

Spring / Summer Newsletter 2015 (no. 101):



NET- still sorting out potential hazards for cyclists

As both new tram lines move slowly but steadily towards completion and full running Pedals continues our efforts to minimise risks for cyclists, and to help publicise good practice cycling safety advice and the various cycle facilities being introduced in conjunction with both new NET routes, to Clifton and Toton.



Hazards and site visits

In February Peter Briggs and Hugh McClintock from Pedals, and Gary Smerdon-White and Martin Budjoso from Ridewise had extensive discussions with Tramlink and their contractors, TWA, about the series of issues in recent months by many cyclists.

We went to a site meeting to inspect the locations of many of these to help make quite clear what the particular issue was, as well as our more general concerns about the layouts in the Beeston and Chilwell areas, especially on the High Road and Chilwell Road.



Some of the problems have arisen just because of shoddy construction and a rush to get things finished it seems, but such features can still be very awkward for cyclists, if not downright dangerous.

In addition to paying particular attention to what we consider to be the most hazardous parts of the new NET network; the very constrained section of route through Beeston and Chilwell High Road, we also included on our site visit locations on Lenton Lane, the vicinity of Wilford Toll Bridge, and the new tramside path past Wilford where 2 sets of barriers have been installed which we think are not only awkward but of highly questionable value to any path users. (see photo)



Other issues we have drawn to the attention of Tramlink and TWA include a lack of flush kerbs at crossing points and lighting columns sited well into realigned cycle paths, rather than well set back from them.





We are also concerned about some poorly thought out markings, e.g. the ones facing northbound cyclists on Ruddington Lane near the tram stop by the Industrial Estate which apparently direct you straight towards a lighting column! (see photo)



Another issue of much concern to many cyclists, on the Chilwell-Toton route, has been the layout at the Clifton Boulevard

end of Science Road, just under the new Ningbo tram bridge across the Ring Road by the QMC. We are hoping that this will be sorted out by Highways England (former Highways Agency) and City Council as part of a series of improvements on this section of the Ring Road cycle paths. (see photo)



We understand that the contractors have a period of one year from final completion to deal with snags on both routes so we recognise that we may well have to wait a long time yet to get many of these detailed issues properly sorted out!

Tram tracks safety advice: discussion at May Pedals meeting

As well as minimising the hazards to cyclists from the new tram layouts, particularly where there is no room for cycle lanes or cycle paths alongside the tram lines, we are continuing our efforts to help disseminate good cycling practice on coping with tram tracks, including the best way to deal with approaches to tram stops.

At our 18 May meeting there will be a special discussion on this, with representatives both of Ridewise and Tramlink, including we hope a tram driver to discuss what advice they are given as part of their training a on helping to reduce risks to cyclists.



2 new NET route guides for cyclists Safety advice for cyclists is included in the two new NET route guides, along with details of the cycle facilities on both routes.

These include many new stretches of cycle path or shared path, including some very welcome new paths towards the Toton end of the route to Chilwell and Toton, and on the Clifton route between the Ruddington Lane tramstop and Farnborough Road.





The latter includes a tram and cycle bridge over Fairham Brook to the south of Silverdale, linking to a new connection to and from Compton Acres and the rest of West Bridgford as well as Clifton (see photo)



Copies of both new Tram guides for cyclists, for the Clifton and Chilwell / Toton routes, can be obtained from: Carol Mee, Communications and Marketing Officer Nottingham City Council Loxley House, Station Street Nottingham NG2 3NG (0115) 8763383 email: Carol.Mee@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

> We have put on the Pedals website a list of the specific issues for cyclists on the new tram route layouts that we have taken up and

would welcome any further suggestions from Pedals members. Please send these to <u>Hugh.McClintock@ntlworld.com</u>



CityCard cycles scheme expansion continues

Expansion of the CityCard cycle scheme continued with new hubs appearing soon not only at the two next NET terminal park and ride sites, at Clifton and Toton, but also in **the town centres of West Bridgford and Beeston.**

CityCard cycle hubs also provide secure parking for your own bike, and have already helped to bring down the levels of cycle thefts locally.



All you have to do is to get a CityCard (whether you are a City resident or not) by registering via the website

 For more information on CityCard visit <u>http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk</u> <u>/CitycardCycles</u>



Nottingham Cycling Ambition Grant proposals update: launch planned for 29 May

Recent months have seen extensive further work by the City Council on proposals for improved cycle facilities on 4 'corridors' connecting to and across the City Centre, and financed by the Cycling Ambition Grant they were awarded last year by the DfT.

