

AGENDA FOR PEDALS MEETING:
8.30 p.m. on Monday 18 April 2005
in the upper room of the Vat and Fiddle
PH, Queen's Bridge Road
preceded by mini-ride, departing from
the top of Queen's Bridge Road at 7
p.m., led by John Park

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome, and apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of Pedals meeting of 21 March and matters arising**
- 3. 'City, County, Forest' leisure rides book second edition: launch, sales and publicity**
- 4. Finance**
- 5. Proposed cyclists jumble sale**
- 6 Spring/summer newsletter**
- 7. Events / meetings**
- 8. Local Transport Plan consultation**
- 9. Cyclists' Manifesto and General Election Lobbying**
- 10. NET matters**
- 11 (other) cycle facility and traffic matters)**
- 12. Miscellaneous items**
- 13. Any other business**

BACKGROUND NOTES

* means feedback especially wanted please
** means help please!

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies for absence from
Bill Istead, Mara Ozolins, Andrew Martin.

1. Welcome, and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence:
Bill Istead, Mara Ozolins

2. Minutes of Pedals AGM and monthly meeting of 21 March and matters arising

Apologies for absence:
Bill Istead, Mara Ozolins, John Wilson, David Lane, Dave Morris

Present:
Hugh McClintock, Susan Young, Dave Clark, Elizabeth Haffenden, Peter Osborne, Rob Murray, Alistair Morgan, Lawrence Geary, Andrew Martin, John Bannister, Roger Codling and Steve Brewer.

Minutes of 2004 AGM.
No comments on 2004 minutes. General consensus on background notes was that they are useful but too long.

Treasurer's Report.
The treasurer's report and draft account for year ending Dec 31st 2004 were circulated and accepted.

Main points were that membership is down to just over 200 despite efforts to promote Pedals, and that Pedals relies very heavily on income from publications.

Election of Officers.
The current four serving officers were re-elected. Peter Osborne agreed to become Minutes Secretary. This still leaves the posts of secretary, social secretary and newsletter editor vacant.

March Monthly Meeting: Other stuff:

The 25th anniversary meal was a success. It was suggested that something similar be arranged, possibly for Jan 2006.

Clear Zone (the main cycle route East-West through the city centre) was discussed. A number of councillors are sympathetic towards cycling and it was suggested that Pedals should do more to cultivate and lobby councillors.

Roger Codling reported back on the **Broxtowe transport meeting.**

Publicity Flyer.
This is to be halfway between a newsletter and membership form, and produced to a high standard. It should be in addition to the three times a year newsletter and be available for direct distribution to bikes/ cyclists and libraries etc. The 10% discount for Pedals members in various bike shops should be emphasised.

The Big Wheel.
It was felt that they are not doing enough for cycling. Pedals is doing its own launch of City, County, Forest as there is no help from the Big Wheel.

Finance.
Pedals affiliates to the CTC at £25 a year. This increased to £75 a year from October 2004. Pedals already pays £195 a year for a separate insurance policy. Agreed to write to the CTC saying that their new arrangements for affiliated groups did not suit us.

Newsletter.
This already has a featured cyclist. Alistair is writing an article about Boost.

Beechdale Road.
Currently undergoing major improvements. Ideas have been solicited from Pedals on cycling provision.

CCN
Andrew Martin has been nominated as Pedals rep for this. Pedals, membership of CCN is to be renewed. And it was agreed to join the new CCN Company.

NEP Helmets. campaign
The Nottingham Evening Post is currently pushing a big campaign promoting the compulsory wearing of cycle helmets. Hugh and Lawrence have drafted a letter to the Post's editor. This was read out and has also been circulated by email.

Safety.
It was reported that cyclists leaving their bikes in the city centre have had them interfered with and left in a potentially dangerous state. In particular cyclists should check their brakes and wheel nuts.

Update:

NEP Helmets Campaign

My letter to the NEP was eventually published, on 1 April (and not as an April fool), to be followed a few days later by one from someone else saying that he agreed with me that cyclists should not necessarily wear helmets; the people that did need them were pedestrians to help them cope with the menace of cyclists on pavements!

Meanwhile it seems that our efforts to lobby the County Council to drop the requirement for GNBR participants to wear helmets may have been successful. This is not being required this year and an NEP article implied that this was because of Pedals stance opposing it.

Pedals meal 16 March: message from David Johnson to Susan Young

"Susan

We did enjoy the meal the other week and would think about coming again next year if you were to run an annual dinner of that type.

