

CYCLING Wakefield

Promoting and campaigning for cyclists



Newsletter of the Wakefield District Cycle Forum

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 20th March, 7pm Wakefield Town Hall

Our Annual General Meeting is the time when all members have the opportunity to influence the priorities which will shape the Forum's programme over the next year.

So come along and have your say.

Guest speaker at the meeting will be Sheridan Woolley, Sustrans Active Travel Officer for Wakefield, who will update us on the Sustrans project to promote active travel in workplaces in Wakefield and Castleford.

Spreading the word

The Wakefield District Cycle Forum is embracing modern communication methods and utilising the social media sites Facebook and Twitter. As the popularity of social media grows the WDCF is able to spread our message to, and engage with more and more like minded cyclists in the Wakefield District.

We can also create links with similar groups in other nearby districts.

As the New Year starts we now have over 100 people in our Facebook group. Can we get to 200 before 2014?

If you have not already done so please join our Facebook group and follow us on Twitter.

Sharing paths with walkers: a Code of Conduct for cyclists

As our regular readers will know the Cycle Forum is active in trying to open up paths to cyclists which would fill in 'missing links' in the cycle path network in the district. One of our recent projects meant the involvement of a Parish Council which we were surprised to find was a little resistant to our request to endorse the project.

It turned out that some local residents were not happy sharing paths with cyclists because of the behaviour of some who do not use bells or other means of warning walkers of their arrival. Others cited irresponsible cyclist who rode too fast on multi-user paths with seeming disregard for other users.

Sustrans and the Cyclist Touring Club (CTC) have tried to address this issue and we reproduce an article from the CTC on a Code of Conduct which they hope will help.

If you have any comments or observations please write to the Cycle Forum at info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk or get in touch with CTC or Sustrans direct.

By Cherry Allan (CTC) on 11 January 2013

In most circumstances, cyclists and walkers are able to co-exist happily when they use the same routes, but mutual respect and consideration are a vital part of this. The Code of Conduct from Sustrans, endorsed by CTC, helps encourage responsible behaviour on shared-use paths.



Walkers, cyclists - and animals - share space happily

Shared-use paths are popular with people who are looking for motor-traffic free routes, either for leisure or for getting to work or the shops, for example. Inconsiderate cycling undermines the tranquillity of these paths and is particularly intimidating for people with reduced mobility, or who have hearing or vision difficulties.

Speeding is a growing problem. More people are riding along shared-use paths for fitness training or to record personal bests, for instance - activities that are much better suited to quiet roads.

To encourage harmonious interaction on shared-use paths, therefore, all major organisations involved in promoting cycling, including CTC and British Cycling, support the Code of Conduct issued by Sustrans.

The Code advises cyclists to:

- give way to pedestrians and wheelchair users and take care around horse-riders, leaving them plenty of room, especially when approaching from behind
- be courteous and patient with pedestrians and other path users who are moving more slowly than you – shared paths are for sharing, not speeding
- slow down as needed when space is limited or if you cannot see clearly ahead
- be particularly careful at junctions, bends, entrances onto the path, or any other 'blind spots' where people (including children) could appear in front of you without warning
- keep to your side of any dividing line
- carry a bell and use it or an audible greeting – avoid surprising people, or horses
- however, don't assume people can see or hear you – remember that many people are hard of hearing or visually impaired
- in dull and dark weather make sure you have lights so you can be seen

CTC has a series of briefings on Access and Rights of Way with more information on this and other topics.

Campaign Update

Crofton to Walton Park Cycle Route

This newsletter has been reporting regularly on our campaign to open a path linking Crofton to Walton Colliery Nature Park to cyclists and other users. In the last edition we reported some progress in the campaign with the agreement from Network Rail to unblock the access under the railway which borders the Park and which will give access from the path into the Nature Park.

We can now report further progress with the withdrawal of objections to wider access from Yorkshire Water, who uses the path to service their water treatment works. In November Yorkshire Water meet with representatives of the Cycle Forum and officers of Wakefield Council to discuss the use of the path. Council officers argued strongly that the path was of strategic importance to the network of cycle routes in the district and emphasised the safety improvement that the use of the path (the blue dotted line on the map)



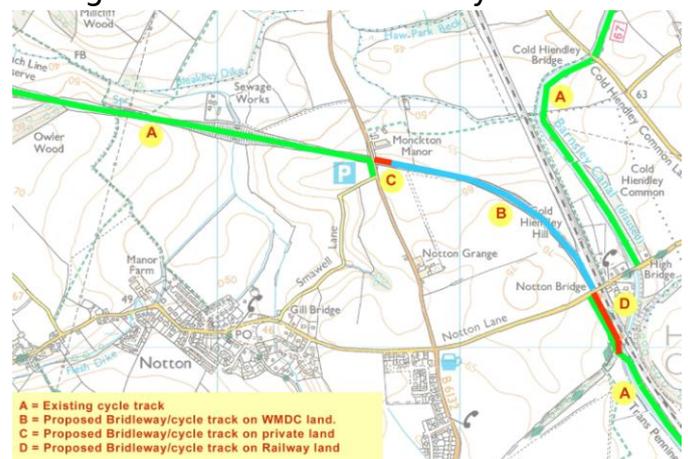
would have for cyclists.