Pedals has already had an opportunity to comment on the first scheme to go ahead with this funding, the Western corridor which includes major changes to cycling provision on Castle Boulevard and Abbey Street etc. A major launch for the proposals is planned for 29 May.

For an update on this and other information on the proposals visit <u>http://transport.nottinghamcity.qov.uk/Pr</u> <u>ojects/Cycle-city-ambition-project.aspx</u> or contact Keith Morgan at the City Council, email: <u>Keith.Morgan@nottinghamcity.qov.uk</u>



Nottm Station cycle hub parking and expansion

Plans for the major new Cycle Hub at Nottingham Station, adjoin the existing Secure Bike Compound on Station Street, have again been delayed, but work is still expected to start this summer.

East Midlands Trains are working in partnership with Nottingham City Council to develop the existing secure cycle hub into a larger hub with plans to accommodate around 300 cycle spaces in a purpose built, secure and covered space with maintenance and changing facilities. For further information on the Station Cycle Hub visit:

<u>http://transport.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/Pr</u> <u>ojects/Railway-improvements.aspx</u>



Related to this project are the City Council's proposals for Station Street

pedestrianisation, now out for consultation. They propose removing through traffic from much of this street, including taxis, as well as cycle lanes to help improve access to and from the expanded Cycle Hub

For further information on these plans and the wider Southside Transport Strategy including proposals for Carrington Street and ones related to the latest Broadmarsh Centre redevelopment proposals see: <u>http://transport.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/Pr</u> <u>ojects/Southside-transport-strategy.aspx</u>



Leenside boardwalk route now complete

We welcome the completion at last of the new path by the River Leen and NET Line One and under the Ring Road between Church Street, Old Basford and Wilkinson Street just west of the NET tram stop park and ride site and depot. This includes a boardwalk section designed in cooperation with Sustrans.

This provides a useful traffic-free route to and from Sustrans NCN route 6 between Basford, Bulwell and Hucknall etc. We would however like to see improved direction signing and we hope later for further extensions of this route, south of Wilkinson Street.



Canal towpaths: new signs to encourage safe sharing:

To help reduce conflicts between users, or perceived conflicts, on busy towpaths such as the section past the Inland Revenue, to the south of Clifton Boulevard, the Canal and River Trust propose to introduce special these special signs.

This issue was one of those discussed at the April Pedals meeting with Lucie Hoelmer of

the Canal and Rivers Trust, based at their offices in Newark.



Local towpath improvement plans

In her presentation she told us about plans due to go ahead later this year for towpath surface improvements:

- On the Grantham canal towpath west of Hollygate Lane, Cotgrave
- On the Erewash Canal between Langley Mill and Ilkeston

We also discussed the potential, if funding can be found, for widening some of the narrower sections of towpath through Nottingham, particularly the pinch point on the Beeston and Nottingham canal where the towpath goes under the railway just west of the bridge under Clifton Boulevard near Dunkirk.,

> More information from Lucie Hoelmer, Enterprise Manager East Midlands CRT, email: <u>Lucie.Hoelmer@canalrivertrust.or</u> <u>a.uk</u>



Update on the proposed foot-cycle bridge between The Hook and Trent Lane – a mixed picture!

In the last few months there has been good and bad news on plans for progressing the foot-cycle bridge across the Trent between The Hook and Trent Lane, as discussed at a public meeting organised last October by the Lady Bay Community Association public meeting. Our plans attracted good media interest earlier this year, including features on Notts TV, BBC Radio Nottingham and the Nottingham Post.

Pedals has been taking a leading role in the Steering Group promoting the bridge. This also includes John Rhodes (Pedals member) of the River Crescent Residents' Association, Nick Ebbs and Alec Hamlin of Blueprint Regeneration, and Tom Huggon, President of the Nottingham Civic Society, and wellknown local environmental lawyer, campaigner and open spaces champion.

The Group has also been very keen to involve representatives of the local authorities and Sustrans East Midlands. City Councillor John Hartshorne and County Councillor Steve Calvert have been very supportive of our efforts, as well as several other local Councillors.

The good news is that public support for the bridge has continued to grow with 22 local groups now signed up to support the bridge in principle. This includes the Nottingham and County Local Access Forums as well as many walking and cycling groups, running groups and other environmental groups.

