



NewsLetter 2009

REVIEW OF 2008

BY JOHN STUBBS

Many of the issues that we have dealt with this year are of course on going from 2007, and even before! But there are a few ones. The key campaigning activities of the DCG in 2008/2009 are set out as follows.

Connecting Derby/Inner Ring Road Campaign

While being opposed in principle to the construction of the road, the DCG has been working particularly hard over the last year to ensure that the opportunities for cycling created by this new road are optimised. Much progress has been made in discussions with the City Council but there still remain some important outstanding issues, particularly regarding the proposals on King Street by St Helen's House.

Duffield Road bus lane

This scheme has been retained by the City Council which the DCG fully supports due to the benefit it provides to the bus service in particular and public transport in general. However, as we reported last year the bus lane is not helpful to north bound cyclists on Duffield Road. Consequently the DCG has been in close discussion with the City Council during this year about developing a suitable alternative cycle route. The discussion is ongoing.

Sturgess Field Campaign

This project by the University of Derby to build a road across an important green wedge in the city's landscape, was rejected by the City Council in September 2007. The DCG supported this campaign, led by Friends of the Markeaton Brook, not only because of opposition to road building in principle, but also because the proposed road scheme ran counter to long standing DCG goals of having improvements made to the existing cycle paths leading to the University. But the University appealed against the City Council's decision and so the DCG was involved in taking its case against the

scheme to a formal planning inquiry which convened in October 2008. We triumphed in the end as was made to the DCG's representation at the Planning Inquiry in the Inspector's Report. So this green wedge has now been preserved for the benefit of the local community.

Railway station cycle parking and Travel Plan

The DCG welcomed the new bicycle stands at Derby Railway Station that were installed in July 2007 but was still critical at the lack of capacity they afforded. Since then, the City Council has required Derby Station to establish a Station Travel Plan (as part of a nationwide scheme) and the DCG has a seat on the Steering Group for this project giving it input into improving the station's cycling storage and access facilities.

Road junction development A6/A511 (Raynesway)

This large road project to the south east of the city is being taken forward by the Highways Agency (HA). All points raised by the DCG with the HIA have been addressed and the scheme has been through a Planning Inquiry in September 2008. While it is unknown when the project will start, every opportunity has been taken to get best possible cycle facilities there.

City Centre Permeability

This issue relates to having cycle access to the pedestrianised city centre and this has been a long standing goal of the DCG. Although we have yet to achieve this, the recent decision to allow motorised pedi-cabs in the pedestrianised may provide an opportunity here. Cycling England had concerns over the lack of permeability to this area on their visit to Derby last summer.

Derby Cycling Group

Annual General Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 12th May
2009

Friends' Meeting House

St Helen's Street

Derby DE1 3GY

Speaker:

John Stubbs departing Chairman has kindly agreed to give his insight on the future of Cycling in light of his new independence to speak as our ex-chair

Formal AGM business will be kept to a minimum.

Light refreshments served

The meeting should terminate no later than 9pm

Everyone welcome!!

— from page 1

-audited for impact on cycling. The Council are now committed to producing a Strategic Cycle Network Development Plan.

Railway station cycle parking and Travel Plan

The DCG regard SCFs as the principal means to interface with the City Council and through them the DCG is now involved in the proposed audit of the existing cycle network. One potentially serious setback for the DCG this year was the loss of a dedicated Cycling Officer in the council but we successfully campaigned to have one reinstated. If there are any issues about cycling infrastructure that concern you then please contact Tim Banton and Rachel Shardlow on traffic.management@derby.gov.uk make it: 'FAO cycling infrastructure'. Tell them the problems and please tell us too!

Newsletter Email Forum

Re Wearing Reflective Vests made law for cyclists in France, November eNewsletter

As a lifetime commuting cyclist I would never get on my bicycle to go anywhere without wearing high visibility clothing. I would welcome a law in the UK for compulsory use.

Rob Taylor
Oakwood

Reply:

Compulsory helmet use, to which the CTC is opposed, is in the same vein to this crazy French law. It goes some way to dispel the theory that France is some sort of cycling paradise. Making the law apply to something such as this, which is nonetheless desirable, simply trivialises the whole situation, as often the police will choose not to enforce it, or enforcement will differ according to where you are.

