

# Cycleways Newsletter

## Summer/Autumn Edition 2020



### Chairman's Report



During lockdown the reduction in traffic and fine weather has seen an increase in cycling, often in family groups. Hopefully the people who have re-discovered cycling will continue to cycle as the lockdown measures are eased. The government has provided a £250m grant to reallocate road space for cycling and walking. Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has been awarded just over £1.2m for the whole of the county. Cycleways has presented a list of 80 suggested measures to assist in improving access to town centers. This is just a measure of the volume of improvements required. The focus of WCC has been in the town centres. These measures do not seem to be particularly satisfactory for cyclists as they concentrate mainly on providing space for social distancing for pedestrians. They don't provide better access to the town centres. It is all very well making the town centre better to ride in, but if you don't feel safe on the routes to get there, then what's the point? We are told that the measures will be reviewed and adjusted if there are problems and that they are just a start that will (hopefully) lead to more permanent and satisfactory schemes.

*Tony*

Adam Tranter attends Cycleways meeting

Abbey Fields Cycle Feasibility Study

Things to do during Lockdown

Plan your own 'Up and Coming Rides'

We know the bicycle is the future..

Update on the RTW cycle race

Dates to adjust in your diary

#### Have your say

As a member of Cycleways, you get great support from:

John Atkins Cycles

Mike Vaughan Cycles

Giant Leamington

including a discount (usually 10% on non-sale items) for members showing a current membership card. Membership is just £10 (per household) annually.

Find out more visit the website:

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

## Adam Tranter attends Cycleways meeting



Adam Tranter is the Bicycle Mayor for Coventry and he attended our Cycleways meeting prior to the lock down. Coventry has become the first UK city to get a Bicycle Mayor to help reach its cycling potential. Adam is from Coventry and he runs Fusion Media, a PR and marketing agency looking after brands such as Brompton Bicycles, Evans Cycles, Red Bull, Shimano and the Tour de France.

Adam explained how with his wife Aurélie came up with the idea to set up Warwickshire's first school cycle bus and how they obtained support and overcame opposition to the scheme. Prior to the schools being in lock down the school cycle bus ran each week, delivering up to 20 children to school in Kenilworth by bike. For more information and to view Adam's blog follow the link

<https://adamtranter.com/blog/>

Cycleways would like to thank Adam for his continued support. WCC has been awarded only 50% of the potential allocation for the Department for Transport Emergency Active Travel Fund. Adam has been writing to his Warwickshire County Councillor to challenge why they have received only 50% of the potential funding.

## Abbey Fields Cycle Feasibility Study

Way back in November 2019 remember when things were normal! Warwick District Council invited residents and community groups in Kenilworth to take part in an information gathering exercise for Abbey Fields. As part of the consultation a number of drop in sessions were held. The findings can be found on the Councils website 870 people said they were most happy with the view, landscape, lakes, meadows and historical features. 80% of the respondents to the survey (790 people responded) said they wanted cycling to be allowed in the green space at Abbey Fields. What emerged from the survey is that there is 'a clear view that a separate cycling path is needed for Abbey Fields as the existing infrastructure is not wide enough to allow safe dual usage'.

[https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4005/abbey\\_fields\\_cycling\\_feasibility\\_study](https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4005/abbey_fields_cycling_feasibility_study)

## Air Quality



Extinction Rebellion have painted the following message on a car show rooms in Cambridge.

## Draft Decarbonising report

Last month the DfT published its draft Decarbonising Transport for consultation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-the-transport-decarbonisation-plan>

We understand that the DfT falls dismally short of what is required to meet the carbon deficit. They have been asked to resubmit a revised report in Sept/Oct to the Committee of Climate Change. Let us have your thoughts.

## Things to during lockdown

As well as cycling exercise your brain by signing up for a course. Future Learn have free courses that you can do in your own time. Just google Future Learn the following course looks good and it is only a 2-week course.

## Future Learn



## Visit GCN videos on line

These are short videos provided by GCN (Global Cycling Network) they cover a range of subjects from how to change a tyre to:

- How to change gear like a pro
- 7 ways to improve your average speed on the road
- 9 essential tools for cycling
- Lockdowns most Bonkers Cyclists

Just google GCN

Report pot holes

Even though there have been numerous closed roads and road work schemes - please do not forget to report pot holes.



