

CHESTERFIELD CYCLE CAMPAIGN



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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CAMPAIGN CHAT

Action Housing Fun Day, 15th August: The Campaign was contacted at short notice and asked to attend this event in the Queen's Park. Some new members were signed up and we also gave out cycling information.

A new mural has been painted on the bridge supports at **Queen's Park**, brightening up the cycle lane which passes behind the café.

The new cycle lane through the former **Bryan Donkin site**, along the alignment of the old railway track appears to be complete but is currently fenced off. At the moment there doesn't seem to be any progress on the link to Park Road beyond tree clearance. The Campaign considers this link to be an essential part of the scheme because it will connect with the Hipper Valley Trail into Queen's Park.

On Sunday 7th September, a ride from **Holymoorside to Matlock** was organised by one of our members. Five cyclists took part, stopping for lunch at

the Greenway Café in Matlock. They had good weather on the way out, but rain on the return journey.

The Campaign held its **Annual General Meeting** on 9th September at the Market Hall. Most of the existing committee members were re-elected with the exception of the post of Treasurer. Philip Leedham has taken over from Barry Kay.

The **Hipper Valley Trail** extension has hit delays, despite optimism from Derbyshire County Council that work on the route would be starting soon. There are still many issues to be resolved, especially with some landowners and further meetings have been arranged to discuss these problems as well as the crossing of Somersall Lane.

September 22nd was **European Car Free Day**. The day began with an informal cyclists' breakfast outside Organic Heaven at 8 am. Later, members installed a new cycle rack at Chesterfield Law Centre, funded by the Campaign. At 5 pm a

Critical Mass Ride took place in the town centre with 26 cyclists taking part.

Maintenance and improvement work to a 4 Km section of the **Trans Pennine Trail** has taken place between Miners' Crossing (just south of the A6135 road bridge) and the county boundary at Beigton. Beginning in mid-September, the work was due to take eight weeks and should now be finished.

On 28th September, the planned **ride to Rother Valley** had to be cancelled due to the temporary closure of the Trans Pennine Trail.

Some of you may have noticed difficulties in getting through the **traffic lights** at the junction of Stephenson Place, Knifsmithgate and Cavendish Street. The detectors, which sense the approach of traffic, were not sensitive enough to reliably detect bicycles resulting in some very long waits at red! Having reported the problem to Chesterfield Borough Council, they sent out an engineer within a couple of days to adjust the sensitivity. Early experience seems to indicate that the problem has now been fixed and

traffic light response is very good, especially at quiet times.

Five members attended the **Illustrated Lecture** at the Winding Wheel on the 8th October. Rob Lilwall presented 'Cycling Home from Siberia', an account of his thirty thousand mile ride which took thirty seven months to complete.

The new health centre on **Wheatbridge Road** is just about to open called @Wheatbridge. There are a number of Sheffield stands at the front and a covered bike rack as you go into the car park at the rear. There is a barrier to stop through traffic from Dock Walk as the Campaign requested in our planning reply.

CAMPAIGN SOCIAL

The next Campaign meeting will be a social gathering at the Portland Hotel. Cycle parking is available adjacent to the building and everyone is welcome!

Portland Hotel
December 9th from 7.30pm

BRIMINGTON ROAD, TAPTON

Since we reported on the alterations to Brimington Road cycle lanes near to Tapton Terrace in the Autumn issue, further work has been carried out elsewhere on this road. Lanes are now in place on virtually the whole length of the road, apart from a short discontinuity on both sides around Swaddale Avenue, Lockoford Lane and Paxton Road.

Some elements of the scheme are very good, particularly the lane width which gives the cyclist plenty of room and encourages cars to pass at a comfortable distance. On the bend by the railway bridge the cycle lanes join the pavement, as before, but the lane on the inside has been widened and the one on the outside has been partially resurfaced.



Other aspects, though, are disappointing. In particular, the cycle lane becomes excessively narrow as it passes a central refuge near to Paxton Road. This is forcing the cyclists closer to



the gutter (leaving no 'escape room') and encouraging cars to squeeze past without significantly reducing their speed. Cycle lanes marked with dashed lines are advisory, so a car may enter them when it is safe to do so. A better approach would have been to continue the lane at a consistent width so that the cyclist can maintain the same line and drivers must slow down and wait behind until there is enough room to pass safely.

On the bend by the railway bridge, the partial resurfacing

mentioned above is very welcome but the entire stretch of on-pavement lane both sides was in a dreadful condition and in need of resurfacing. It must have been obvious that this was the case when new markings were painted over the broken surface which still remains.

Heading north, the lane ends just before the junction with the A619. All traffic except buses must turn left here towards Sainsbury's roundabout, so any cyclist heading in this direction would have been better off turning down Lockoford Lane towards the A619 toucan crossing. A useful development for the future would be to permit cyclists to use the bus gate and turn right at this junction. The campaign has offered this suggestion to Derbyshire County Council.

