

Southampton Cycling Campaign Newsletter

July 2003

Following hot on the wheels of National Bike Week, we have been overwhelmed with copy for this newsletter. Inside find an insight into the work of a very pro-cycling transport manager, employers take note! Also, make sure that you take part in the campaign to get proper provision for bicycles on trains, details on page three. The (abridged) minutes of the first Cycle Forum have been reproduced, please do let us know your views on this forum. Not included this time are reviews and photos of Bike Week events, these will be coming in a future issue.

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Competition

Our competition for newsletter articles is still running. As an incentive, we have an Ordnance Survey Interactive Map CD ROM to give away to the best article, received by 15th August. Get writing or typing and tell us all about your recent experiences cycling, your ideas and views on the past, present and future of transport or anything else related to bikes. I'm still looking for a pain free way of adjusting caliper brakes! Short or long, fact or fantasy, clumsy or clever, everything is acceptable (within reason). Send articles (in plain text format please) to the newsletter address on the back page - marking them 'Competition Entry'.

University Diary

John Waugh

One of Southampton's most cyclist-friendly employers is the University of Southampton. Ample secure and covered bike-sheds are provided, cycle lanes link roads across the campus and even the Uni-Link buses will carry bikes. A recent development is having a bike mechanic, www.recycled.co.uk, visit the University every week during term time to provide servicing and to refurbish unwanted bikes. This is largely down to years of hard work from the Transport Manager, John Waugh. Here, he gives us an insight into his world...

12th June

Heard the good news that our Architect-designed bike shed can have a roof after all. We could not believe our eyes when we saw that one of our latest locked bike stores had been built without a roof. This became even more frustrating when we could not get the Project Management to understand that this was indeed a bit of an omission. It underlines the need to ensure that everyone involved in doing things for bikes has at least some experience of bike use. The sad fact is that increasing generations of builders, architects, engineers and management are arriving to decision making without any experience of using bikes (or even ever travelling on a bus for that matter). At least we have Peter Davis involved to ensure that the sad omission can at last be rectified.

19th June: University Bike Day

The weather was kind and we had 100 staff for a specially-prepared breakfast, which was a good number. It was unfortunate that the event was at the very end of the teaching session so very few students could take part, but those who did had good access to the many stalls. It was encouraging to be working well with Southampton Institute - especially Magnus Mallinson - and we are already talking about how we might mount some sort of 'In Southampton without a car' type of event early in the new session. We were very fortunate to have the active support of the Principals of both institutions. We were able to talk practicalities as I rode in with our Vice Chancellor and his concern for decent changing facilities, which enabled me to point out that our Travel Plan has provision for the installation of showers in every new build and refurbishment. Within hours of the event, I had the message that there will soon be a shower in the Admin Building. My only hope now is that it will not be a secret one as the few departments that do have one tend to want them to be.



23rd June

Saw our mechanic Mike on one of his last visits of the season. He has had an encouraging amount of interest from those selling their bikes back to him. These he will refurbish and supply second hand for the new intake, which, with pre-sessional language courses, is starting now. Our foreign students are very keen on second hand bikes. This initiative is dramatically reducing the number of bikes that are just abandoned around the campuses and which we are reluctant to remove in case the owner pops up years later demanding to know what we have done with it.

26th June

In Winchester Great Hall for the Area Chamber of Commerce Environment Awards. An evening of changing emotions - no chance to excellent chance. In the end we were called up for a Commended Certificate for our travel policies which do so much to reduce car use in the area. Portsmouth University also did well for their comprehensive recycling and energy conservation efforts. We are gathering a good collection of awards for all aspects of our travel policies. The effort that goes into the nominations is well rewarded for the credibility that these recognitions gives us, not just in the wider community but also among colleagues. Many of these see every new bike rack as some sort of threat to their freedom to drive to the door where they work. However hard you say "its not so", the wish to provide excellent quality and attractive alternatives has yet to be fully accepted. So we just keep pressing on.