Anyone can report them using the links below.

<http://www.fillthathole.org.uk/hazards/report>

<https://customer.warwickshire.gov.uk>



## Newbold Comyn Draft Master Plan

The vision for the future of Newbold Comyn is available on line.

Cycling has been included in the scheme in particular there is a shared use family track.

**Key -** Red - Boundary

Blue - Existing cycle path route 41

Purple - Cross country track

Violet - Shared use family track -NEW

Orange - Skills orientated bike track (this matches the existing dirt BMX track)



A number of Cycleways members provided feedback on the scheme. There is a link here to the survey and virtual map.

<https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/newboldcomynpark>

Please continue to support our LOCAL cycle shops



(01926) 430211 or 883122



(01926) 460089



(01926) 853944.

See Facebook or online forms on their websites. It is good to make an **appointment or enquiry** as only a limited number of people are allowed in the shop at one time. Cycleways are valued customers and they have special measures in place for you. Please support them they are our experts in maintenance and repair, use them as a first option rather than ordering from other large market place or on-line dealers.

We know the bicycle is the future, but is the future electric?

Endorsement from our Chairman

I have just reached a bit of a landmark. I've had my current bike about a year and have just rolled over the 3000 mile mark. For me this is quite a significant distance. I am firmly a 'utility' cyclist, I cycle pretty much exclusively for transport from one place to another, mainly to work and back or for shopping. I attribute achieving this landmark distance down to the fact that my bicycle is electric. My commute to work is only 6.5 miles from Cubbington to near Coventry airport. I bought an electric bike out of necessity about a year ago as I was not allowed to drive on medical grounds and I was not happy having to get my wife to drive me to and from work. So I ended up at an electric bike shop at Hatton, saw a bike, tried it, bought it and had it delivered the same day! Although the bike isn't perfect in every respect, I can't say I have regretted buying it for a minute.

It is a Cube Tourer SLA. It has an aluminium frame a Bosch 250W motor and a 350W-hr battery. Fully equipped with wideish tyres, mudguards and rack. In practice it is a heavy (21kg) upright utility bike, but when it has electric assistance, who cares.

Modern electric bikes are pedal assist only. You have to pedal to get assistance from the motor and the assistance cuts out above 15.5 mph (25kph). There are two types of system - crank or hub motors. The Bosch system is a crank motor which has the advantage that all the other components are standard bike parts. The main disadvantage is that the motor does have quite a lot of drag when not powered. This only a problem if you get a flat battery, then the bike becomes a pig to ride. You have the choice of 4 levels of assistance. The lower the level of assistance the greater the range. I typically use the 'Tour' setting, which is 50% assistance, switching up to 'Sport' or 'Turbo' when climbing hills or battling strong headwinds (often the case by Coventry Airport). I typically get over 50 miles range. The assistance cuts out above 15.5mph, but this is almost imperceptible. When the going is flat or slightly downhill, I'm often

travelling faster than 15.5mph. Having electric assistance does not mean you don't get any exercise! You can ride gently on a high assistance level and not break a sweat, or you can push harder and drop the level. I track my rides on a fitness band and get an average heart rate 60-70% of maximum. Having the electric bike means that distances and terrain become less of a worry, so I will often cycle when once I would have driven.

So, what bike should you get? It depends on what sort of riding you are doing. The lightest (c. 11kg) are road bikes with carbon fibre frames and a slimmed down assist system, great if you are a sport cyclist who wants a bit of help getting up the hills. There are very simple machines with single speed and belt drive, these are reasonably light but with no gears and suit town riding. My 21kg bike may seem a bit porky, but I never travel light and, on my way, to work I usually have one or two panniers with a laptop inside, or I might be doing some grocery shopping (I've managed £60 worth of shopping in two panniers and a backpack). Whatever you get they are relatively expensive from about £900 for a simple bike to £3000 for the light sports bike. Whatever you get I don't think you will regret it.

Tony



There is also a new magazine - spotted in Tesco Warwick store!