We were also encouraged by the findings of the survey in Lady Bay of local attitudes to the bridge conducted earlier this year by the local Borough Councillors Richard and Sue Mallender. This found broad support running at about 2: 1 in favour.

We always knew that getting financial support would be take a lot of effort and time and could only be achieved by tapping a variety of funding sources, including contributions from major developments on both sides of the Trent.



Site of the proposed foot-cycle bridge: Top: looking N from 'The Hook' towards Trent Lane, with the Park Yacht Club and 'Nottingham Princess' mooring on R. Bottom: looking S from the bottom of Trent Lane towards The Hook and Lady Bay, West Bridgford.

However, the prospects for getting developer contributions now look much more uncertain, as now do our early hopes of getting a good boost from the City Council's Bridge Estate charity, a historic fund for new bridges and the repair of bridges over the Trent.



Cycle bridge over the River Exe in Exeter: we are looking at lots of different bridge designs for our local project

Most of our efforts in the last few months have been concentrated on preparing a feasibility study, as requested by the City and County Councils, to demonstrate in detail the general case for this bridge and why this site is the best in overall terms.

At the time of going to press we are still awaiting City Council comments on our work so far on this before we assess what further work needs to be done, and how best to pay for this in so far as it involves further specialist work.



We are emphasising the importance of this bridge, not just as a much safer route for walkers and cyclists, compared with Trent Bridge and Lady Bay Bridge, but also as a way of helping to attract investment to the whole Waterside Regeneration Area on the north side of the Trent,

We are also stressing its value as a strategic link in the wider Greater Nottingham area and one which could be of great use in helping to reduce what are already very worrying and health-threatening levels of air pollution (mostly traffic generated) on the two road bridges and their main approaches such as Loughborough Road and Radcliffe Road.

When we have completed our feasibility study and shown that we have a viable project we will be in a stronger positon to focus on lobbying for finance for the bridge itself.

We know that our campaign will take a long time yet but meanwhile have been heartened by the all the interest shown by many people and groups, as well as the good media publicity we have already had.

Hugh McClintock

Chair, Proposed Trent Lane to The Hook foot-cycle bridge Steering Group.



Pedals Rushcliffe wish list revised In parallel with our work on the feasibility study for the proposed foot-cycle bridge we have recently submitted to the County Council a revised comprehensive Pedals wish list for Rushcliffe Borough.



'Photo: David Alexander'

This includes suggestions for improving cycle access to the several major new housing areas to be developed around West Bridgford, and south of Clifton, in the next few years, especially in the area between Gamston and Tollerton, which could benefit greatly from the new bridge.



Also included are suggestions for improved links to and from West Bridgford town centre, and for upgrading of the riverside paths on the south bank of the Trent, linked both to the proposed bridge and to other plans for the further development of Sustrans National Cycle Network route 15 across the south of Nottinghamshire.



We also proposed using the new tramside path running south from Wilford toll bridge on the west side of Compton Acres and then through to Clifton, as the basis of an improved and fairly flat route south near Fairham Brook towards Rushcliffe Country Park and the proposed major housing development south of Clifton.



Sustrans Bennerley Viaduct plans:

In early February Sustrans held two consultation events in Ilkeston to publicise their plans for reusing the historic Bennerley Viaduct as part of a through route between Nottingham and Derby, and with good connections to both sides of the Erewash valley, including the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire sections of the Erewash Valley Trail, connecting Langley Mill with Trowell Lock and Attenborough etc.

Bill Tomson has since early last year been working on these proposal as the Project Officer with Sustrans at their regional office in Nottingham. Following this successful public consultation Sustrans plans a big application for Heritage Lottery Grant funding.



Report on Bennerley Viaduct Workday 22nd March 2015

by Bill Tomson, Sustrans

Around 20 people volunteered their time to carry out maintenance work to the deck of the historic structure.

The main task of the day was clearing ballast from the ends of the wrought iron troughs to improve the drainage system and enable inspection of the metalwork. Over the years sediment has built up within the ballast and is restricting the free flow of rain water into the drainage system.

This has the potential to cause long term damage to the viaduct. Around a quarter of the trough ends got cleared on the day - a great achievement considering there are over 500.

New Sustrans NCN6 safe link across A614 to the Southwell -Farnsfield Trail

Further north in Nottinghamshire a very welcome safe link has now been completed across the A614 on the former colliery railway to Bilsthorpe.



