



Newsletter

The Cycle Campaign Group
for Warwick, Leamington
and
Kenilworth

March 2009

Next Meeting

Wednesday 25th March

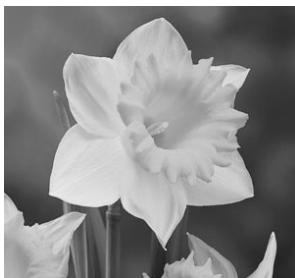
7.30 p.m.

Café Rouge (upstairs)

Regent Street

Leamington Spa

Everyone Welcome



Welcome the warmer weather!

Spring is officially here and with it better weather, so there is no excuse not come out to our next meeting which is on Wednesday the 25th of March at Café Rouge in Regent Street in Leamington at 7.30p.m. We will be discussing among other

things, the proposals for the extension of the Warwick to Leamington scheme beyond Tesco's including the Portobello Bridge which is a different scheme (bridges are a different department). This is a very important scheme and we want to

make sure that it is done right. We are promised information for our meeting, so come and see what is being proposed.

I've included minutes of our last meeting so you can see what was discussed last time.

Tony

K2L

The Thickthorn roundabout (A452/A46) is difficult to cross. As a result of John Whitehead's efforts, WCC transport planning have agreed to examine how the cost of a set of signals to allow cyclists to cross this busy roundabout, could be met from the LTP budget.

Topica

Unfortunately I gave the wrong instructions in the last newsletter for subscribing to Topica.

To join, send an empty email to:

cycleways-subscribe@topica.com

You will get an automated reply like:

From: Topica Customer

Care
<cycleways-subscribe-conf-707718937.202472959@topica.com>

Subject: RESPONSE REQUIRED: Confirm your subscription to cycleways@topica.com

Hello! We received your request to subscribe to

cycleways@topica.com. This list is hosted free at Topica.com.

....
Or, if you prefer, reply to this message. No need to type anything into the subject line.

[2] And then all you need to do is to send a blank reply to that email - easy!

INSIDE

Cycle Forum Part 2 2

Warwick to Leamington Scheme Extension 2

Warwick Cycle Races 3

At the last meeting.. 3

Information 4



Newsletter

Cycle Forum (Part 2)

We had the Part 2 meeting of the Cycle Forum on Tuesday 24th February. (Part 1 was reported in the last newsletter. The Cycle Forum is Warwickshire County Council's official method of on-going consultation with the public on cycling matters.

This time John Harvey who is standing for Lisa Jones while she is away on maternity chaired the meeting and was able to give us some updates the LTP schemes. Unfortunately they did not want to discuss the proposals for the Warwick to Leamington route (Emscote extension) yet. They had received proposals from Cycleways and said they would respond before our next meeting.

There is a plan to extend the route from the A46/A429 roundabout to Leek Wootton. Some section 106 money has been found. This is money provided by

developers to the council to pay for road improvements local to the development.

Shires Retail Park—there will be two new toucan crossings to help this route, one on Queensway outside McDonalds and one Tachbrook Park Drive just before the access roundabout for the retail park (outside Frankie and Benny's. There will be a cycle path across the large verge outside Curry's to cut the corner. We are not sure the location of the crossing to the retail park is correct as it still leaves cyclists to cross the access drive to the park which is very busy. The council officers were adamant that this represents the desire line for pedestrians and that cyclists would (could) use the disruption to the traffic flow to access the park by the road. Some may want to do that. What do you think? Does this provide a satisfactory

scheme to access the retail park? E-mail us with your comments or better still come to the next meeting where we will discuss it.

Short and long stay parking in Warwick and Leamington town centres—the council is asking for views on the best locations for cycle parking. Let us know and we will collate suggestions and respond. Enhancements to Warwick and Leamington Stations for cycle access. This is part of a national study about improving transport links. A draft action plan needs to be produced, so let us have any comments to input to the study. They are also thinking about the route from Leamington station to the town centre. They are considering if it should follow Route 41 through the underpass or take Lower Avenue.

