

Cycleways Newsletter

AGM/Autumn Edition 2020

STOP PRESS – AGM WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER -ALL WELCOME



Chairman's Report



Welcome to our Newsletter

Autumn is here, the nights are drawing in, the clocks will be going back soon and it will be time for our Annual General Meeting on the 11th of November. Please remember to join the meeting which will be held on-line as this is when we elect our officers.

After the halcyon days of lockdown (for cyclists) traffic volumes seem to be back to normal levels which is disappointing. It is hard to see if the enthusiasm for cycling that appeared during lockdown has been maintained. One good thing that has come out of the crisis is the Government's Gear Change document and the eventual publication of LTN1/20. The former of these lays out the government's vision for cycling while the latter lays out the official guidance for designing cycling infrastructure. See link overleaf.

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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

They both are great documents that outline much of what we want to see in Warwickshire. The big question is how much these will get adopted into Warwickshire's cycling networks. The lacklustre performance of our council in providing quality cycling infrastructure does not inspire confidence. Perhaps the existence of an inspector of cycle infrastructure schemes (promised by the government) will encourage them to do better. Needless to say, we will also be fighting to make sure they do too.

Keep safe both on the roads and elsewhere and I hope to see many of you at the AGM. *Tony*



Link to Gear Change

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904146/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf

Mayor of Leamington/Clean Air

Most members of Cycleways, I imagine, wouldn't really notice the gradient up the Parade, but in the mind of many non-experienced cyclists it looks like a steep hill. With an electric bike you can keep up with faster cyclists and hills are not a problem. Electric bikes are making a big impact around Europe and the Van Moof is one of the best. ElectricZoo have sponsored one for the use of the Mayor of Leamington this year.



As well as being Mayor I am Chair of Clean Air for Leamington. Traffic is the major source of air pollution in our district so we need to change the way we travel around our towns. The government says it wants that too, with the stated aim of half of all short urban journeys being made by active travel by 2020. See the link to Gear Change above.

I'm doing all I can to encourage people to see cycling as a normal way of getting around town, just as it is already in so many towns and cities around the world. Clean Air for Leamington and Clean Air Warwick are working closely with Cycleways because we have so many shared objectives. We want towns where pedestrians and cyclists have priority over cars and lorries. We want a comprehensive network of continuous, segregated cycleways that go direct to where people need them to go. Schools and places of work have priority, as well as routes into the centre from residential parts of town. Low traffic neighbourhoods. 20mph as the default limit in built-up areas. All this is in 'Gear Change'. Now we need to keep the pressure on WCC and their transport planners to deliver what the government wants them to deliver.

If you would like to get involved in one of Clean Air for Leamington's work streams please let me know. 07796 377240. And like our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/CleanAirforLeamingtonSpa/>

Susan Rasmussen

WORLD'S BIGGEST BIKE RIDE

Thanks go to Chris Begg and Margaret for organising Cycleways participation in the World's Biggest Bike Ride on 12th September.



The photo on our front cover was taken at the start of the event at the Bandstand in Leamington. As Cycling UK stated "Cycling can - and will - make the world a better place; it improves our health, our wellbeing, our air quality, our ability to travel safely." The event was an opportunity to review our local routes noting where they fall short.

'Now I no longer hate cycling' – experiences from a summer holiday with kids in Denmark



Having grown up in Denmark, cycling has been an integrated feature of both my childhood and adulthood and a skill that I have been keen to pass on to my own children. However, living in Leamington with its very poor provision for cyclists, it has been a challenge. As most parents with children will probably agree, our busy and dangerous roads are not ideal for young cyclists.



This summer, my family and I were lucky to borrow four bicycles while visiting Copenhagen. For the first time since my daughters were born, we were able to fully take advantage of the city's continuous network of wide and separated cycle lanes and had an absolutely wonderful time. Within a week, we had cycled over 120 km along main roads, quiet side streets and designated green routes within the city. We were able to cycle next to each other and chat while enjoying our surroundings and everywhere we went, roads had proper signage for cyclists, cyclists had the right of way (after pedestrians) and bicycle parking was readily available. While my 10-year old has always had a bit of an aversion to cycling, by the end of the week she admitted that at least she now no longer 'hates it'.

Copenhagen has made an image of itself as the capital of cycling. However, visiting our family-cottage in the Danish country side was no different, as many country roads have separated cycle lanes on each side, making cycling easy and safe. As evidenced by the cyclists we met in both Copenhagen and the countryside, cycling is an inclusive mode of transport for people of all ages, gender and social backgrounds, when the infrastructure allows it. It doesn't have to be an 'adults-only' city-phenomenon. My wish would be that Warwickshire Councils would take cycling seriously as a healthy, active, family-friendly mode of transport, and speed up the infrastructure we need to support it, so that more children and adults could get to enjoy cycling as it should be - as an inclusive and enjoyable way to get to school, after school-activities, work, go shopping or just generally be active together.



