



Newsletter

The Cycle Campaign Group
for Warwick, Leamington
and
Kenilworth

May 2013

Next Meeting

Tuesday, 14th May at
7.30p.m.

Café Rouge (upstairs)

Regent Street

Leamington Spa

Everyone Welcome

Welcome!

Welcome to our May newsletter. It is steadily get lighter and warmer. A good time get out on your bike and come to our next meeting on Tuesday the 14th of May at 7.30p.m. upstairs at the Café Rouge in Leaming-

ton. At the next meeting you can hear about the Cycle Forum which took place on the 8th of May - there was good news about K2L and the Myton Road extension. Looking forward, the Peace Festival is on the

15/16th June. Come along to the meeting to put your ideas or volunteer (or e-mail the editor).

I hope to see you at the meeting.

Tony

“Tyranny of the Cycletrack”?

The Spectator magazine has published a highly critical article on the new Kenilworth Greenway, entitled the Tyranny of the cycle track. It bitterly complains of tarmacking over a tranquil green footpath, and the behaviour of the “lycra louts”. The CTC has written a suitable response, and I suspect that Sustrans will do likewise.

To an extent I sympathize with the journalist’s response particularly in regard to the use of the greenway for time trials (I take her word for it that it happens)

which evidently isn’t suitable for a universal leisure amenity. But of course it was once a mainline railway and the journalist’s view is definitely coloured by her memories of picking blackberries on the long hot summer days of her childhood. With the same nostalgic rose-tinted spectacles I could bemoan the loss of the safe lightly trafficked road system that allowed me to cycle with impunity wherever I wanted from an early age. Of course nowadays many adults won’t even venture on the road themselves and certainly wouldn’t allow

their children to. A facility like the Greenway may have flaws, but as a safe off-road cycling route accessible from a town centre (i.e no need to drive to it to cycle) it is sadly unusual but undoubtedly valuable for our children and everyone else (including the lycra louts). The article was printed in the Spectator magazine on the 27th of April and can be found on their website if you would like to read it (search for Kenilworth).

Tony



Morrisons—What do you think?

The cycle facilities at Morrisons (Ford Foundry site) are more or less complete. What do you think? We had a lot of discussions with the Council and developer over the treatment of the junctions. It did not turn exactly as we would have wanted, but is it OK, are there any significant flaws or improvements that could be made? We would like your opinion so we can feed back to the County Council. So please either come to the next meeting or e-mail your comments to cicleways.editor@googlemail.com.

WEBSITE: www.warwickcicleways.org.uk



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The Cycle Campaign
Group for Leamington,
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If you have any comments
on the content of the Cy-
cleways newsletter, or
would like to make a contri-
bution to the next one,
please e-mail:

cycleways.editor@googlemail.com

or call the normal number.

Information

When and where are meetings?

We meet between once a month or every other month depending on what is going on. The meetings are usually on a Wednesday, at Café Rouge in Regent Street, Leamington at 7:30pm. Call for details of the next meeting. We typically have 5-15 people at meetings. Additional meetings are arranged at various homes when required.

Subscriptions?

To show their support people are invited to contribute £5 annually (per household) annually in October, with an optional £2.00 for the K2L campaign. If you are due to renew, a notice will be attached to your newsletter. Please consider paying your subscription by standing order. You won't forget it and we don't have to run around chasing subscriptions.

Is Cycleways connected to any other organisations?

Some members are in the CTC Cyclists' Rights Network which provides good technical and campaigning advice. SALRUA - to help encourage provision for cycles on trains and stations. We also support Sustrans, Transport 2000 and the Slower Speeds Initiative.

When did Cycleways start?

The **Cycleways** group started in 1991 and has over 100 supporters.

Benefits

Supporters receive newsletters periodically, typically about 4-6 a year.

Broadribbs Cycleshop, John Atkins Cycles and the Bike Yard in Leamington kindly offer a discount (usually 10% on non-sale items) for members showing a current membership card.

A Potential Long Term Boost for Cycling

The all party parliamentary cycling group has put forward a significant programme to the government to boost the levels of cycling. The programme includes:

- A long term commitment to redesign roads and other infrastructure to make them more cycle friendly.
- A legal requirement that the needs of cyclists and pedestrians are taken into account at the start of all development schemes.
- An extension of the 20mph speed limit in urban areas
- Cycle training in all schools
- Increase spending from its current level of around £2 per person a year, to £10 then increasing to £20 per annum

The aim is to achieve a ten-fold increase in the next few decades.

An interesting feature of this proposal is that it is seen as involving a range of government departments, such as the Depts. of Health, Education, and Business, in addition to the Dept for Transport.

The report noted that Spain managed a ten-fold increase in cycling in three years, but such goals depend on strong and consistent leadership from the top of government.

Vision and leadership can be seen in Transport for London with their work to make cycling safer:

- Improvement in the safety for cyclists at roundabouts, see the picture of the Dutch pattern roundabout that is to be trialled at the Elephant and Castle roundabout in south London, and possibly the Lambeth Bridge roundabout.
- The use of bikes fitted with a device that emits a radio signal w on the inside of a lorry, the lorry is fitted with a TV monitor which locates the cyclist

Rodney



Cycle Forum

A few notes from the Cycle Forum on the 8th May. A survey shows 77% of people in Kenilworth (surveyed?) agree or strongly agree there should be a cycle path

through Abbey Fields. A positive feasibility report on the K2L route is about to be published with separate feasibility and costing for manageable chunks of the route that can be implemented in stages as funds allow. Money has been secured for an

extension to the Myton Road cycleway—detailed plans are being prepared. WCC has walking and cycling maps of Warwick Gates and is holding a family event there on Saturday 18th of May from 10 till 4. For more news come to the meeting on the 14th May see details overleaf.

WEBSITE: www.warwickcycleways.org.uk