On the safer routes to schools it was confirmed

"The Cycle Forum is Warwickshire County Council's official method of on-going consultation"

Warwick to Leamington Cycle Route/Portobello Bridge

We have been hoping to publish the proposals for this scheme for some time, but though we know WCC have received proposal from the contractors, Arup, they have passed them on to us. We have come up with proposals of our own. We have been promised details of the Arup proposals and feedback on our proposals for the next meeting (25th March). Come along to the meeting to discuss them—this is an important scheme and we want to make sure they make a better job of it than the

Emscote scheme.

At the same time the scheme for Portobello Bridge is being considered. It should be part of the same scheme, but is handled by a different department. Earlier this month we received the next stage of consultation drawings for options for this bridge, but with our views to be in by 13th March, (10 days incl w/e). We learnt by chance, through the Warwick Society, that WCC had submitted a preferred option to the Warwick

Area Committee that was meeting on 10th. Andy managed to get off a well thought through e-mail to the Chair of the committee, along with similar e-mails from the Warwick and Leamington Societies. Fortunately the WAC saw through the muddled submission by the WCC and recommended that the options should be reconsidered at the next meeting in July. The Warwick Society, supported by LeamSoc and us have asked for a round table discussion with all interested parties.



Warwick Cycle Forum (Part 2)

March 2009

that work had started on the Bishops Tachbrook to Warwick Gates scheme and the North Leamington School scheme and that a route has just about been settled for the Aylesford to Woodloes scheme. Sustrans reported that a lease has been agreed for the section of land beyond the Fosse Way for route 41 to Rugby. They just need to raise enough cash for the bridge.

We briefly discussed contra-flow cycle lanes on one way streets. There seems to be an

acceptance that they should become the norm rather than the exception in town centre settings and there are plans to institute them in Warwick as part of the town centre scheme. A list of desirable locations was given to the council.

We had a heated discussion about the rights of way (or rather, lack of) of cyclists on shared use cycle paths over traffic crossing on side streets and drives. The council has re-

quested a list of design issues to be sent to them. We could discuss this at the next meeting. It is one feature that detracts from the usefulness of such schemes.

The council plans to do some cycle use monitoring in April apart from the usual cordon counts. They would be happy for members to help so more locations can be covered. The count is done at three times on the same day. If you are interested in helping e-mail or phone us or call Simon Gordon at WCC.

“heated discussion about the rights of way (or rather, lack of) of cyclists”

At the last Cycleways meeting we discussed...

1. WCC Cycle Forum

Tony reported that due to the long agenda, an extra meeting had been found necessary, to be held on Tues 24 Feb.

1.1 We welcomed Cllr Whitehouse joining the Forum. As a “Cycling Champion” for Warwick District and Rugby, together with his membership of the WCC Environment Committee, he will focus WCC officers’ attention more towards cycling issues & make them more cycle-aware.

1.2 LTP updates were lacking, due to John Harvey’s absence.

Maintenance of cycle lanes, particularly in wintry conditions, was a problem. WCC were employing consultants for a new rail station in Kenilworth, but all maybe 4 yrs off.

1.3 Safer routes to schools: The extension south from the West end of Myton Rd had to cross the entrance to Warwick Prep School. This had been the subject of a “safety” audit, which did not recommend any change, nor take a view on whether the status quo

was safe or not. Same problem exists at the entrance to the new housing on the Dormer School site. This led to discussion about the general issue of cycle routes off-road being cut through by junctions. Either such crossings have to be safer for cyclists, or routes should be on-road. Rodney wanted WCC to take more notice of experience elsewhere, for example London. Cycling England are holding a training day for WCC officers soon.