Cycle with Confidence Video

There is a great Video by The Bikeability Trust on how to start cycling with confidence.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53567919>

New website

Please take a look at our new website. Thanks go to Ewan Davis who has done a fantastic job updating the site.

www.cycleways.org.uk

Highway code consultation



Please have your say on the latest proposals for changes to the Highway Code. The more cyclists who respond the better! Among the proposals are rules that say motor vehicle drivers must give way to cyclists on cycle lanes and cycle tracks crossing side turnings. **The deadline is 27th October:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-highway-code-to-improve-road-safety-for-cyclists-pedestrians-and-horse-riders>

Update on our campaigns:

K2L – Cycle route from Kenilworth to Leamington - The aspiration was for completion in the 21/22 financial year. The project still lacks detail. There are challenges regarding the river crossing and land acquisition plus HS2 are using B4115 and will have priority. Money is now allocated to completing a route from the end the K2L route - to get the route into Leamington town centre. Thanks to “Getting Building Fund” administered by the CWLEP (Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership).

Emscote Road - Thank you to everyone who has helped with the plan for a cycling super highway - A decision on the funding is expected by the end of the year.

Portobello bridge - at present cyclists have to move into the centre of the lane to give pedestrians space on the pavement. A public consultation was carried out some fifteen years ago regarding maintenance. Changes and a new footbridge are being discussed again.

Warwick Town Centre - There will be more consultations with stakeholder groups. No timescale has been given.

Coventry Road – Warwickshire County Council (WCC) proposed converting the existing pavement on the West Side of the road to a shared route. The Gear Change document has made them think again as “on urban streets, cyclists must be physically separated from pedestrians and should not share space with pedestrians”.

Myton Road they are planning to upgrade to a scheme.

Junction outside Stoneleigh Park (between B4113 and Stareton Lane). Stoneleigh Park (used to be the National Agricultural Centre). The road opposite the entrance is now no entry (one-way system). A number of cyclists use the café and are now stuck on cycling on what is a busy road to get back to Leamington.

Cycleways Accounts

In readiness for our AGM Cycleways accounts are:

Cycleways Income and Expenditure	
Oct 2019 - Sep 2020	
Balance brought forward from 2019	£2,275
Subscriptions	£499
Expenditure (website maintenance)	£22
Balance carried forward	£2,752
Ringfenced grant funding	£1,063
Remaining balance	£1,689

Cycleways have not had any major expenditure this year, we are gearing up for 2021 and positioning ourselves to pursue our campaigns to ensure a green cycling transport vision.

Thank you, Rodney,

Rodney King has decided to step down from the role of secretary after the AGM. I feel we should not let him! Rodney is one of the founding members of Cycleways from when it started as a campaign group and has been a guiding figure, particularly in progressing campaigns as the voice of the cyclist. Thank you, Rodney for the work you have done and I'm sure you will continue to be an active member.

AGM Agenda

- Apologies for absence
- Review of 2019/2020 by the Chairman
- Review of the draft accounts, by the Treasurer
- Election of Officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- Election of committee members: Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Representative to the Warwick District Cycle Forum
- Any other business

Council officials to have been invited to provide an update on the development of cycling infrastructure in the district. The following have expressed an interest in continuing in their current roles or are (*) new nominations:

Office	Current Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Tony Lewenz	Rodney King	Sandra Stokes
*Vice Chairman/ Secretary	Ewan Davis	Rodney King	Tony Lewenz
Treasurer	Bev Stevens	Rodney King	Sandra Stokes
Campaign Co-ordinator & Membership Secretary	Marie O'Riley	Tony Lewenz	Sandra Stokes
Newsletter Co-ordinator	Sandra Stokes	Tony Lewenz	Rodney King

Committee Members

List of our current Committee Members:

Tony Lewenz - Chairman

Rodney King - Secretary

Bev Stevens - Treasurer

Marie O'Riley - Campaign Co-ordinator & Membership Secretary

Sandra Stokes - Newsletter Co-ordinator.

Up and coming rides:

2020 has been a year of postponements and cancellations for organised cycle rides such as the Great Shakespeare, The Wiggle Tempest. However, it was great to see lots of you out cycling and an increasing interest in cycling.

- Sunday Brunch @ Hollies, Cubbington - steady guided 20 mile cycle. Meet at the bus stop, Coventry Memorial Park. CV3 6PT on Sunday 25th October 2020 at 10.45 am . Off road or hybrid tyres are recommended.

For details of how to sign up see

[Let's Ride - Homepage](#)

- Or plan your own route Sustrans have online route mapping here: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/>
- Links to the local Cycling Guide showing Route 41: <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cyclerroutes>

Have your say Hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter. We are keen to get your feedback please use the following email address to submit any comments or ideas for articles to:

editor@cycleways.org.uk.

Notification of the AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 2020 Annual General Meeting of Cycleways will be held on Wednesday 11th November 2020, starting at 19.30. Full details of how to attend this virtual meeting will be on our website shortly.

Nominations are welcome for the roles (see table).

Note there is a nomination for the office of Vice Chairman. Previously we have not formerly nominated a Vice Chairman.

Help and support will be given to anyone who is new to the role.

Please note that nominations for Officers and Committee must be forwarded to Tony Lewenz at Cycleways.editor@googlemail.com not later than 4th November.