

The Spokesperson

The Newsletter of Derby Cycling Group. Spring 2010

Results and Future Developments

Tony Roelich, Campaigns Officer

There is a lot of infrastructure being built or planned at the moment, and we will see a lot of new bits of cycle paths and cycle lanes, upgraded toucan crossings, and cycle parking coming online over the next twelve months, some of it being built right now.

There are many sources of inspiration for this work. Derby's status as a Cycle Demonstration Town has led to new cycle lanes on Osmaston Road from Litchurch Lane to Douglas Street.

Some of the bigger schemes and longer routes, such as Sinfin Lane to Normanton, Uttoxeter Road, a bit of Broadway and Duffield Road, are the result of last year's Cycle Audit done by Cycling England, where DCG were heavily involved in chaperoning the auditor around the city to show where routes could be improved.

Connecting Derby will be delivering some impressive cycle facilities; some DCG members had a tour by the project manager in January. We looked at the section from Abbey Street to Osmaston Road and were very pleased to see many details had been included as a result of our discussions with the project team over the last few years. The first part of the project will be finished this summer and will deliver some very useful cycle routes of the very best standard.

Several Neighbourhood Boards have funded cycle facilities from their local budgets: Allestree's bike pods for Lawn pri-

mary school, the Coleman Street link to Route 66 and route signs in Alvaston, the signing of the cycle route from Normanton Road to the railway station, the Chellaston cycle stands by Derby Road shops, cycle stands and route signs in Heatherton, Uttoxeter Road cycle lanes and advanced stop lines, and cycle stands in Mickleover, have all contributed. If members live in other council wards and are not already involved with their neighbourhood forum or board, it is an excellent way to further the cause of cycling and influence decisions on spending by attending just three or four meetings a year.

We could be mistaken for thinking cycling was a done deal, but this year every council in the country is preparing their Local Transport Plans for 2011 to 2023. Known as LTP3, this is extremely important for us. It sets out the planning framework for Derby's transport system for the next twelve years. We have been working hard to put cycling at the very top of this agenda. If we succeed with our campaigning we should see improvements in the cycle network far beyond what we have today. It's one to watch as the year progresses.

ONLINE PARTICIPATION

Even if you are unable to take part in neighbourhood forum meetings, you can access information about, and take part in the discussion of the discussion of cycling campaigning in Derby at

<http://www.derbycyclinggroup.org.uk/bulletin/>

Cycling in Derby Profile:

Nick Ratcliffe, new Sustrans-BikeIt Officer



Nick joined Sustrans in November 2009. His role as Bike It officer is to work with schools to encourage children to get on their bikes, especially as a means of travelling to and from school.

Why Bike It?

"For much of my life, bikes have been my principal mode of transport. The

freedom they afford and the way they let you fit exercise effortlessly into daily life is fantastic. I have fond childhood memories of cycle touring around the West Country with mates, seeing places that I just wouldn't have otherwise seen. I want to pass on my passion for cycling to the pupils I'll be working with, to help make some of the cyclists of tomorrow. Joining Bike It has been a dream opportunity and I'm thrilled to be the latest Derby officer."

Before joining Sustrans, Nick coordinated Vegetable Pedallers, a cycle delivery scheme for people with mobility difficulties, based at Sound Bites whole-food shop on Morledge. He worked as a Bikeability cycle trainer with Cycle Derby, and also with Choose Cycling, a social enterprise that promotes sustainable travel in Derbyshire.

What's Nick up to?

"I've now settled into the job and am really enjoying working with all of my schools. I hope to offer cycle try-outs to all of my schools, in collaboration with Cycle Derby. This will include a wobbly bike, tandem and penny farthing! I'm

also going to put on a school cycle champion training day where they will learn playground cycle skills and basic bike maintenance so they can run bike activities themselves. Most schools are taking part in the Virtual Bike Race this March, and I'll be running an inter-school competition to get the pupils fired up and pedalling in throughout March and beyond!"

What are you riding?

I'm currently riding a folding Brompton M6R, which came with the job. I'm quite smitten by it and for a bike with 16" wheels it really is very stable, I didn't have a spill through all the ice and snow. I've dragged a fully laden trailer to the schools that I work with and the gear range will cover the Derby hills and it's very much at home on trains; there, sales pitch over!