All the best, David Johnson"

CTC Affiliation

I have had a reply from Kevin Mayne, CTC Director, saying that they are reviewing all feedback received and are grateful for our very useful co moments.

New Nottingham Cycle Maps

Andrew Martin tells me that he has been sent copies of a revised version of the two City cycle maps; the first I have heard of it!

Boost Scheme: copy of message of 4 April from Dave Morris to Alistair Morgan

It seems, from a posting on the Singletrack mountain bike site, that BOOOST has been extended to cover all bike brands. I know that larger companies like Trek and also (maybe) shops that were ACT members, but now it seems the scheme is applicable to ALL bike brands.

(I assume this was already the case, for employers choosing to run the purchase scheme in-house, rather than getting BOOOST to administer the paperwork etc. as the legwork would presumably have been done by the employee going to their LBS (Local Bike Shop) & choosing any bike they fancied that suited their needs)

<http://www.singletrackworld.com/forum/read.php?f=2&i=1666661&t=1666661>

3. 'City, County, Forest' leisure rides book second edition: launch, sales and publicity

Thanks to Lawrence for sending out the press releases (40) countywide to local media and Tourist Information Centres etc, on 31 March. So far I have not heard any publicity as a result of this however.

PS. CCF2 Message of 12 April from Lynn Hanna, The Big Wheel:

"Hello Hugh

Long time since we've been in touch. Hope all is well with you.

On City/County/Forest Jeremy can include it in the next Commuter Planners Club on Monday 18th April. Hope you've got details of the event and that you're coming. It follows the launch of Keep The Wheels Turning which hopefully you're coming to.

Have also mentioned to Steve and Gary that next GNTF Cycle Forum in June would be ideal place to give it a platform.

Let us know what you think.

Best regards, Lynn"

I have replied welcoming this opportunity. I hope to be at both meeting

4. Finance

Susan Young to report.

5. Proposed cyclists jumble sale

Susan Young asked for this to go on the agenda, inspired by the message I sent round about the one organised by Sheffield Pedal Pushers:

"Cyclists Jumble Sale.

Sunday 10th April. 10.00am - 1.00pm.

Heeley Institute, Hartley Street, Heeley, Sheffield.

Bring along your bicycle parts, spares and accessories (or even whole bikes) and sell or swap them for ones you really need.

Teas/Coffee & Cakes on sale

Metal recycling available.

Organised by Pedal Pushers - The Sheffield Cycle Campaign

Simon Geller

Special Projects.

Pedal Pushers Sheffield Cycle Campaign

12 Carfield Ave

Sheffield

S8 9HY"

Several people have commented that this would be a good idea for Pedals to organise. If the meeting agrees, would anyone like to take on organising such an event please, and, if so when should be it be?*

6. Spring/summer newsletter

This will be going to press two days after our meeting. I would remind people that the much discussed aim of improving its quality would be easier to achieve if we had a wider range of contributions please!*

Can I suggest the evening of Thursday 12 May please for the stuffing and dispatch session (from 7.30 p.m.)?*

7. Events / meetings

Message of 31 March from Dave Clark re request to run a Doctor Bike in the Old Market Square on 30 April

Just to say that we have been asked to attend an event run by a group in Leicester, who are running it on behalf of the council.... I am wondering if you are free to run a Dr Bike at the event...I have agreed to attend with the display etc. and if you can I will bring the tools etc.

The event is to try and get people exercising more. I will know times nearer the day, when it's finalised. Any volunteers to help please?***

CTC Notts DA Skittles evening, Thursday 5 May: message forwarded by Cathy Melia:

"Any interest?? If so, please contact Dave Griffiths directly. We hope to be there!

Cheers, Cathy

Hi Folks

Further to the mention in Cyclonda, final details for the Skittles Evening are now sorted out.

As detailed in Cyconda, this joint social event with Nottingham Outdoor and YHA Group will take place at the Loggerheads Inn on Thursday 5th May (election day). Details about how to find the Loggerheads appear in Cyclonda.

We plan to start the evening from about 7.30pm with 30 minutes for people to have a few practice goes and to get a feel for Long Alley Skittles. Then, at about 8pm, we'll have a friendly team competition before breaking for supper some time between 9pm and 9.30pm. After supper, we'll probably have a fun game of Killer where each individual tries to hang on to their three "lives" for as long as possible.

The cost of supper will be £3 per person. There will be a choice of:

Chilli Con Carne, with garlic bread
Home made soup, crusty bread and some sandwiches (all suitable for vegetarians)

Please let me know asap (and certainly by 30 April) if you intend to come as well as which supper dish you want. I'd prefer cash in advance for supper, but I'm willing to take payments on the night if this isn't practicable and so long as people understand that they will have made a commitment.

