

Chesterfield Cycle Campaign

Campaign Update

Number 36 Summer 2006



www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk

Affiliated to the CTC and the Cycle Campaign Network

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CAMPAIGN CHAT

BIKE WEEK 17-25 JUNE 2006

The Campaign has had its mobile information stand at two recent events.

Firstly at the Friends of the Queens Park 'Spring into the Park' event on April 8th. With the info stand set up and Dr Bike in his surgery members of the Campaign supervised members of the public trying out our 'wacky bikes' and sold tickets for rides behind model traction engines. Despite the blustery weather turning into a hailstorm in the afternoon we had a busy day and raised over £50 for the Campaign.

Our second event was the May Day celebration held in New Square. This time we only had the information stall but had much interest and managed to recruit some new members. The Campaigns stand also hosted the 'NowideningM1' Campaign:

www.nowideningm1.org.uk



The Campaigns stand arriving on two bike trailers for May Day

On March 14th two members of the Sheffield Cycle Campaign 'Pedal Pushers' came along to join in our meeting having left some of their colleagues at the Derby Tup!

We had a pleasant evenings discussion about how our two Campaigns meet the challenge of promoting cycling.

Incidentally the Sheffield Campaign has about 250 members, Derby has 500 and Chesterfield has about 130

At our last monthly meeting we discussed the introduction of Standing Orders for the yearly subscription. The Treasurer is investigating how it is set up and we hope to be able to introduce this shortly.

Not much news of new schemes this quarter. One amendment that may produce something useful is for the extension of the Ravenside Retail Park (P C World etc). This is going to be

extended to the East from P C World to the SCS furniture store knocking down the buildings on Hipper Street South. Originally the pedestrian path down the side of P C World was going to disappear but it has now been reinstated with an art work. The bike park will be at the end of this path but at the moment it is not designated a cycle path. Once the new DIY store is built on the old Donkin site with its cycleways this will be a good way in to these shops.

Also notified to the Campaign are several amendments to parking restrictions around the town. These include a major scheme on the streets near the football ground requiring residents to purchase parking permits for their cars and visitors.

Our quest to produce an updated cycle map of Chesterfield is on hold at the moment. The 'Cycle City Guide' mentioned in the previous newsletter was eventually costed at £8500. The Campaigns committee felt that this was too big an amount to commit to. There is a possibility that DCC may be able to help with the map database and we await their decision. In the meantime we continue to discuss how we could produce the map ourselves. The main problem being that if we overprint existing mapping we have to pay for this.

The Secretary recently met Dawn Bryan the DCC NE area Traffic officer to discuss cycle lanes in the Boythorpe Road/Dock Walk area. Very little was achieved due to lack of money but it is hoped that better signing of the diverging routes here will be provided.

Other matters discussed with her were the possible widening of the footpath off Westfield Close, Brampton now that a new housing development is taking place, not possible apparently despite the fact that this would provide a good strategic route and the beginning of a cycle route linking the three schools in this area.

An addition of a cycle phase to the traffic lights at the top of Linden Avenue has also been rejected despite this being a dangerous and badly designed crossing for cyclists. This could provide a safe crossing of the busy Chatsworth Road for children going to the same three local schools.

We are pleased to say that lockers are now available at the coach station. Reports from users suggest it is better to back your bike in due to the shape of the lockers.

After a meeting with CBC the Campaign has learnt that it might be possible for the Rother Washlands route to be extended to Homs Bridge on the east side of the railway line.

Through Routes/Regular Rides Described

Rather than a descriptive form this quarters route is in map form

Local News

Next to the Campaigns stall at the May Day event there was a Pashley tricycle selling fresh fruit, make your own salad run by David Rasen. After a chat we found out that he has just started and is in Chesterfield Market three times a week. He is looking for business opportunities if anyone can help:

David@Initialnutrition.co.uk

Update distribution

Volunteer still needed to distribute the newsletter in the Walton area. Once a quarter to deliver to seven addresses.

Cover photo

The Vice Chair emerges from the 'Flowerpot' to find his Brompton - see opposite



Derby event

On May 6th Campaign members were invited by the Derby Cyding Group to an East Midlands get together. The purpose of this was to learn more about the aims of Derby as a Cyding Demonstration Town.

Delegates were met at Derby station and had an escorted ride to the 'Flowerpot', our venue. Three of our members went by train, two others car part way then bike.

There were about 25 other participants from all over the East Midlands present who heard an interesting talk by John Stubbs of the Derby Group. After a question and answer session we had lunch in the pub.

The morning had glorious weather but as we emerged after lunch for our cycle tour around Derby it started to rain! After a few minutes cycling it turned into a downpour.

Whilst out for our two hour tour we were shown various parts of the Derby cycle network. It did stop raining and we had dried out by the time we got back to the station.

We learnt that most of the money (£1.5m from Cyding England matched by £1.5m from Derby over three years) will be spent on cycle training. In fact that is 'only' £0.5m per year of new money.