Ian

Derby Cycling History project

I was wondering if any members have any knowledge of cycling history in Derby. I am hoping to put together a small display later in the year but I'm finding research a little slow so would welcome any help.

Currently looking into Derby County Cycling Club of the 1880/90's, especially Will Ellis who was the '100 Mile Cycling' Champion of 1989. Local races were held at the Aboretum, Vulcan Road sports ground (Baseball Ground) and the County Cricket Ground and all appeared to draw huge crowds

Also I'm interested in any pre World War 1, but if any one has anything up to 1939 I'd be keen to hear from you.

To help contact Roger, Cycle Magic

info@cyclmagic.org.uk

<http://cyclinghistory.blogspot.com/>

BY TONY ROELICH DERBY - A CYCLING DEMONSTRATION TOWN



Derby is a Cycling Demonstration Town, one of the first six in England. The Cycling Demonstration Town (CDT) concept was devised by a government sponsored organisation called Cycling England which aims to see whether a step change in cycling activity can be achieved by focusing funds on cycling in particular towns. Each town tackles the issue from its own perspective, to see what effect different approaches have on cycling levels.

In Derby the inspired choice was to invest in the future by focusing spending on young people, under 25, and is known as the Cycle Derby project. First of all cycle shelters, bikeability cycle training, and cycle clubs were introduced into primary schools. Now facilities and training are being extended to secondary schools, Derby College and the University. The target is to increase cycling to school from 1% to 4% of the school population and it is very successful.

To secure the CDT funding the City had to show that it planned to put cycling at the centre of all its operations (planning, housing, libraries, parks, etc). The funding itself was £0.5m a year for three years from Cycling England and "match funding" of £0.5m from the City Council. The match funding was to be new money (ie additional to the existing cycling budget), so the CDT status reached further than the simple amount of money granted.

However, during 2006 and 2007, many local cycle campaigners realised that the rate at which new cycle infrastructure was being built (ie new cycle paths, lanes, parking facilities etc) was dwindling away. Was the money previously spent on infrastructure being spent instead on Cycle Derby? If young people were to cycle to school they needed better facilities between their homes and school, but this was not being provided.

In 2008 Derby had to apply to extend its CDT funding for another three years, and it very nearly lost it altogether. The reasons seemed to be that:

The City Council's match funding had in fact been "old money" already allocated to cycling, but was being spent on Cycle Derby instead of infrastructure.

Cycling had not been integrated into the council's planning and decision making processes. Many times the DCG has not been notified of new developments so we couldn't talk to planners about the requirements of cyclists.

Fortunately, the City council really does want to develop cycling within the city and drew up an action plan to show how they would rectify previous shortcomings. Derby Cycling Group supports this plan because it gives the chance for real progress with cycling in the city. Several members attended the Big Meeting between Cycling England and the City Council in August 2008 to support the City's case to remain a CDT. Fortunately Cycling England also believe that Derby can deliver to their plan and agreed to fund us until 2011.

So we are still privileged, Cycle Derby can continue to deliver its excellent services for young cyclists, and hopefully we will also see a growth in the cycle network which will allow young people (and their parents) to feel safer cycling on our roads.

During 2009 the DCG has been asked to participate in several initiatives which we hope will bring great benefits to cyclists:

Developing a list of cycle route "hotspots" and "quick win" fixes (ie issues to be dealt with now). The preliminary list is overleaf on page 5

A city centre cycling audit – looking at the routes and other facilities in, around and through the city centre.

Development of cycle infrastructure design standards – a toolkit which sets out the requirements of cyclists for each type of cycle facility, how they should be designed and when each is appropriate.

My hope now is that, at last, we may start to see the full benefits of the Cycling Demonstration Town concept coming home to Derby. You can be rest assured that the Derby Cycling Group will be in the heart of it, speaking up for cyclists in the City.

Choose Cycling - Cycle Training for adults in Derby



Choose Cycling is a not-for-profit cycling and green travel social enterprise. Our aim is to create opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy travelling in healthy and environmentally-friendly ways.

Here's some highlights of our work in 2008...