Nick works with schools throughout the Derby area, and is currently looking for six new schools to become Bike It schools. If you're interested, please email: nick.ratcliffe@sustrans.org.uk.

EVENTS

Forthcoming events for cyclists in the Derby area and beyond

May

Mark Beaumont appearing at the Darwin Rooms, Derby, May 14th

http://www.derbylive.co.uk/Public_Event.aspx?ID=735

The Man who Cycled the World is Mark's story of his adventures, a personal rollercoaster of mental and physical endurance as well as a fascinating insight into the world we live in. In 2008, he broke the world record for cycling solo around the world, an epic journey of over 18,000 miles, cycling 100 miles per day for over half a year.

June

Sustrans Ranger's Ride to Breadsall - 6th June

Join the Derby Sustrans Rangers on a ride from either the Derby Market Place (11am) or Markeaton Park (10:30am) to the Breadsall Greenway where there will be a BBQ (pay for what you eat). All welcome. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Derby Sustrans rangers ride Mickleover to Etwall - 13th June

Join the Derby Sustrans Rangers for a ride from the old Mickleover station to the leisure centre at Etwall where all riders will be able to take a free swim (optional) and eat from the BBQ (pay for what you eat).

Team Green Britain Bike Week June 19th -27th

<http://www.bikeweek.org.uk>

Team Green Britain Bike Week is an annual opportunity to promote cycling and show how cycling can easily be part of everyday life. Demonstrating the social, health and environmental benefits of cycling, the week aims to get people to give cycling a go all over the UK. This year we aim to make 'everyday cycling for everyone'!

Velo-city Global - Copenhagen - June 22nd—25th

<http://www.velo-city2010.com>

This is the largest and most influential event for pro-cycling and people-friendly cities there is. There will be 1,000+ international delegates. This is highly recommended as a forum for sharing global best practice and new ideas.

July

Derby Big Cycle day - Sunday 4 July 2010 11am

This event promises to be biggest and best festival of cycling Derby has ever seen! Also includes the 5 Parks ride, as featured opposite.

Bike ride from Sinfin Moor to Cloud Quarry. Saturday July 11th. This event is organised by Friends of Sinfin Moor, and will include a barbecue at the Moor afterwards.

Derby Cycling Group 30th Birthday Party, Saturday July 10th

To celebrate 30 years since the founding of the Derby Cycling Group, the Birthday Party has been set for Saturday, July 10th at The Clockworks, Queen St, all day including music, Dr Bike, city rides, maintenance workshops, and bike art sessions.

DCG AGM 2010

The Derby Cycling Group annual general meeting will take place on May 11th at the Friends Meeting House, St Helens Street, Derby. The meeting will commence at 7pm and finish at 9pm. Refreshments will be provided. All members of Derby Cycling Group are encouraged to attend. This event will include a Guest Speaker, Lynn Johnston, Strategic Cycle Manager Derby City Council.

5 Parks Sponsored Ride 2010

Last year's 5 Parks sponsored ride for Macmillan was one of the most smooth and successful yet. The ride was organised by CTC Cycle Champions Project, in partnership with Cycle Derby, who provided the promotional material, Sustrans and DCG. Volunteer ride leaders came mainly from these organisations with other cycle organisations also asked to get involved.

The ride raises money for a worthwhile charity, while at the same time introducing new cyclists and families to the cycle paths and green spaces around Derby, as well as showing them through the town centre.

This is the fifth year of the 5 Parks ride. It will run along side the Big Cycle Day Out event at Markeaton Park on Sunday 4th July. We are looking for more 'Cycle Champions' (volunteers) to help with the ride this year. Training will be given, so it does not matter if you have not assisted with leading a ride before.

If you think that you may be able to assist or want to find out more, please contact Amanda Salt – CTC Community Cycle Development Officer Amanda.salt@ctc.org.uk 07786 981828 / 01332 641749.

Cycle-Path-ology



Spotted in Swadlingcote: Sustrans route 63 apparently goes straight through Dean and Smedley's Family Pharmacy.