

## **Cycleways Annual Report for 2025.**

Simon Storey, the Warwick District Bicycle Mayor and also the organiser of numerous Bicycle Buses, KidiCal rides and cycle training, took over as our Chairman in November 2024. Simon has a high profile in the area and is well respected for taking practical action to get people cycling.

### **2025 has been a challenging year.**

The new Warwickshire County Council (WCC) administration, led by Reform UK since May 2025, has taken a hostile position in relation to cycling facilities. Their leader, Councillor George Finch, has made it clear he thinks investment in cycle infrastructure is a waste of public money. He has only agreed to complete schemes that have already been approved, and says he would even turn down central government money earmarked for cycling facilities. Councillor Finch has refused to meet our chairman to discuss provision for cyclists. Such a stance is likely to make our campaigning activities more challenging, and even more necessary

Unfortunately, WCC continue to fail to work to the guidance provided by the Dept. for Transport, as currently set out in LTN 1/20 the national standard, even where it is demonstrably possible to do so. Hence, the seriously sub-standard schemes at St John's in Warwick and K2L in the Kenilworth Road, which are covered later in the agenda.

Cycleways has, however, been asked to advise on the provision of cycle routes in Lillington and Cubbington. Crucially though, no funding has yet been allocated to this scheme, and it is unclear if funding will be forthcoming.

The Cycleways web site, redeveloped in 2024, has proved useful as a way of organising the membership to respond to consultations. The recent, very limited, WCC consultation on the Emscote Road/Rugby Road/ Warwick New Road junction is a case in point. Cycleways published its response on the web site and emailed members to ask them to submit their own responses. 8 members submitted their own responses, including one from qualified traffic engineer. This is a campaigning model we will use in future to maximise the effectiveness of our impact.

We will also use the web site in future to provide members with more resources – resources for campaigning; and resources about cycle routes. One

of our members has recently created a map of cycle-friendly routes, and we would like to make this and similar resources available on the web site.

Cycleways has attended a number of events during 2025 – Kenilworth Lions; Leamington Unity and Peace Festival; Warwickshire Pride; EcoFest.

Traditionally, such events have been good way to recruit new members, and to raise the profile of cycling.

### **Priorities for 2026:**

- **Recruit more members.**

This is important to increase our credibility, as well as our funds. We will be launching a “supporter” category to the membership, aimed at people who support our aims, but who do not wish to become full members. Supporters will not have a vote at the AGM, and will not be entitled to the Cycleways bike shop discounts. We will continue to attend local events as a way of recruiting new members and supporters;

- **Apply for charity status.** This will allow us to claim gift aid on subscriptions and will also widen the opportunities for grant funding;
- **Press WCC to work to LTN 1/20.** We will continue to promote adoption of the national recommended guidance provided by the Dept for Transport.
- **To work with WCC on specific schemes.** These include:  
Lillington/Cubbington cycle route; Emscote Road/Rugby Road/Warwick New Road junction; K2L phase 2;
- **To develop a communication plan** to target our communications more effectively. Our web site and social media will be essential elements of this plan.