running an event on 8th April and have asked the Campaign if they would provide a display.

Members of the Sheffield Cycle Campaign 'Pedal Pushers' are hoping to visit our meeting on 14th March. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided with some mutual discussion.

## Web site

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

## Other cycling and campaigning news

European Car Free day was yet again not well supported in this country. Sheffield did have an event although it was fairly low key. Portobello Road near West Street has been permanently shut off to traffic and there was an event called 'In Town Without My Car'. Your reporter went along in the morning to see a bio fuel bus, a minibus with rear lift and various exhibitors. The only interesting bikes in evidence were an electric bike and a static trainer. There was a talk about climate change later. I understand that it was better attended in the afternoon. I came away with a frisbee (given to me by 'care4air') and a feeling it could have been better!



Derby has been confirmed by Cycling England as one of six 'Cycling Demonstration Towns' that will share £17m over three years! Derby will receive £500,000 in the first year. The funds will pay for infrastructure and cycle training and promotion.

If you have access to the internet this flyer (right) can be downloaded from the Bristol Cycle Campaign. Print some off and get the children or yourselves to colour them in!

[www.bristolcyclingcampaign.org.uk/resources/](http://www.bristolcyclingcampaign.org.uk/resources/)

The Campaign has received details of the Derbyshire Greenwatch Awards 2006. This is open to individuals, community groups etc who have worked on a project to improve the local environment. In the past the Campaign has won awards for Dr Bike scheme and the cycling map.

If you are interested in finding out more there is a website;

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/greenwatch](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/greenwatch)

or ring 0845 605 8058.

A one mile cycle track in Cambridgeshire has been fitted with solar powered road studs. As there are no street lights they help light the path. There are more than 200 of the Oxfordshire made studs.

The government wants to widen the M1 from Leicester to Leeds and from the M25 to Luton at a cost of over £3 billion. If you disagree with this ring 07896 264 519 or see the website for more details.  
[www.nowideningm1.org.uk](http://www.nowideningm1.org.uk)



### Update distribution

The Campaign has a network of several volunteers who distribute the update when it is published quarterly. We are currently looking for volunteers in the Holymoorside (4 newsletters) and Walton (6 newsletters) areas. Please contact the secretary if you could help.

### Cover picture

The trike is hand made by Malcom Veale who is based at Meersbrook, Sheffield.

He has made several recumbent, carrying machines which are used for any number of purposes - people carrying, straw bales, camping equipment etc etc [www.trikes4transport.co.uk](http://www.trikes4transport.co.uk) are a local community group who ride the trikes to show that you don't need the infernal petrol engine if you want to carry weight around. They go to local festival's to promote cycling and bigger festivals where they provide an environmentally efficient load carrying service. (a full car's worth of camping equipment on the back of a trike).

The trikes are made from recycled bike parts where ever possible and the frame is of steel construction. They are light - on average 25 - 30 kg's and use standard gears, brakes etc so that spare parts can always be easily sourced.

One project that is currently commissioned is a passenger carrying trike with a bionx ([www.bionx.ca](http://www.bionx.ca)) electric motor to act as a pedal assist. Hopefully this will enable other not so confident or not so capable cyclists to enjoy the joys of recumbent cycling.

The picture was taken at Heeley City Farm, Sheffield during the building of a straw bale animal shelter.

## A family cycling holiday

In August this year my wife and I and our two children aged 6 & 9 were invited to a wedding in Leicester. As an alternative to the packed M1 we decided to use trains and bikes.

My wife used her Dutch Batavus, which tows our trailer bike for the six year old. I used my Brompton towing a Radical Cydone trailer. This is like a large bag to which you attach the wheels and tow bar. Our nine year old was on his own bike.

For the first part of our journey we caught the train from Chesterfield to Derby. Midland Main Line HST so loads of bike storage. From Derby we set off on Sustrans route 6, initially a bit confused until we picked up a sign not far from the station. The route out of Derby is very easy, off road on tarmac paths. It follows the route of an old canal. Just slight downhill sections as you go through the old locks!

Eventually you join the active canal towpath and cycle alongside the canal for a few miles. The children finding this good fun as the canal was busy. After a short steep climb up onto an old railway trackbed you cross the Trent on a long bridge. The next few miles whilst very pleasant became rather boring for the children as we were in a cutting for most of the time.

This was relieved by a long steep climb past a quarry!

There then followed a few miles of undulating lanes. This ended in another steep climb into Shepshed where we had booked into a small hotel. Much to the childrens relief after 18 miles.

The next morning the Batavus had a flat tyre! Luckily there was an old fashioned bike shop opposite who had a 28" tube (I did have a spare, but repaired, so thought a new tube was a good bet).

The first part was again off road on tarmac. We then came into Loughborough where the route runs alongside the A6 for miles. Although I thought this would be awful we all enjoyed the change from the day before. The A6 eventually veers off and the route follows what was the A6 but is now a B road through a couple of villages. We stopped at an open farm for lunch which had a museum of old transport items and animals for the children to hold and feed.

After cycling alongside a very noisy and busy dual carriageway we cut off to join the path alongside the canal passing the National Space Centre and then through Abbey Park into Leicester.

The route was well signed throughout, we didn't need any of the maps we had brought.

On the way back we cycled out of Leicester and caught the steam train to Loughborough then Midland Main Line back to Chesterfield.

This time a Meridian unit so not so easy to get the bikes in!

## Regular Rides

Where is your regular ride in the Chesterfield area? Perhaps you could share it with us: tell us where the route could be improved etc.

Here is one of our members regular rides:

Ashgate to Hasland

Across the Inkerman and along quiet roads to Old Hall Road. Turn right into Springfield Ave and then down to the Holmebrook Valley route by the gas holders. Then go round West Bars roundabout on the cycle track and Toucan crossings. The one across Wheatbridge road always takes ages to change! Across Boythorpe Road and along the Queens Park cycleway (first half badly surfaced). Onto Park Road turning right into Ravenside Retail Park. Up to the end dodging cars to go down the side of PC World and under the tiny tunnel to follow the path alongside the River Hipper to Derby Road. This is now the most dangerous bit, crossing Derby Road near Frankie & Benny's. Then under the railway bridge on the old road, usually a lot of debris and on up the hill (my son hates it!) until we get to the bit with a service road alongside. We cycle up that and then into Hasland to our destination - Eastwood Park. Coming back we try to establish a speed record down hill!

## Local News

The statue of George Stephenson was unveiled at the railway station on 28th October. The railway station is also the start of the Trans Pennine Trail. The Campaign has asked about the magnificent empty TPT notice board at the station - we understand there will eventually be a TPT display in it.



The campaign would like to compile a 'wish' list of new routes and missing links. Do you have anything you would like to add? If so come along to one of the meetings or contact us by e mail

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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;           13th December  
  10th January  
  14th February  
  14th March

**Chesterfield shops giving a discount to campaign members**

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Organic Heaven  
Theatre Yard

J E James Cydes  
Whittington Moor

Cross Country  
Cydes  
Clay Cross

Astir Cydes  
Mansfield

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

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

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