Cycle training was offered to adults in Derby and Derbyshire.

Travel Plan work with a large Derby organization. We helped produce a marketing brand and poster campaign for the launch of their Travel Plan. We are also providing information for their National Intranet site, including online green travel maps, practical information about walking, cycling and public transport, recommended green travel routes and useful web links.

Bike Week in June! We were kept very busy with information stalls, cycling tryouts, guided bike rides and Cycling Safety Forums at various companies around the city.

Over the summer, we held a **Community Cycling**

CTC Derby

Feel like cycling further, faster? Want to feel fitter, leaner, lighter? Perhaps you want to explore the beautiful and peaceful countryside surrounding Derby? Derby Cyclists Touring Club organise weekly rides from Derby during the year (on Sunday's and Thursday's), which are fully lead (so you don't need to keep looking at a map) and can help you to achieve all these things whilst enjoying the company of those of a similar mind. Check us out at www.derbyctc.org.uk, or ring Ian on Derby 752384 to find out more. Local groups are only a part of the CTC, which campaigns for cyclists on a host of national issues, for road and mountain bikers. Local Right to Ride reps get involved in issues in the County of Derbyshire and beyond, and the insurance and other benefits makes CTC an organisation well worth joining. For more info see www.ctc.org.uk.

for Health Project in Duffield. There were information stalls outside the Appletree surgery every Monday, with free cycle tuition and guided bike rides. Our innovative Borrow-a-Bike scheme, where patients could borrow a bike and equipment for a week for free, was a real hit.

Cycling Site Audit for a well-known national organisation. Good cycle parking, and showering, changing, and drying facilities at work, can really encourage cycling journeys.

So, what's next for us in 2009?

The **Community Cycling for Health Evaluation** showed that cycling really does improve levels of well-being and activity, and that this format is an excellent way of engaging the community in cycling. We are currently looking for funding to expand this initiative.

We will continue to offer adult cycle training and to work with organisations and their travel plans. And watch out for our exciting new Cycling in Style events...

You can contact the Choose Cycling Team on 07900 977990 or info@choosercycling.co.uk

DCG Facebook website up and pedalling!

For those who have access to the internet most members recognise the new kinds of communication available to small organisation to be able to stay in touch their members.

The phenomena of "Social Networking" is to some people who already have enough friends and relations a bit boring and worry about the security of profile information.

Security wise it's best not to put any information onto Facebook pages that could make you vulnerable to fraud, ie your address, or "Allow" applications programmes to run on your profile.

Security points aside, DCG has had a free to join group on the website since around last November and has around 20 members, whether all these people are paying members of DCG hasn't be ascertained, but hopefully people will be inspired to come along to meeting and events in the future.

The beauty of the DCG facebook site is that anyone who has joined the group can add comments and join discussions, post photo's and video.

go to www.facebook.com and type "Derby Cycling group" into the search box, join and leave a comment

Cycling Infrastructure Challenges for Derby in 2009

At the DCG's December committee meeting a list was compiled of the issues which need to be addressed for making cycling safer and more convenient in Derby. To this end, the DCG is currently working to have cycling placed at the heart of the infrastructure planning system so that a basic requirement of this planning system is that we are always fully consulted on matters impacting upon cyclists. This lack of consultation has meant that three years after the establishment of the city council's Cycle Derby organisation and the city's status as a Cycle Demonstration Town, wider interests of cyclists in Derby are still not being met in spite of all the advances in promoting cycling.

The DCG believe the following points to be critical:

Connecting Derby.

The plans for King Street and the two lanes joining St Alkmunds Way are particularly unsatisfactory. Unless the plans are radically changed or real alternatives offered the proposed arrangement will represent a real danger to cyclists and an additional barrier to cycling into the city. We also have other concerns including cycle access to Friary Street. (See map at: Connecting Derby area)

Traffic Lights

The timing of some traffic lights is potentially dangerous, particularly Siddals Road to the Morledge which doesn't give cyclists enough time to get across before the traffic to the left is given a green light! A similar problems arises at the junction of Abbey St and Burton Road. There are also a number of traffic lights that do not seem to recognise bicycles, particularly ones riding through red lights, an illegal practice which of course is not advocated by the DCG.

