

The Spokesperson

The Newsletter of Derby Cycling Group. Autumn 2009

Campaign updates

Connecting Derby

DCG has been discussing the cycle facilities on the new inner ring road for several years now. The city council had done a good job at designing the off-road cycle routes and we have mostly been filling the details, such as how we'd like the access points setting out, ensuring objects such as street lights are not placed in the middle of the paths, ensuring contraflow access to Green Lane and out of Babington Lane is retained, etc. We also did a review of the cycle routes which came out of the Westfields project, which have many serious shortcomings, and did site visits with the city council to show what was wrong. The road construction between Osmaston Road and Abbey Street, crossing Normanston Road/Burton Road are now well underway and you can see the line of cycle paths quite clearly; the lamp posts are all nicely in the verges and not on the paths. Hopefully we will have some good quality routes out of this project.

The junction between King Street and St Alkmunds Way has been more problematic, and Dave Clasby has been busy bullying people to make the route from King Street into town a safe one by taking it up onto the new foot/cycle bridge over St Alkmunds Way. We are hopeful that a reasonable route will come out of this, but as one part of the council sold the ground which was to be used for the cycle path when they sold St Helens House, it will only ever be a compromise – but at least a safe one.

Raynesway/Alvaston By-Pass Junction

The junction between these two roads is being completely rebuilt. DCG has been involved in the design of the cycle

routes through the area, and we have insisted that the paths are segregated instead of the shared use which was proposed. This was because the route is busy with pedestrians and cyclists at certain times of the day, the paths were segregated before, and the markings help people know where they should be when walkers and cyclists meet so hopefully this will reduce conflicts. We had raised serious concerns where the cycle route crosses the end of Curzon Lane regarding heavy goods vehicles emerging from the vehicle testing station. The cycle path was redesigned, on-road cycle lanes and more prominent cycle route signage were included by the Highways Agency as a result of our concerns. At the moment the cycle paths are diverted while the junction is being built. While this is not convenient, the diversions have been well organised we have been kept informed of planned changes and have tried to post details on the DCG facebook site as they occur.

Local Transport Plan

All local authorities are currently creating their local transport plans for the next eleven years. These will dictate the planning framework for transport projects over that time frame. DCG is involved with Derby's plan, and we have been involved in two workshops and have submitted the objectives for cycling which we would like to see incorporated into that plan. The city council seem to want to promote cycling more, but we will see what the first draft of the plan looks like early next year. A copy of our submission is on the Campaigns page of the website.

More Information can be had at

<http://www.derbycyclinggroup.org.uk/campaigning.php>

GOODBYE AND HELLO

After a long stint as Chair of the DCG John Stubbs stood down at this year's AGM.

In recognition of his long service and contribution to the group, John was made an honorary lifelong member of the Derby Cycling Group. This is only the second time this award has been given; the first recipient being Gordon Boneham, who was made an honorary lifelong member at the 2004 AGM for his similar service to the Group. Gordon has now sadly passed away, but I am sure you all join me in wishing John a long and healthy retirement.

John has been succeeded by Mark Brown (pictured right with trombone)

and we wish him well in his new task.



Mark writes: *Hello, may I introduce myself. My name is Mark Brown and I am*

the new chairman of your Derby Cycling Group. I will be brief, as a group we want to promote cycling in Derby. We support Cycle Derby and its aims. We are involved with the City Council in promoting cycling and prioritising the improvements that can be made. We are involved with the new Local Transport Plan (LTP).

A lot of work has been done in the background to update our website (please visit it) and our campaigns network is improving all the time. We have a Facebook site and please feel free to visit and add to it.

We value your continued support and hope you will continue to help us in our efforts to promote cycling in Derby.

WEBSITE NEWS

From Ian Dent,
webmaster@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk

New website features

During 2009, the DCG website has been moved a lot closer to home. It was previously hosted in Utah, USA by a company run by an old DCG member (Pete Johnson) who emigrated from Derby a few years ago. Pete originally designed the DCG website and the Group extends thanks for his efforts over the years. Pete is still a DCG member and probably wins the "furthest from Derby" prize!

The website has now been moved much nearer home and is hosted in Bolton. Whilst the old style and content has been brought across to the new ISP, the DCG committee is keen to expand the content and interactivity of the website and would appreciate input from the membership.

A number of interactive forums have been created and all members are recommended to explore their contents. These can be found at <http://www.derbycyclinggroup.org.uk/bulletin> – viewing is available without registration but we're keen for members to register and then submit new topics and comments on existing topics. To make use of this click the "register" button on the above website and then follow the instructions. All free to use!

Please visit the DCG website at www.derbycyclinggroup.org.uk and catch up with the latest activities. If you have any problems or comments then please pass them onto a member of the committee or email webmaster@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk

Email distribution lists

In order to increase interactivity with the DCG membership, it is planned to make greater use of the email distribution list of all the DCG members (with email access). We suspect that some of the emails on the list are now out of date or wrong and we need to do a good spring clean (in autumn!). We will be using the email list for electronic distribution of newsletters and for important communications to the membership. The committee certainly don't want to become spammers and will review carefully when to use the distribution list and when other communication methods (e.g. discussion forums, facebook) make more sense.

To ensure we have your latest accurate email address we ask all members to visit <http://www.derbycyclinggroup.org.uk/list> and register their email address. This is also the place to visit if you need to update your details or if you decide that you want to remove yourself from the distribution list.

Email is much quicker and cheaper than the Royal Mail but the committee is aware that not everyone has email or internet access and will also be sending out communications by post as necessary.

FaceBook Group

For those of you on Facebook there is a group "Derby Cycling Group" which you are encouraged to join and contribute to. Currently 45 DCG members are also in the Facebook group.

WANTED

Membership Secretary

Our Membership Secretary, Barbara Rathbone has resigned. Barbara has been a stalwart of the DCG for a long time and we wish her all the best for the future. We now need an individual who can take on this role. This is an important role but does not require a large time commitment. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact the Chair chair@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk.

DOWNING STREET PETITIONS

3 Foot rule

There is a Downing Street petition out at the moment asking for a legal minimum of three feet between an overtaking vehicle and a cyclist.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/3feet2Pass/>

Bike Belles

Sign the Motion for Women petition urging local and national governments to make it safer for more people, especially women, to cycle. Every name will count when the petition is presented to Government in December. Please sign now.

http://www.bikebelles.org.uk/index.php/sign_our_petition/

Cycle-Path-ology AKA The Worst Provisions for Cycling



PUZZLE: Spot what's right with this photo

We'd like to expand the content of the website and one theme that we want to explore is the various hopeless attempts at cycling provision that we come across in the Derby area. Where appropriate we will also work on trying to get the facilities improved. As a recent example of what we want to avoid (luckily not from Derby) see enclosed photo.

Please look out for examples of stupidity and submit to webmaster@derbycyclinggroup.org.uk for inclusion on the website.