Regards, Dave Griffiths

PS Please pass the word on to anyone else who might be interested and who isn't on this email circulation list."

CTC/CCN Spring Campaigns Conference, Godalming, Saturday 21 May

Who is interested in going please?***

Celebrate Sustainability Week: 28 May-19 June

Locally this will include the event already mentioned in Bramcote Park on Sunday 11 June. We have already agreed to provide a stall and Dave Morris has agreed to run a Doctor Bike, I am still not clear if others can help with this Doctor Bike, including transporting the equipment?***

Great Notts. Bike Ride, Sunday 26 June

Deadline for registration is 13 May. You can register online at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/bikeride

Message of 4 June from Dave Clark re Star Ride and picnic, Sunday 10 July

"Dear Hugh, I have been informed by Bill Sweetland, he cannot do this ride as he is on Holiday. (my mistake as I did not get in contact with him)
He is going from Bestwood park winding house Bestwood village start 10.30am; map ref 561479

Could you ask at the meeting if anyone can do this or do mine from Colwick park race course, and I will do the Bestwood run. please let me know asap
Thanks, Dave"

Doctor Bike: message from Julie Pescod of GlobalActionPlan (passed on to Peter Osborne to respond to)

"Dear Hugh

I have just been looking at your website and I am interested in finding out more about your Dr Bike sessions. Can you tell me if run these just at events? At the moment we are looking to deliver the EcoTeams programme on Broxtowe Estate as well as other parts of Nottingham City. In the Transport part of the EcoTeam programme I was thinking that it may be useful for residents to have the opportunity to have their bicycles checked over by you.

We are hoping to work with a number of residents (our target is 100) which means that we will have about 16 teams over the next two years. Of course I am not expecting you to come along to 16 sessions but I was thinking that maybe we could have a transport morning or afternoon with yourselves and maybe Ridewise (I have yet to contact them).

If you feel that this is something that you would like to get involved in, please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Many thanks, Julie"

8. Local Transport Plan consultation

I will report at the meeting on the outcome of the special subgroup meeting on Monday 11 April. Thanks to Andrew Martin, Alistair Morgan and Roger Codling who came to this. I will now do a further revision before our meeting on Monday. I have taken up a suggestion from Lawrence to restructure the submission with a) the general comments going in a covering letter and b) then 2 detailed "wish lists", for both City and County Council areas separately.

Our comments need to be finalised by 29 April.

Pedals comments on Local Transport Plan submissions: comments from Susan Young (8 April)

Hugh

I agree with Paul about Toucan crossings at Bluecoat Island - very difficult at the moment without a significant detour on the Aspley side. Crossing Aspley Lane by David Lloyd is really hard for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Also more on road facilities as there are limitations to cycle tracks, especially as they often end at junctions leaving those new to cycling especially perplexed as to what to do next.

There is also the issue, especially noticeable along the ring road of the huge number of drives etc which cross the path. It is often very difficult to clearly see if cars are emerging and they are often so busy concentrating on getting on or off the main road that the cycle track is ignored.

There are also a number of side roads off the track at acute angles making it very difficult to see traffic approaching or ride smoothly. A number of cycle tracks seem to be built with leisure cyclists in mind rather than those using cycles as transport.

The splitting of those who cycle into path users v road users does none of us a favour as it causes perceived and real conflict as to where we should be - on paths or roads. I more and more feel that unless a cycle path is going to enhance the type of journey it is most likely to be used for, don't bother, but look to helping cyclists across junctions with ASLs and getting across roads by the use of Toucans.

It's a difficult one where we have those cycling for leisure and those who want to get from A - B quickly and easily.

9. Cyclists' Manifesto and General Election Lobbying

With the general election now called, CTC has launched a Cyclists' Manifesto with support from the London Cycling Campaign and the Cycle Campaign Network. It sets out the actions which it is believed are needed to revitalise the National Cycling Strategy, with its original target to quadruple cycle use over 16 years.