Advanced Stop Lines (ASLs)

ASL's should be installed as a matter of course at all junctions. It should be that a case has to be made **not** to install an ASL. There is a viewpoint which says that ASL's are not useful for junctions where cyclists go straight on or turn left. However the DCG totally rejects this view.

City Centre permeability

We need to be able to cycle through the city centre legally, particularly St Peters Street. Other cities permit this is (eg Leicester) so why not Derby? Contra flow cycling should be permitted on the one way systems on Full Street and Gower Street in the city centre.

Route 54

The barriers on Route 54 between Mickleover and Mackworth need to be removed. Apart from hindering cyclists, they also inhibit disability access.

Bridges

We are concerned about the safety of cyclists passing under bridges on NCN Route 6. Of particular concern is where the path goes under Raynesway and also the two locations where it passes under the railway. The concern arises from the threatening behaviour of some of the people who frequent these locations. There is also a need to remove the posts/stumps on the cycle path under the bridge on London Road under which Route 6 passes.

Duffield Road

The new south bound bus lane should be retained but an outward bound cycle lane is required as soon as possible.

Notification of planning applications with potential impact upon cyclists.

Had the DCG been able to view the planning application for Raynesway Park, much earlier, then there would have been much more opportunity to influence putting cycle infrastructure in place.

The meeting brought up numerous other issues to improve life for Derby's cycling community. This list was written up by Dave Clasby after the meeting but shows the amount of input the membership can have in shaping DCG campaigning activities.

Cycle Rail Integration

Derby has been selected to take part in ATOC (Association of Train Companies) Stations Travel Plan - National Pilot Programme. Ruth Kelly the Secretary of State for Transport announced the plan, which covers the whole of England and Wales at Derby Train Station last July.

Derby was selected from a list of competing cities, town and authorities, to take part in an integrated transport scheme. Success in gaining a place on this programme may have been due to being a cycle demonstration town, as this status will be complimentary to the Station Travel Plan.

According to the aims of Derby's Travel Plan;

“ Promoting cycling would be a major objective as would promoting other, sustainable, access modes (walking, cycling, buses, car-sharing)”.

The work of the plan will begin in 2009, as the preliminary stages of fact finding should now have been influenced by public opinion by the filling out online travel surveys.

The more people who become aware of the on-going Station Travel Plan (STP) the greater our voice will be in affecting the success and keep tabs on the work of making the proposals a

Contact the Derby Cycling Group:

Monthly meetings: 1st Tuesday of every month, 19.30 (7.30pm) at The Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby DE1 2RU. Everyone Welcome. Contact John Stubbs (contact details below) for further information.

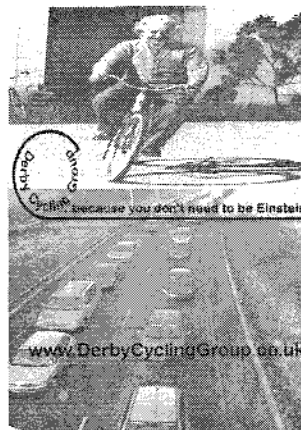
Chair and Media Officer: John Stubbs, 65 Otter Street, Derby DE1 3FD. Tel 01332

345942. Email: chair@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk

Treasurer: John Palmer, 1 Dovedale Rise, Allestree DE22 2RF. Tel: 01332559100. Email: trcas@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk

Newsletter Editor, Andrew Harrison. Email: andrew.harrison@yahoo.co.uk

Webmaster: Alastair Johnson. Email: webmaster@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk



EVENTS

CTC Cyclists' camping weekend Beaumanor Loughborough 22nd

– 25th May 2009 CTC members are invited to camp again in the beautiful grounds of Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse near Loughborough. There are excellent facilities and a variety of led rides will be available. For further details and booking forms contact Ray Clay, tel 01509 261068 or email ray.j.clay@gmail.com

Get Cycling Show—25/26 may
10 till 6 Nottingham Race course £5 adults under 15 £/3.50
www.getcyclingshow.info

samways
UKCYCLESTORE.COM

Members receive 10% at discount at Samways by showing membership cards!