This is however not the end of the road for this campaign as we still have to secure the agreement of the landowner. Council officials are now working on that agreement. Hopefully the council's efforts will be rewarded but if not we may once again have to call on our members to take action to support the campaign.

Chevet Branch Line - Go-ahead for new off-road route

In the last newsletter we reported on potential grant funding to create a new bridleway near Notton which would create a link into the Trans Pennine Trail at Old Royston, avoid the need to use the busy road on Chevet Lane, and provide a new off-road section of the Wakefield Wheel (see the blue and red lines on the map).

We can report that the hard work put in by the Forum Chair and Vice-chair to mount the application for funds seems to have been fruitful. At their January meeting the panel who advise Natural England on awarding grants approved our application. There are still a few loose ends to tie up but we are confident that the scheme can now go ahead in the next couple of months.



The work will include some volunteer labour clearing the site of the new path and signing it once it has been completed. If you are able to help with this work please drop a note to info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk.



Winter Rides

Santa Rides

A new feature of the Forum's rides programme this winter was the Santa Rides held just before Christmas. Participants were asked to dress up their bikes and themselves in suitable seasonal attire and prizes were awarded for the best dress bike and the best dressed cyclist. Participants were also treated to a free mince pie and hot drink at the café stop on each of the rides.



David receiving his prize for best dressed rider

The rides were very well attended. The best attendance was at Nostell Priory where 19 riders turned up and where the mince pies were of excellent quality.



Chris and Clive get ready for the Santa Ride at Nostell

The rides were sponsored by **Go-Cycling** (see article on page 5)

We are also grateful to **Wakefield Cycles** at Westgate End and **Cycle Technology** at Calder Vale Road for providing the gift vouchers which were presented to the best dress rider and best dressed bike.

Winter Rides

All of our rides this winter have been much better attended than previous years despite having to suffer some very muddy conditions on the tracks around Nostell and Anglers Country Park.



Riders assemble for the first ride of the year from Pugneys

The record attendance for any ride, summer or winter, falls to the first ride of 2013 at Pugneys Water Park where 40 people turned up to start the New Year of with a bang. This is the biggest group the Forum has had to handle since we started running the 'health rides' programme some five years ago. A big thank you is needed for Michelle, who leads our rides from Pugneys, for managing such a large group of cyclists.

The snow and ice which arrived in January took toll of scheduled rides at Nostell Priory and Anglers Country Park. The picture below of the TPT tells the tale.



Cycle Maintenance Courses

Following the huge success over the last two years of the Forum's Basis Maintenance Courses our Bike Doctor, Graham West, has agreed to run another three courses this year for those of us who feel we could do with a little help in mending punctures, changing tyres and so on. The course, lasting 3 hours, will cover basic cycle maintenance such as changing tyres/inner tubes, fixing punctures, checking and adjusting brakes, checking and adjusting seat posts and handlebars and any issues raised by participants. There will be plenty of opportunity for hands-on experience.

Participants should bring their bicycles and any tools/spares they normally carry with them. Places are limited and need to be booked in advance. So you should let us know quickly if you want to reserve a place. You can book by emailing your name and the date you want to attend to info@wakefield-cycling.org.uk.

The courses are free and will take place as shown below, commencing at 10 am:

Sunday 28th April Lupset

Saturday 18th May Nostell Priory

Sunday 22nd September Pugneys Water Park

Ride Leaders Training

The programme of 'health rides' run Wakefield District Cycle Forum has expanded considerably over the last five years and participation in the rides is at its highest level ever. We can only run rides however where we have ride leaders committed to particular dates and venues and with larger groups on each of the rides we are in constant need of new ride leaders.

If you are interested in becoming a ride leader you are invited to attend the next training day. The day will commence with our usual 'health ride' from Anglers Country Park, followed by lunch for those attending the training session, which will follow in the afternoon.

To book a place on the training day email info@cycling-wakefield.org.uk

Ride Leaders Training
Saturday 23rd February
Anglers Country Park Winterset
Ride Commences 10.15 for 10.30 am

Go-cycling

Go-cycling is run by WY METRO on behalf of West Yorkshire local council to promote cycling in the West Yorkshire region. Go-cycling offers a range of free cycling services, including adult cycle training, bike maintenance training led rides and help with cycle journey planning.

For more information on Go-cycling services visit www.wygo-cycling.com or email ginny.leonard@ctc.org.uk or call Ginny on 0113 3481763.





WHEELS FOR ALL



CYCLING FUN FOR EVERYONE ON OUR FLEET OF ADAPTED BIKES!

The bikes are especially good for people with disabilities and differing needs

Come and join our fantastic cycle sessions!

(Trained Leaders present/ Helmets provided/Children to be accompanied)

HAVERCROFT & RYHILL SPORTS & YOUTH CENTRE (WF4 2BD)

OPEN SESSION HELD ON THE 2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10.00 am - 12.00 noon.

£2.60 per person.

Come and stay as long as you wish!

SESSIONS COMING UP ARE:

SATURDAYS: 12th January, 9th February, 9th March 2013

Sessions are held outside if it's fine, inside if it's wet and cold!

(Please ring Sports Centre on 01226 723659 to check if session is taking place if wet)

Website: www.wheelsforallhavercroft.org

For more information call: [Gail Tombs 07762018136](tel:07762018136)