## Update on The Round the World 'Cycle' Race



OK it's a yacht race! Marie O'Riley our Cycleways Campaign Co-ordinator and Membership Secretary should have been setting off on the adventure of a lifetime as a crew member on the Clipper 2019-20 Round the World Yacht Race.

After two years of intensive training Marie was due to join the crew for the final seven-week 'Atlantic Homecoming' leg from New York back to the UK, arriving in London in August.

But the race has sadly been postponed, Marie is to be praised as she has been working as a community care assistant in Stratford during lockdown.



Cycleways just wanted to say Marie you are doing a great job! We also value the work that you have been doing for Cycleways especially keeping our Facebook site going!

Marie still needs sponsorship. If you want to help please get in touch : [editor@cycleways.org.uk](mailto:editor@cycleways.org.uk).

Or here is a link to her just giving site if can donate

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marie-o>

Update on other projects:

## Lias Line

Sustrans are planning to complete the Lias line, Leamington to Rugby cycle route in 2022.

The Lias Line takes its name from the Blue Lias limestone found locally. They were clearing vegetation earlier in the year.

## K2L

Kenilworth to Leamington we need it now!

The good news is WCC have separated the K2L project from the Thickthorn roundabout up grade at £17.3m, which has now been put back for some 4-5 years. The total cost of K2L is £4.7 m and includes a new cycle/footbridge. WCC are to be congratulated on this sizeable investment.

It's great to see so many people cycling around Leek Wootton and Beausale but the traffic has returned on the Kenilworth Road so getting there is not easy!

## Emscote Road

Over 18 months ago Cycleways were asked for ideas on a "Superhighway" on Emscote Road. Cycleways have submitted the ideas for improvement but unfortunately since then there has been silence.

## Lots of work behind the scenes

Thank you to everyone who has been writing to their local councillor. Improvements have been made to the measures put in place for example there is new signage and it is now possible to get across The Parade around Warwick Street. We need to keep up the pressure. *Sandra*

Dates to adjust in your diary:

So much as had to be cancelled we look forward to 2021.

**Peace Festival** –due to take place in June has been cancelled, we look forward to receiving a date for 2021.

**Eco Fest** –was rescheduled to Saturday 19th September 2020. It is expected to be 2021.

**Tour of Britain** race dates are currently 6th to 13th September 2020. If Cornwall is open for Stage 1. Tour de Yorkshire has been cancelled.

**Ovo Women's Tour** this took place on a largely virtual basis in June.

Charity Rides:

**Prudential Ride London** was due to take place in August. Back to square one for Sandra who had a place in the ride, she will now have to apply for the ballot again in 2021!

**Myton's Cycle Challenge 2020 – 2nd August** is now a virtual event. Myton needs to raise money so please support them if you can. Note you could always go out and ride the distance!

<https://www.mytonhospice.org/our-events/event/cycle-challenge-2020/>

We will keep you informed of any further updates.

Feedback received

We received some feedback this month regarding our Cycleways aims and the importance of not riding on pavements and being kind to others on shared paths. We have taken this on board and are currently reviewing our website with a view to updating it. We are always keen to have your feedback. For example, should we have a letters page?

[editor@cycleways.org.uk](mailto:editor@cycleways.org.uk).

Up and coming rides:



All rides on the Let's ride site have been cancelled but they have posted lots of local rides.



- Sustrans have online route mapping here: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/>
- Links to the local Cycling Guide showing Route 41: <https://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-930-178>  
This is particularly useful as it shows the traffic free cycle paths and cycle lanes on roads.

Have your say

Hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter. We are keen to get your feedback or your thoughts on current issues please use the following email address to submit any comments or ideas for articles to: [editor@cycleways.org.uk](mailto:editor@cycleways.org.uk).

Committee Members

Below is a list of our current Committee Members:

Tony Lewenz - Chairman

Rodney King - Secretary

Peter Clear- Treasurer

Marie O'Riley - Campaign Co-ordinator and Membership

Secretary

Sandra Stokes -Newsletter Co-ordinator

Link to website

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

Plus find us on facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/pg/CyclewaysWarwickDistrict/posts>