CAMPAIGN ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts for 2007/2008 were presented at the Campaign's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 9th September 2008, and showed a healthy balance of £1,308.59, a surplus over the year of £477.89.

Copies of the annual statement of account are available from the Campaign Treasurer.

Total membership at the AGM stood at 290.

CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY

The Critical Mass cyclists, mentioned in our Campaign Chat on page 2, appeared in Chesterfield Borough Council's Borough Bulletin alongside an article about the event. To see the picture and read the full story, visit our website at:

www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk

FREE YOUR BIKE!

Sustrans is offering a free information pack about cycling in your local region, to help you get out and about by bike. To claim yours, fill in the form on their website at:

www.freeyourbike.org.uk



MEETING WITH DERBYSHIRE CC

Barry Kay met with Paul Robinson, NE Area Traffic & Safety Manager on 23rd September. The meeting took place on site to examine changing the shared cycle route on lower Boythorpe Road (Dock Walk to Wheatbridge Road) to a segregated route.

After walking over the route Mr Robinson agreed to examine the proposal in detail - certain footway and signage modifications will be necessary to enable this to go ahead. This meeting was a follow up of a previous written request by the Campaign.

Further issues were discussed at the same meeting :-

1. Brimington Road/Tapton cycle lanes and particularly access through the bus gate at the Brimington Road/A619 junction.
2. The replacing of 'Cyclists Dismount' signs by 'Cyclists

give way to Pedestrians' signs. This had been refused by the DCC in the past because it was not considered by them to be a standard sign, our request was supported by copies of prints of such signs from the internet.

3. The introduction of Advance Stop boxes at traffic signals at two locations on West Bars (at the main junction by the Lidl store and outside the postal sorting office).

Letters, documents and drawings accompanied all these submissions so there could no doubt by the DCC officers of the location and scope of the proposals.

ACCESSIBILITY STUDY

The Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire Accessibility Study, held at Derbyshire County Council offices in Matlock on 25th September, was attended by Campaign members Paul Balderson and Barry Kay.

Chesterfield Borough Council was represented by Mark Shewring and Bolsover by Matt Conley. Sustrans was also represented. The Meeting was chaired by Jim Seymore (DCC) and Matt Reynolds (DCC)

provided the plan.

A master plan of Chesterfield was presented on which most, but not all, existing cycle routes were already shown. Strategic routes were then marked on the plan to show desire lines for future routes to shops, schools, places of work, libraries, hospitals and surgeries and so on.

Barry stressed the need for cycle routes to local shopping areas rather than to out of town supermarkets, but was criticised as this was considered to be

'social engineering' and outside the remit of the meeting. We also asked for some idea of the timescale of introduction of the works required, for instance 5 years or 10 years. Jim Seymore stated that it was not possible to give any timescale.

Since the meeting Barry Kay has requested a copy of the plan so that it can be updated by the Campaign to show all currently-used cycle routes.

The next meeting is to be held on 8th December, 2008.

BICYCLE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP

This Workshop, which took place on 25th October, was organised as part of a Transition Town initiative series of local workshops to promote self sufficiency in the community.

Cycle Campaign members Alastair Meikle, Barry Kay and Paul Eyre (under the guise of Dr Bike) ran the 2 hour session.

Member Bill Leverett also attended as a participant. A total of five people attended with their bikes, and followed a talk-through on each aspect of

routine cycle maintenance from puncture repairs to brake and gear adjustment, as well as wheel cones and seat/handlebar adjustment.

Individual attention was given to each cycle as needed.

Thanks due to John and Alison Newton permitting us to use their large garage at Walton.

WANTED

Cycling clothing for male, 5 foot 7,
36 inch chest, 30 inside leg.
Anything considered. **Tim 211961**

EAST MIDLANDS CYCLE FORUM

The latest forum was hosted by Cyclelincs, Lincoln's cycle campaign group, on 27th September. Four Chesterfield Campaign members, Barry and Pam Kay, Joe Clark and Chris Allen travelled there by bike and train.

A talk with slides was presented outlining the successes (and a few failures) with the cycle infrastructure in Lincoln.

A brief information film was shown about the cycle-lift in Trondheim, Norway where individual cyclists can climb a steep hill in the town by placing their right foot on a moving conveyor-type escalator which assists them and their bike up the hill! Such a lift would be ideal for Lincoln's Cathedral hill or even Bolsover or Hady!!

The forum then split into three workshops to discuss and present cycle successes, and wish-lists in their own areas.

After lunch, at 2pm the members divided into two groups. The route went along marina water fronts over bridges, along park paths, on

quiet roads and city centre on-road routes, to arrive back after 10 miles to the station at 4pm. A well organised and disciplined ride! The weather was also excellent.