Bikes on Trains Campaign

Mike Bell

I am concerned at the ongoing problems with on train cycle carriage, specifically the so called "toast racks", where up to 5 cycles can be vertically hooked, (if you're reasonably fit), in the cramped confines of a guards van. This is also for the storage of parcels, pushchairs, wheelchairs etc. Cycles are gradually being discouraged from trains. In progressive European countries there are special vans just for cycles. If you share these or any other concerns regarding trains and cycling, pick up a "Any Concerns" form at your local station and voice your concerns. Send photocopies to these key people I've identified with the franchising system:

Sean Delaney
Strategic Rail Authority
55 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Mike Hewitson
Regional Passengers Committee
3rd Floor Centric House
390/ 391 Strand
London
WC2R 0LT

Anthony Smith
National Director
Rail Passengers Council
Whittles House
14 Pentonville Road
London
N1 9HF

Southampton Cycle Forum
Minutes of the inaugural meeting
Held on Thursday 15th May 2003 (1900 – 2100hrs)



Present:

Pete Brunskill	PIB	Southampton City Council (Cycling Officer)
Geoff Cornford	GC	Southampton City Council (Transport Division)
Paul Sullivan	PMS	Southampton City Council Transportation Strategy
John Waugh	JW	University Transport Manager
Magnus Mulliner	MM	Southampton Institute (Sport and Recreation)
Sean Withill	SW	Southampton Institute/CTC Member
Catherine Pascoe	CP	Local Cyclist
Insp. Jon Snook	JS	Hampshire Constabulary
Nicola Holttum	NH	Southampton City Primary Care NHS Trust
Nick Farthing	NF	Sustrans Area Manager
Sue Colborne	SC	Southampton Cycle Campaign
Barrie Colborne	BC	Southampton Cycle Campaign
Tina Davis	TD	Southampton Cycle Campaign
Jasmine Willis	JW	Portswood Cycles
Alan Rosenthal	AR	Portswood Cycles
Martin Tomlin	MT	Portswood Cycles
Richard Barnett	Rba	Local Cyclist
Richard Boniface	Rbo	Local Cyclist
Jim Deeley	JD	Local Cyclist
Eric Reed	ER	Local Cyclist
Nigel Searle	NS	Local Cyclist

1. Introduction

PIB commenced the meeting and asked if everyone could introduce themselves and their role / interest.

He stated that as this was the first meeting in 18 months, the second would follow shortly and thereafter meetings would be held quarterly. He thanked JW for providing the venue and refreshments, and pointed out to the Forum the National Cycling Award JW had picked up recently for his / the University's work in providing Cycling facilities at all campuses.

The Rough Guide to Cycling in London booklet was handed out and PIB felt that a similar publication could probably be produced for Southern Hampshire as part of the Solent Transport initiative.

2. Terms of reference

Group Chair

The first item discussed was how the group should work and what its remit should be. PIB explained that he would like to see the Chair rotated because it was felt if Southampton City Council were to Chair all meetings they would be seen to be solely responsible for cycling. An independent chair would help to oversee an independent Forum. There were opinions within the Forum both for and against rotation and SCC Chairing.

Southampton Cycle Forum cont...

Membership

PIB explained that the group needed to establish baseline criteria covering membership, remit, venues and frequency of meetings. It was suggested that as well as four meetings per year there should be an Annual Meeting open to all members of the public where all the work the Forum completed is publicised and open to scrutiny.

Objectives / Aims

It was agreed that the remit of the Forum should be broad and not too specific, its aims in general terms being to encourage cycling, reduce dependence on private motor cars, attempt to make the roads safer for cyclists and sharing / dissemination of best practice. Part of its aims should be to target members of the public that are toying with cycling (but it must not be seen to be anti car). It was agreed that safety of cyclists be given a high priority and that reduction in the traffic speeds need to be addressed. PIB explained that over the next three years 20mph zones would cover all Schools in Southampton.