The manifesto calls for:

1. Better cycling conditions

- Introduce a default 20 mph speed limit for most urban and residential streets
- Require local authorities to adopt procedures to assess and overcome barriers to cycle accessibility (e.g. busy roads, major junctions), and deliver quality cycle networks in their areas

2. Better funding for cycle training and promotion

- provide dedicated revenue funding for "soft measures" such as cycle training, direct marketing (e.g. the TravelSmart initiative) and promotional activities such as Bike Week, European Mobility weeks and the TravelWise campaign.
- Provide fiscal incentives, e.g. removal of VAT from cycle, cycling equipment and cycle-related services (such as cycle training courses)

3. Better traffic laws and policing

- revise the law on driver's insurance to make it easier for non-motorised users to claim injury damages from drivers who hit them
- make traffic policing a Core Priority in the National Policing Plan

4. Better integration of cycling and wider transport objectives

- treble the number of rail trips which also involve cycle travel as part of the journey
- promote road safety awareness campaigns in ways which encourage increased cycling

5. Better integration of cycling across all areas of Government

- maximise cycling's contribution to health, education and environmental objectives (including tackling climate change), and enlist support from the health, education, retail, tourism and other sectors towards the growth of cycling.
- Provide more resources to promote off-road, sports and other recreation cycling (including 'Quiet Lanes', 'Greenways', 'Rediscovering Lost Ways' and other existing Countryside Agency initiatives)

We have been asked to find out which of these proposals our actual or would-be political representatives will be willing to support in the new parliament. and to record candidates' answers, so that these results can then be followed up.**

10. NET matters

Depending on the result of the County Council elections in May and the implications of this for continuing support for the development of the two proposed extension lines we need to be ready to start pressing the case for allowing bike access in future, at least on the new lines and, in due course, on Line One, with retrofitting and likely refurbishment etc. in due course.

11 (other) cycle facility and traffic matters)

Copy of message of 25 March to Steve Brewer re The Turning Point from Arthur Williams (past Pedals activist)

"Dear Steve,
As an employee of Nottingham Trent University and a regular cycle commuter, I am concerned about the developing road system under the turning point scheme and its effect on staff and students of NTU. There seems to be very little provision for cyclists to use the main routes through the scheme, and connections to quieter routes are being cut off.

For example, if one wishes to leave the City campus and travel towards the east, north-east or north part of the city, there is no longer access for cyclists from Shakespeare Street into the bottom of Sherwood Street, at the corner of the new Mechanics Institute building. This, surely, would not have been difficult to integrate within the scheme, without effecting pedestrian access significantly. Also, the exit from Shakespeare Street into the main traffic flow at the same junction, is so narrow that cyclists have to wait for cars queuing at the give way lines. An advance stop line for cyclists would not help, as at rush hour they would not be able to reach it.

In general, the junctions seem to have been designed with little space for cyclists. If the City is serious about encouraging commuters onto their bikes, it looks as if some important changes need to be made to improve the current scheme.

I would welcome any comments that you have, and would be willing to look at detailed plans to see what can be done.
Regards, Arthur Williams"

PS. I have checked this on site and it seems that a cycle gap is being included at the bottom of North Sherwood Street so that cyclists can ride into Shakespeare Street. However there will not be any legal way to continue into the new bus and cycle lane southbound on South Sherwood Street, something that we challenged when I saw the plans early last year and which, we were told, would be impossible without making difficult the planned pedestrian phases in the new signal arrangements at this junction.

Clear Zone changes: cycle gap at St. Peter's Square: copy of my message of 6 April to Steve Brewer and Polly Brant, City Council

" Steve, Polly

I know that work is still not yet complete on the revamp of the road closure at St. Peter's Square but from what I have seen of the work so far it is not obvious where the promised cycle gap, including dropped kerbs, is going to go, unlike in the temporary scheme where there was a clear gap.

Is this indeed going to be clearly provided for and indicated in the final scheme? This does need to be clearly indicated as indeed does all the route that cyclists should take from the Castlegate / Maid Marian Way toucan crossing through to the Old Market Square now that the No Entry signs on St. Nicholas Street are to be put back.
Hugh"

Sneinton Market Pedestrian Priority route:

I forgot to mention this at our last meeting, having received a letter just before the meeting on which I have sent in some comments.

Broken glass: copy of message of 5 April from Paul Hill:

"Dear Hugh and Waste Management Team
Noted today there is broken glass from beer bottles once again on the slope at Raleigh Island - northbound side i.e. the approach to Radford Bridge Road. Hard to avoid and nearly cost my friend his new tyres on his brand new bike which he only collected today. Which would have meant a long walk home. Luckily we managed to avoid the glass and before any damage was caused. Other cyclists might not be so lucky!

Also crushed glass on the curve at Nuthall Road (northbound side) at Spud Island, on the cycle way approaching Trade Interiors.

To the WMT, please arrange for the glass to be removed from these areas as a matter of urgency, before a cyclist ends up with a bill for new tyres and having to sue the council for compensation. Meanwhile, please confirm that you have arranged for this to be done. We shall be round there within the next week to inspect the areas mentioned. Hope you will take these areas into account when carrying out the Annual Spring Clean, which should really be each week, not annually.