Other Campaigning

Did you know that Merseyrail are the only UK railway company to allow free cycle access and carriage at all times of the day?

Members with children might be interested to know that if a school has a School Travel Plan there are grants available to provide infrastructure. At the moment a junior school can claim about £5000 and a senior school up to £10,000.

A CTC employee recently boarded a South West train with a cardboard cut out bike during peak time when 'proper' bikes are banned to highlight the ill conceived ban! Other bulky items such as cardboard shaped as a bike are allowed.

You may remember the CTC 'Benchmarking' exercise in Chesterfield reported on in the last newsletter. The results of the nationwide benchmarking exercise are gradually been put on the web. By the time you read this the Midlands study should be on there.

www.ctc.org.uk

(click 'Benchmarking')

Future Events

On June 10th members of the Campaign will be running a 'Dr Bike' session at Westfield School Brampton. This is only for pupils of the school.

As part of the Staveley Feast we have been asked to have a presence at the Poolsbrook Country Park Fun Run on June 18th. No details yet whether it will just be our info stall or 'Dr Bike' as well.

The Campaign has been asked to have a Dr Bike session at Tipton Lock Visitors Centre on Sunday June 25th. We shall also be taking our info stand. This coincides with a cycle run organised by DCC taking in the Trans Pennine Trail from Rother Valley Country Park and the Five Pits Trail. Volunteers needed as always!

The next DCC Cycle Liaison Group meeting that the Campaign will attend is being held on July 12th at County Hall Matlock.

Web site

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

A Modest Proposal

with apologies to Dean Jonathon Swift

Are we British a nation only of animal lovers? Does our preference for furred and feathered friends preclude a concern for our fellow humans? This is debatable.

What is not debatable, is our concern for crested newt, endangered toads, and the object of this enquiry, - the hedgehog. We divert motorways to leave ponds for their occupiers. We incorporate tunnels under carriageways for spawning toads, we warn our fellow motorists to beware fornicating frogs. But the worst hit, the most prominently displayed victim, the hedgehog, - gets nothing. Nothing that is, save for a very public concern, expressed in the letter pages of our "quality press", and more doubtfully, by our coarser type of comedian, who allude to the two dimensional attributes of so much of our hedgehog population, as if it were a matter of public hilarity. Well, no protected passages for those unfortunates perhaps, but, as they say, any news is good news, and perhaps we can build on this outpouring of public concern to lift the perceptions of human kind to a state where they can think of something other than their own self interest. Perhaps their suffering is yet the answer to their prayer. That the very publicity will be their salvation. We'll see.

But beyond the problem of the hedgehog, what of future road safety issues. What can the hedgehog tell us of our needs as cyclists? Can the heroic sel

sacrifice of these intrepid failures, which give our roads wall to wall flattened fauna, provide lessons for us? Surely so!

Why are dead cyclists not written about in our newspapers? Why don't comedians advance our case by their callous indifferences? Our cause is as killed by their silence, as our bodies are killed by the juggernauts. Why so? Must we think the unthinkable? Is it because they don't know? Why don't they know?

Unpalatable though the idea seems at first sight, we must face the question of how it is that they can go through life not knowing.

Many things in the human experience show contradictory attributes. Things which are, and yet not are. Things where the present, the past, and the future are subsumed within one another to the clouding of our understanding. But enough abstraction. The plain fact is that we are aware of newts, toads, and hedgehogs, not because of any preference by our fellows for them as against us, but because - THEY ARE THERE! We don't scoop them up, we wear them away, - and it takes time. Time, in which their mute witness to their plight, is a reminder that SPEED KILLS.

Eureka, - this is the answer. They get the publicity because they aren't rescued. Because they aren't "rescued", - as we are - into oblivion, somowed only by immediate friend and family.

Let us end the invisibility of the victim, from public casualty to private sorrow in 20 minutes. Let us rather expose the problem, as the victims of the Hiroshima bomb unwittingly did, - their milli-seconds of erect life before the heat vaporised them, leaving indelible shadows of less scorched pavement where they had stood. An eternal reminder of a man made Pompeii.

Let us strive for their conspicuousness, their refusal to lie down in spirit, if not in physical presence. Let us do our piece!

The rub, - charity begins at home!

I resolve, - to bin my donor card, - what's the use anyway - an eight foot long, 2 micron thick, kidney is of use neither to man nor beast. Henceforth, my inseparable companion will be a letter, declaring:-

To Whom it may concern:-

No meat wagon, no hearse, no flowers to mark my demise. Just leave me, just b-bump over, - But give the next rider more room.

Joe Clark



Memorial to four cyclists killed by a motorist in Blyth.

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01629 580000 ext 7695
dawn.bryan@derbyshire.gov.uk

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;

13th June, 11th July, 8th August, 12th Sept

Chesterfield shops giving a discount to campaign members

Organic Heaven
Theatre Yard

J E James Cydes
Whittington Moor

Cross Country
Cydes
Clay Cross

Astir Cydes
Mansfield

Next newsletter will be published in September, any articles for inclusion to the secretary by 1st August 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 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