Strategically the Forum could usefully take the lead in updating the three-year-old Southampton Cycle Plan, the plan being a means of securing funds from Government and private developers.

3. Cycling in Southampton – an overview

GC gave an overview of cycling in Southampton stating that, within the City Council there was a step change and a desire for cycling to play a major role in new transport initiatives. The Cycle Plan was up for review and the Local Transport Plan (LTP) was half way through its life, these two documents would continue to shape cycling /cycling policy and investment in cycling over the next few years.

The LTP process meant that the City Council was securing funds for Transport in the region of £2.75 million per annum as opposed to £700,000 prior to LTPs being introduced.

Nearly £500,000 from the LTP and contributions from SRB / NDC and developers through planning agreements etc would be available to invest in cycling during 2003 - 2004. The LTP Annual Progress Report 2003 (due in August) will contain targets for cycling, there is potential for additional funding if these targets are met.

Cycling levels in Southampton were relatively low but had remained steady, modal split surveys have indicated cycling to be around 1.7 - 1.8% of all journeys. The City Council viewed Southampton as an ideal place to cycle benefiting from a generally favourable topography, relatively compact city and having an equitable climate. The Council's aim is to raise cycling's profile and improve perception of it as a viable transport option. GC reconfirmed the commitment to 20mph zones adding that one was now in place in St Mary's and that other residential areas would soon have similar schemes.

There is strong cabinet support for cycling and Cllr Williams (then E&T Cabinet Member) does tend to lead by example, as do several Senior Officers within the Authority. Many Neighbourhood Wardens now carry out their duties on cycles. GC admitted there were still gaps particularly with regard to the lack of a successor body to the Road Safety Council and problems with lack of road space and how it might be reallocated.

Points raised

NS asked does SCC integrate with other Local Authorities, and take on board examples of good practice?

Southampton Cycle Forum cont...

PIB explained that it does from other Council's, attendance at conferences and seminars and study of best practice throughout the UK / globally. Much advice is received from Central Government via the DfT and NCS Board / ERCDT.

JW pointed out that it all comes down to political will and if cycling was not marketed properly as well as facilities put in place it would continue to struggle against the more vocal and prominent motoring lobby.

PIB agreed that there is a need to continue major marketing / promotional activity and asked the Forum to get writing to the press in support of schemes, as there were a lot of negative / adverse letters and campaigns / petitions against cycling. Cycling needs greater media coverage and the Forum can positively contribute.

NF pointed out that there while there some local authorities who did more on promoting cycling, Southampton was far in advance of most in the South of England.

There was a request to reinforce the time benefits of cycling as opposed to driving in the City to by producing a contour map showing a comparison of journey times by both modes. GC thought this could be useful but pointed out that there was no staff resource (at present) to progress such a proposal.

4. Cycle Route Cleansing

PIB explained that another major deterrent to everyday cycling were issues around punctures from glass, thorns etc left in cycle lanes / by the side of the road. To alleviate this, the City Council has purchased a dedicated cleansing machine specifically for cycle routes and this will commence operation in early June (believed to be a UK first). Funding from this did not come from the cycling budget but was an additional contribution from the main LTP Budget. (Post-meeting note - being launched in Redbridge at 1030hrs on Tuesday the 10th of June).

5. Police Tactical Cycle Unit

JS explained that following on from work with the City Council a dedicated police Tactical Cycle Unit is being set up in Southampton. A high profile launch is planned for July 2003. The unit will be made up of five police officers and five specials, and will carry out stop checks, proactive (intelligence-led) patrolling, instruct on cycle safety and deal with cycling and motoring offences. It will operate between 8am and 10pm but there will be some flexibility on deployment. The unit will visit schools to help break down barriers and raise the profile of cycling.