Can the Waste Management Team explain why cyclists in this city are given a low priority when it comes to street cleaning, i.e. not keeping cycle paths free from all manner of litter.

To the Evening Post, the above problem is exactly what cyclists are complaining about in the press recently.

Regards
MR HILL AND MR SPENCER
NOTTINGHAM
NG6

PS. Further message of 11 April from Paul Hill on this topic with his reply from the City Council

"Dear Sirs,

Your comments have been taken on board. The areas will be investigated and any appropriate action will be taken.

I can assure you that cycle routes are as much of a priority as general street cleansing. Shortly the Council is to start an initiative as part of the Spring Clean to pay more attention to cycle routes and the obvious problems encountered cyclists citywide.

Tony Papkiewicz
Senior Area Manager, Central
Street Scene, Neighbourhood Services"

Broadgate, Beeston: proposed cycle lanes

The County Council have asked us for comments by 9 May on the proposed cycle lanes on Broadgate, Beeston.

Publicity for Advance Stop Lines for Cyclists: reply of 30 March from Paul Hillier, Notts. CC.

">>> Paul Hillier <paul.hillier@nottsc.gov.uk> 30 March 2005 >>>
Hugh,

Thanks for the info. I'm still keen to see something done about this but, as I've mentioned before, we don't actually have a budget that enables us to fund promo work. This is a ridiculous circumstance, I know, but such is the way of things. I'm trying to identify any potential loopholes that may enable us to do something - I'm also going to investigate with our PR people about a press release but, personally, I doubt this would have much effect simply because it isn't a juicy story for the press to run a big article on. Regardless, hang on in, and I'll see what I can do. Hopefully, I'll have something to report at the next Cycle Working Group meeting...

Paul Hillier
Local Transport Plan Officer (Greater Nottingham)
Nottinghamshire County Council

PS. I gather that the County Council want our suggestions for more ASLs in the Arnold area, as well as in West Bridgford etc. Roger Codling has suggested providing them at the various traffic-signalled junctions on the A60 in Arnold; any more suggestions please?

Notts. County Council Highways South Cycle working Group meeting, Gamston Depot, Thursday 5 May (changed from 21 April as Ed Ducker cannot make that date)).

Any particular suggestions for things for me to raise other than the "usual suspects" (e.g. maintenance issues)?*

I have already mentioned to Ed Ducker the need for more cycle stands in Tudor Square (West Bridgford) which he is willing to provide, subject to the agreement of Rushcliffe BC and I will chase this at the meeting as well as several much more longstanding matters.

Would anyone be willing please to organise a fresh supply?; 500 sheets would probably be enough his time rather than 2000!**

Hugh, 13.4.05

I also hope to give a brief introduction to our LTP2 submission.

12. Miscellaneous items

Appeal for help with photos: message of 25 March from Ed Ducker, Notts. CC.

Hugh,

Not necessarily an article for the newsletter, perhaps more suitable for a quick mention at a future Pedals meeting? -

We are currently on the look out for new cycling photographs that we could use for future maps, promotions, on the internet etc. I was wondering whether any of your members took photos at events (or just whilst they were doing leisure rides perhaps) and whether they would be willing to grant us permission to use some of these shots in the future?

The photographer would need to sign something to say they have consented to do this as would any people who are identifiable on the pictures. We could credit the photographer wherever their image was used if they so wish. It would be good to get a wide age range of cyclists and locations (urban and countryside, plus any landmarks) as possible too.

Can't think of anything for the newsletter itself at present but will be in touch before 18 April if I do.

Thanks,
Ed Ducker
Cycling & Walking Officer
Environment
Nottinghamshire County Council

Notts County Council Bike Buddy scheme: copy of message of 5 April from Claire Fleming, Staff Travel coordinator:

"I attach a draft document that has been compiled from some of your suggestions as regards "buddy guidelines". Please let me know if you have any more ideas.

Your input would also be gratefully received on training needs / marketing the scheme...

Jo / Hugh / Nick - If you know of other Buddy schemes that we could draw some experiences from, could you please let me know.

Regards, Claire
STEPS (0115 9774658)
Environment Dept"

]

I will bring a copy of this to the meeting, if anyone would like to see it and make comments.

Pedals A4 headed note paper supplies

The large supply of Pedals A4 headed note paper ordered about ten years ago when Robin Schoolar was Secretary is now about to run out! Although these days, with much more use of email, we send much less snail mail we do still have a need for some headed notepaper.