Much Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire ride publicity material was available, and the main campaigning points gathered were:

- The use of mandatory cycle lanes.
- Cycle lockers - self lockable at all rural stations.
- Level-engineered transfer points from road to footpath.
- No barriers on cycle routes.

BIKES ON TRAINS

A petition has been started on the Number 10 website seeking to require train operators to provide an integrated system for the carriage of bicycles and ensure there is adequate capacity available.

Register your support here:
petitions.number10.gov.uk/bikes-on-trains/

AIR QUALITY SEMINAR

Following the public meeting on this matter on Tuesday, 7th October, 2008, a Seminar was held at the Town Hall on Thursday 9th. The Campaign was asked to send representatives and Barry Kay and Charles Brown attended. Charles also represented 'Living Streets', the pedestrian campaign.

The presentation dealt with the need to reduce air pollution (mostly due to motor vehicles) on the Chatsworth Road, Brimington Road and Derby Road corridors. These roads have been scientifically measured, and contoured to show where levels of pollution (Nitrogen Dioxide) are in excess of 40mg and 36mg per sq. metre,

The Borough Council wish to see the level of pollution brought down to below 40mg - we asked why not below 36mg? There seems to be no reason apart from the fact that to achieve 40mg is going to be a real struggle. The only way is to remove half the internal combustion engine motor traffic from these roads and replace with bicycles, horses and carts, trams and electric vehicles!

The Borough Council was represented by: Darren West (Head of Planning), John Peck (Service Manager, Pollution Control) and Catherine Jacobs (Scientific Officer). Suggestions were requested from the public and the consultation continued until end of October, 2008.

HARVEST SWAP

Over 100 Chesterfield residents, including several campaign members, enjoyed a special 'Harvest Swap' event in September, organised by the Hunloke Community Garden and Transition Chesterfield. The aim of the afternoon was for people to swap surplus home produce. Other attractions included the pedal-powered smoothie maker from Wheely Fun Wheels, the Brampton Community Band, a photo exhibition, teas and cake from the Hunloke Community garden, and the last of the summer sunshine! A seed swap event is planned for the spring time.

CONTRADICTIONARY MOVES BY CBC

Chesterfield Borough Council seems to be following conflicting policies where issues such as transport and climate change are concerned.

On the one hand there is written support of initiatives like European Car Free Day with their website declaring "*22 September 2008 ... is to help highlight the pollution caused by cars, not just the fumes but the whole cycle of waste and disruption, the noise, delayed journeys, the whole human misery caused by traffic congestion and car pollution.*" This issue is emphasised by the town's current air quality problems reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

Yet, on the other hand, it is promoting two new car parking offers. The first is free car parking for shoppers who visit before 10 am or after 3 pm, which must surely exacerbate what are already busy times for traffic. The second is a discount for anyone spending over £20 at the Co-op who can produce a ticket from the Saltergate multi-storey car park.

The Campaign feels that a more coherent approach would be to promote initiatives which increase levels of walking, cycling and public transport usage. For instance, discounts on production of bus tickets and publicity highlighting cycle routes and parking places.

When asked, the Council explained that it relies on car parking revenue to help balance its books.

Whilst this issue is understandable, an income stream which relies on promoting car travel surely cannot be sustained for long in these times of greater climate awareness and in the face of Chesterfield's pollution and congestion problems.

Welcome to new members

Guy & Megan Cook
and family Ashgate
Ray & Rita
Woodhead Brockwell
Caroline Ball Brimington
Desmond Norton Eckington

CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE

A Community Climate Action Conference, organised by Jessie Marcham (Campaign member) as part of Everybody's Talking About Climate Change, took place in Bakewell on 15th October. Members of the Campaign Barry and Pam Kay, and Andy Holdaway attended - Andy cycling there whilst the lesser mortals went by bus!

Speakers were Jerome Baddley, Nottingham Energy Partnership, Esther Jones, High Peak CVS, and Dr Hugh Ellis of Friends of the Earth. Subjects covered included Peak oil, climate change, renewable energy projects, funding for community groups, and the Torrs Hydro-project at New Mills.

The Cycle Campaign had a small display, and sold a few items; mugs, maps and so on.

Following an excellent lunch the conference divided into various workshops, one of which covered 'Transport - modal shift for reducing carbon emissions'. This brought out the frustrations of those present with high public transport fares, routing of country bus services, bikes on trains and buses, a more extensive postbus service as well 'corridor' buses with feeder services.

Other workshops covered various aspects of climate change, proposals for funding, action and more.

After a final summary the conference wound up with the delegates departing, hopefully inspired, to their various destinations which included; Chesterfield , Bakewell, Buxton, Matlock and Wirksworth.

Chair	Joe Clark
Vice Chair	Chris Allen
Secretary	Alastair Meikle, 01246 520820 secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk
Treasurer	Philip Leedham
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 13th January, 10th February, 10th March and 14th April.

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.