Notices

- 🚲 Members: would you like to receive meetings agendas in advance by email? Please email the Campaign on agenda@southamptoncycling.org.uk. Your information will be used for forwarding agendas or very rarely for sending out urgent Campaign news.
- 🚲 A free Eastleigh Borough Cycle map was launched at Eastleigh Cycle Fun Day on 15th June. To obtain copies, contact Sarah Wallbridge:
sarah.wallbridge@eastleigh.gov.uk / 023 8068 8280.
- 🚲 From Southampton City Council: The provisional data for the launch of the Police Tactical Cycle Team has been set as Monday 21st July. The launch will take place at the front of the Civic Centre.
- 🚲 Details of cycling in Hampshire can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/cycling

Events

July 2003

Mon 14th **Southampton Cycling Campaign Meeting** (see back page)

Wed 16th **Transport seminar with a difference**

10.30 - 14.15 at Colden Common Park Pavilion, Twyford

Network with other organisations/ members and exchange information on speed, noise, light and rural routes. A representative from the Institute of Civil Engineers/ Countryside Agency will talk about their publication Rural Routes and Networks. Contact Maggie Cole, Director CPRE Hampshire Branch, 01962 843655.

Sun 20th **Blackwater Valley Friends of the Earth Fun Cycle Ride**

Meet 10:00, Princes Hall, Aldershot

A mainly off-road cycle ride of about 12 km, easy-paced and suitable for all. A prize for the best decorated cycle helmet - choose to be either a Wildlife Garden or a Rainforest. Contact BVFoE 01252 510424
group@bvfoe.freemove.co.uk

August 2003

Sun 31st **Southampton Cycle For Life**

10:00 at The Rose Bowl, home to Hampshire County Cricket Club

This is one of a series of bike rides organised by Cancer Research UK to raise funds for research into cancers that affect men. The rides are 15 miles long and are suitable for families and cyclists of all abilities. Contact: 0870 161 1010 or www.cycleforlife.co.uk

September 2003

Mon 8th **Southampton Cycling Campaign Meeting** (see back page)

Mon 22nd **7th Winchester Alternative Transport Day/ European Car Free Day**

10:30 - 15:00 on High Street and The Square, Winchester

This event brings together a wide range of environmentally friendly transport, bus and train companies, environmental groups, cycle retailers, environmental groups as well as local authorities. Visitors will be able to enjoy an attractive, car-free environment with cafes, pubs, shops and theatre on the streets of Winchester. Sponsored by Mott MacDonald. Contact: Chris Hawthorne 01962 877833 / onthemove@forum-pr.co.uk See also www.winchester.gov.uk/onthemove, www.22september.org and www.itwmc.gov.uk

Other events at www.hants.gov.uk/cycling/events.html
Let us know about your events (see back page for details).

Get in touch

Chairpersons Pete R 023 8034 0261
 Izzy 023 8077 1689 / izzy@southamptoncycling.org.uk
Secretary Angela 023 8055 4715
Membership 12 Fontwell Gardens, Horton Heath, Eastleigh, SO50 7NL

Want something raised at a meeting? Call Pete R or email agenda@southamptoncycling.org.uk.

Newsletter articles and letters in plain text and preferably by email to newsletter@southamptoncycling.org.uk, or on a floppy disk or typed to SCC Newsletter, 41A Pentire Avenue, Southampton, SO15 7RT.
Deadline for September/ October issue is 29th August 2003.

Events listings to events@southamptoncycling.org.uk (date, time, place, short description and contact details please)

And finally, to keep our meetings on track, how about getting that winge out of your system by emailing winge@southamptoncycling.org.uk



Meetings at 19:45 every 2nd Monday of the month at Friends Meeting House, Ordnance Road.
No meeting in August, see you on 8th September!

This newsletter is available online at www.southamptoncycling.org.uk

Membership application

Join us and help make a difference!

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Annual fee (please circle) £10 Waged / £5 Unwaged

Return this form with your fee to SCC Membership Secretary, 12 Fontwell Gardens, Horton Heath, Eastleigh, SO50 7NL