This connects Sustrans NCN Route 6 to the west, and the Sherwood Pines Forest and Vicar Water near Mansfield with the Southwell to Farnsfield Trail to the east (NCN route 645) , and its connecting former railway link to Bilsthorpe.



Almost all this route is now traffic- free, apart from a short section through Bilsthorpe and the safe link across the A614 is particularly welcome.

National Cycleway associated with HS2 project - DfT Feasibility study Phase 2 work now started

Work has now been commissioned by the DfT on the second phase of a feasibility study into the proposed national cycleway to run within a 3-mile corridor alongside the proposed HS2 railway including its extensions from Birmingham to Manchester and to Leeds.

In this area the route to Leeds is expected to run between Nottingham and Derby along the Erewash Valley and include an East Midlands Hub station likely to be at Toton.

Pedals has taken a strong interest in this project since it was first announced early last year and we were represented at a Regional Information gathering meeting in Beeston in March 2013, to help review various potential route options.

The National Cycleway study team is being led by a Dutch consultancy, Royal Haskoning DHV, with the involvement of several other people including John Grimshaw, founder and former CEO and Director of Sustrans.



John Grimshaw surveying possible HS2 cycleway routes near the suggested (but not yet confirmed!) HS2 East Midlands Hub at Toton Sidings.

We have already submitted lots of ideas to the team and look forward now to new opportunities to discuss these further with John and other team members, as well as with the local authorities in this area.

The team have now developed a set of core route options that they feel provide a useful function at local level as well as serving as part of a longer route for leisure and tourism when joined up with neighbouring sections.

They have now invited us to give comments, thoughts and suggestions on these initial route options with the view to securing local support for the routes so that the project can continue to be backed at a national level.

We see these proposals as helping to improve the quality of several local routes, including narrower stretches of canal towpath, Sustrans NCN Route 6, and also helping to secure further improvements to the River Leen valley paths.



Comprehensive information including an overview of the project, the standard of infrastructure that they envisage this project would deliver, a list of key considerations on which they would welcome our views, and the fieldwork notes of their initial route options have now been made available, including for the section of the route in this area between Long Eaton and Kirby in Ashfield.

These can be downloaded at: <u>https://royalhaskoningdhv.box.com/s/pzntc</u> <u>yj1335c9dxa5nb9pejp5puo83k8</u>



Encouraging the use of Cyclescape by Pedals members

We are keen to encourage the use of Cyclescape by Pedals members to record their comments on local issues, including examples of infrastructure which need improving.

We plan a workshop at a future meeting, to show people how best to take advantage of this excellent tool developed especially for local cycle campaigners by Martin Lucas-Smith of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign.

- More information at <u>http://www.cyclescape.org/</u> or contact David Lally of Pedals who is planning to run our workshop: <u>dclally@icloud.com</u>
- Iain Lane has now set up this example of how the site could be used by Pedals members to discuss local issues: http://www.cyclescape.org/thread s/1790#message 22463

Pedals local election lobbying: thanks to lain Lane

Many thanks to lain Lane for organising Pedals recent survey of local election candidates to discover their views on a series of cycling issues. The results of these responses will be posted our website

> More information from lain Lane: <u>iain@orangesquash.org.uk</u>



A warm welcome to BikeWorks

A warm welcome to Nottingham BikeWorks, a new not for profit community project offering a full range of bike services in Units 1-3 of the Ayr Street Workshops, Ayr Street, Radford, Nottingham NG7 4FX, This opened a few months ago. Nottingham BikeWorks has a fully equipped community workshop and runs bike maintenance classes from beginner to specialist, as well as running cycle projects for groups, schools and other organisations.

Their services also includes a Members DIY bike kitchen, refurbished bikes with guarantees, new and second hand spares and equipment, and Doctor Bike sessions by arrangement.



More information from

- their website at <u>www.nottinghambikeworks.org.uk</u>
- by email: <u>info@nottinghambikeworks.org.uk</u>
- by phone: (0115) 979 2433
- Facebook: Nottinghambike works
- Twitter: Nottscycle

The photos were taken at the BikeWorks open day on 28 March. Acknowledgements: Susan Young.



Cycle Forums now to be 2-yearly including one evening meeting For several years the Big Wheel (Greater Nottingham Transport Partnership) has organised a Cycle Forum in June during Bike Week and open to any interested organisations or individuals.