(continued on page 4)

Warwick Cycle Races

This year’s Warwick Town Centre races will be held on Sunday 6th September. If you went to last year’s event, you will want to go again this year. If you didn’t go last year, here are ten reasons why you should go this year:

- A chance to see top class professional riders on a fast tight circuit around the ordinary town centre roads. A real Tour de France atmosphere right here in Warwickshire.
- For free!
- Also support the stars of tomorrow, as there will be a full programme of children’s and youth races.
- Maybe try out road racing for yourself, as anyone can enter the novices’ race.
- There will also be free children’s activities, including face painting, juggling, hula hooping and balloon modelling. Also a “Go Ride” circuit for children to practise their bike skills.
- Local cycling groups will have stalls.
- So will bike shops.
- Other activities to be confirmed may include free fitness testing, live music and a “slow bike race” open to all.
- There will be a selection of food stalls, plus pubs and cafes will be open throughout the day.
- Not forgetting a free competition to win a bike and other prizes.

The County Council, British Cycling and Action 21 are working hard to make the races into a real festival of cycling. The atmosphere last year was fantastic and it should be even better this year. To keep up with the plans, go to: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cyclerraces





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The Cycle Campaign
Group for Leamington,
Warwick and Kenilworth

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

At the last Cycleways meeting we discussed...

The N Leamington safer route is to start very soon.

Aylesford to Woodloes is still in design in the Lock Lane area. Hampton to Aylesford will only have a wider footpath for pedestrians, but there will be a new bridge over the A46 as part of the Stonebridge works.

1.4 There is still evidence of WCC planners neglecting LTP objectives: changes planned for the Thickthorn roundabout are intended to allow for *increased* traffic, despite LTP statement in favour of shift away from cars.

2. K2L

It was hoped that this project could be led from or at least together with Kenilworth activists. The website on Warwick Communities is available, but needs content. The main action needed was to get more Councillors onside. The Avon Bridge remains the key design issue.

3. W2L

Adrian Lord from Cycling England & Arup is advising, and proposals are awaited. We should all e-mail our ideas to Tony. Andy P was concerned that if we opt for quiet back streets, WCC will interpret that as no need to do anything.

4. Contraflow cycle lanes.

There were good opportunities for such, eg the Cubbington Rd service road, Broad St Warwick (presently cuts off the NCN route), Bedford St Leamington, and Bertie Rd Kenilworth.

(Noted the new Waitrose in Kw offers a cycle trailer but no cycle routes!)

5. Website

Best way forward was a new website with name like warwickcycleways.org within the Warwickshire Communities web group as for K2L. This allows anyone with the password easily to upload content.

6. Warwick Cycle Races

Richard reported that the event would be on Sunday September 6th this year.

7. Peace festival 13/14 June

We will go it alone again this year.

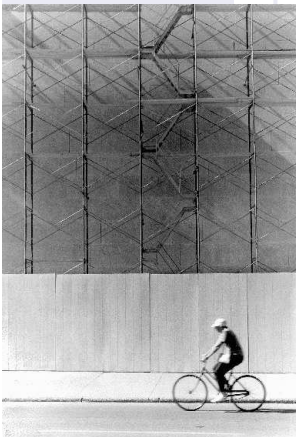
9. Pedestrian / cycle conflict

Janet initiated a discussion. The Tachbrook divided pedestrian/cycle path appears not fully to suit neither user group, but cost £100k. Pedestrians using the crossing land in the cycle lane. The lined blocks are uncomfortable for both cyclists

and pushchairs. The problem is unsatisfactory national guidelines which need changing. Discussion led to a general opinion that taking road space was usually the best option, allowing steady cycling, without concerns about crossings of minor roads, accesses and the like. Where the footway was to be used, then sharing was preferable to division. Eg the route through St Nicholas Park is divided, but no-one takes any notice of that and if all users are considerate there is no problem. Noted that where in the Netherlands paths are divided, the levels between the pedestrian & cycle routes are differentiated. Noted that for less experienced cyclists the off-road solutions are perceived as safer.

10. Cycle challenge

Janet drew our attention to this event 19th July, raising money for the Charity Buwan Kothi. The course is 25 miles of Sustrans routes. Details at www.buwankothi.org.uk



If you have any comments on the content of the Cycleways newsletter, or would like to make a contribution to the next one, please e-mail:

cycleways.editor@googlemail.com

or call the normal number.