

Cycleways Newsletter

Spring Edition 2018



Chairman's Report



Paltry Sum of 88 pence per person per year

Welcome to the latest Cycleways Newsletter. The past year has been relatively quiet in terms of progress in improving cycling. Maybe the reason for this is the revelation that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) spend the paltry sum of 88p per person per year on cycling. This compares with a national average of about £5 and a government aspiration to increase this to £10. You can all help by writing to your local county councillor to ask why they spend so little.

There are a number of schemes and developments coming to fruition in the coming year. Cycleways will endeavour to ensure that these plans yield good improvements for cyclists. These are not always schemes we approve of because their main aim is often to increase motor vehicle traffic flows.

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

John Atkins Cycles

Broadribb 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 £7 (per household) annually.

Find out more visit the website:

www.cycleways.org.uk

We need to convince WCC that the alternative to schemes like these is to encourage a modal shift to cycling (and walking and public transport) by making cycling truly attractive with high quality schemes integral with other improvements rather than adding the provision as an afterthought done with little or no imagination or aspiration.

Tony

Editorial -

What can be done to improve the air quality in our district?

This is a question which is often asked of Warwick District Council's new Health and Community Protection Portfolio holder Cllr Andrew Thompson who as part of his remit holds responsibility for air quality management and monitoring;

“The air quality in Warwick district is generally good. However, we are all aware that there are some areas of Warwick, Kenilworth, and Leamington town centres where the large volumes of traffic and congestion are having a detrimental effect on our environment. In a district that is dominated by the car industry, it can be a difficult task to encourage people to look at alternatives to their private vehicles, but I'm confident the measures we are taking through our [Air Quality Action Plan](#) will have a positive impact. Our plan includes a number of different initiatives such as an integrated system of electric vehicle charging points and the introduction of charging hubs into our towns, new walking and cycling routes, and new park and ride schemes. Whilst our colleagues at Warwickshire County Council have the lead on Highways, we are actively supporting them on a number of road improvement schemes such as Europa Way and Northgate Street in Warwick, which will relieve congestion in bottle-neck areas.

Additionally, we have introduced requirements for new build homes in our district to have dedicated electric car charging points.

All of these measures will make some difference, however for our air quality improvement plans to succeed we need people who are living and working in our district to play their part too by limiting their short journeys, sharing lifts and, if possible, walking or cycling to work or school.

You can find some great ideas and information on greener and more active ways to travel by visiting <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/activetravel>.”



Andrew Thompson - Warwick District Councillor
Leamington Newbold.
Portfolio Holder for Health & Community
Protection
Cycleways would like to thank Andrew Thompson
for submitting this article.

Members Delegated Budgets

Councillor Nicola Davies attended our Cycleways meeting in December and explained where funding might be available for minor improvements to the cycling network.

“Warwickshire County Council has a programme of ‘Members Delegated Budgets’ which equates to £35,000 per elected member per financial year. The money is intended to enable small capital projects in individual members divisions - which wouldn’t normally feature in large scale highways work to be undertaken. The projects are usually those that will improve safety or protect/enhance the environment. It is possible for the funds to be carried over into the following year if they are not spent and this can enable slightly larger projects to be funded.

If Cycleways members have suggestions or thoughts about possible improvements that may be able to be funded by this scheme they are advised to contact the local county councillor to discuss their suggestion. The county councillor can then consider the suggestion and liaise with the Highways Department to assess its suitability and cost.

Please find below a link to a map of councillor divisions along with councillors contact details:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/Cmis5/Portals/0/Wshire%20Cllr%20Wall%20Map%2005%20May%202017%20v4.pdf> 2 ”

Cycleways would like to thank Nicola Davies for submitting this article.

Write to your County Councillor

Members of Cycleways were sent an email in January to request that they email their County Councillor to ask why Warwickshire County Council spends only 88 pence per head on cycling per year when the government recommends each local authority spends at least £10 per head. We are keen to hear about any responses received. Please provide us with any progress (or otherwise), send to editor@cycleways.org.uk.

AGM Update

Cycleways held their Annual General Meeting of Cycleways on Wednesday 8th November 2017, the meeting included a review of the 2016 - 2017 accounts and

Committee members were elected. Please see the Committee members list at the end of this newsletter.

Our thanks go to Rodney King who is stepping down as Chairman after 2 years (but more than 20 years unofficially). Rodney assures us he will still be part of the Committee and a proactive member of Cycleways. Cycleways would like to take this opportunity to thank Rodney for his dedication and all his hard work.

The Cycleways committee welcomes Tony Lewenz as Chairman.

If you would like to get more involved with the Cycleways Committee please let us know by sending an email to Tony Lewenz at Cycleways.editor@googlemail.com.

Eco Fun Day: Sunday 29th April 2018



Sunday 29th April
2018

Join us for a walk or
cycle from St.
Nicholas Park,
Warwick to the Pump
Rooms Leamington
Spa

Last year was the first Eco Fun day and it has been decided to build on its success and repeat the event in 2018.

Action 21, the Local Environmental Charity, will be supporting the event again which will start at St. Nicholas Park in Warwick at 10am and finish in the Pump Rooms in Leamington.

Leamington Peace Festival



Saturday 16th Sunday
17th June 2018

Leamington Peace Festival exists to promote peace, environmental harmony and living in co-operation with others, Cycleways is always part of this. The dates this year are 16th and 17th June. Please keep these dates free as it will be great to see you. If you are able to help out please let us know.

Cycling & Safety M check

Before riding your bike it is a good idea to check that it is safe and in good working condition. This is particularly important if you are getting your bike out for the first time this year. You may have heard of the 'M' check. Rospa have a good video and a checklist explaining exactly what you should look for when inspecting your bike. The link is here:

<https://www.rospa.com/road-safety/advice/pedal-cyclists/>

Up and coming rides:

The Rawlinson Bracket Cycling Sportif is a challenging ride taking place on Sunday 25th February 2018. The hilly route is 91km in length and has 930 meters of climbing with gradients of 14%+ in places, the flatter route is 47km in length and has 282 meters of climbing with gentle gradients. Read the story behind this charity event and be inspired:

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/155625/The-Rawlinson-Bracket-2017#7iJpxzzt8LFcRGBE.99>

Myton Hospice ride - Sunday, 11 Mar 2018. 39 & 77 miles appealing to leisure cyclists and the more serious wanting to get some miles in for a good cause. Read more at

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/168174/Mike's-Myton-Ride-2018#BsRwZTZsTofk8TVB.99>

Less than 30 miles at a Leisurely Pace, Sundays at 9.15 am. the Bus shelter, Park & Ride, War Memorial Park, Coventry CV3 6PT, this is a challenging ride but includes an important cake stop.

Breeze (for women) have a series of rides in February:

- Breeze Novice Draycote Ride easy 5-mile ride, ideal for women who have not been out on their cycle for a while. Sunday 25th February 2018 9:30am.
- Breeze Through Winter Friday Series rides. weekly in February at 10:00am. Starting at -Brinklow by the Memorial at the junction of Broad Street & Coventry Road.

Register here for the above rides:

[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/cycleroutes>

Have your say

Hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter. It is available on line to all Cycleways members. 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

Mark your email FAO Sandra Stokes.

Committee Members

Below is a list of our current Committee Members:

Tony Lewenz - Chairman
- Secretary

Peter Clear- Treasurer

David Heathfield - Membership Secretary

Our website is at www.cycleways.org.uk