There are now plans to have two such Forums a year with, as an experiment, the second one being held during the evening, to make it easier for people at work to attend.

More information from Helen Hemstock at The Big Wheel: email: <u>helenhemstock@thebigwheel.org.uk</u>



New Notts Police 'Look 4 Cyclists' car stickers now available

Heidi Duffy from Notts Police who came along for a discussion at one of our Pedals meetings 2-3 years ago, has sent a supply of these revised car stickers which will be sent out with all mailed copies of this newsletter.

Anyone who want further supplies should contact Heidi directly at Notts Police HQ, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottm NG5 8PP, tel. (0115) 9670999,

email: Heidi.Duffy@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk



Cycle Live Weekend Festival of Cycling, 20-21 June

Plans are well advanced for this year's Cycle Live Weekend Festival of Cycling, which for the fourth year will be based at the Victoria Embankment and organised by Perfect Motion of Beeston.



On the Saturday there will be lots of events oriented to families, including stalls and a series of short rides (2.5, 5 and 10.5 miles) on traffic-free routes, and called the Nottingham City Ride.



On the Sunday there will be the traditional longer 25-, 50- and 100 mile routes forming part of the Great Notts Bike Ride, first started by Pedals in June 1982.



Pedals intends to have a stall on the Saturday and would welcome any offers from members to help with this!

If you can help with running the stall please contact Hugh McClintock, email: <u>Hugh.McClintock@ntlworld.com</u>

For more information, and to book a place on any the rides visit <u>http://www.cyclelivenottingham.co.uk/</u> or email : <u>cyclelive@perfectmotion.org</u>



RideWise Ltd Summary Review – 2014/15 from Gary Smerdon-White (as presented at the Pedals AGM on 28 March)

The Sustainable Travel Collective had a very busy year, mainly funded from the City Council's Urban area LSTF programme:-

1. BigWheel, TravelRight and Ridewise have managed or supported around 950 events and activities

2. Big Wheel have delivered large active travel events – Cycle Live Village, European Mobility Week and Light Night.

3. BigWheel have provided support for businesses and organisations wanting to

promote sustainable and active travel – including cycling instruction and maintenance classes.

4. TravelRight projects (North of the City, Broxtowe and Gedling) have provided

a. support to cycle for job seekers, apprentices and new starters

b. A community based programme of promotional activities and events, cycling rides and walks, skills development through cycling and maintenance training.

5. Through Travel Right, Sustrans and Public Health projects, free cycle instruction has been provided by RideWise to over 600 people in the urban area.

6. RideWise has provided BikeAbility training to around 20 City primary schools (250+ pupils).

7. RideWise have

a. Run a monthly Cycling for All project aimed at those with disabilities, complete beginners and families – regular attendance levels have averaged 65.

b. Provided cycling instructors for City Leisure centres (4-9 year olds)

8. More recently RideWise have

a. given cycling instruction to nearly 250 professional drivers in the region as part of a Safe Urban Driving Course b. Developed a training package for cycling around tram tracks (including technical support to Tramlink for their video.

c. Developed a campaign for RideWise and Sustrans to encourage safe cycling in winter.



Cycling for All sessions each third Sunday – fun for all!

Cycling for All, organised by Ridewise, has returned in March 2015, for the third year running, taking place on the third Sunday morning (10am – 1pm) of each month, at the Queen's Drive Park and Ride site by Clifton Bridge and close to the riverside paths.



These popular and fun sessions are for all ages and abilities and are aimed at getting everyone onto their bikes.



Their goals are to help you improve your health and well-being, enjoy freedom and independence and most of all have fun!

More information at:

www.ridewise.org.uk/ride/cyclingforall



Nottm Velo Venturers: Update from Julian Bentley

Nottingham Velo Venturers has been running guided rides for about two years now

- NVV has several Pedals members joined to its Facebook Group page
- Two of the regular NVV Ride Leaders are Pedals Members
- NVV is easily accessible to the public via Facebook
- All are welcome on NVV rides
- NVV rides are very varied: Short rides/15+mile rides/Long rides/Cycle Camping/Themed Rides/links with other Community Cycling Groups.
- NVV page is used daily by its members (currently 120 and growing)

Pothole reporting

To report potholes in Nottingham go to the City Council website and click on http://cycling.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/

See also the 'Report a road, path or cycleway problem or fault' info on the Pedals website for other problem reporting contact details

 Visit our website for general update on our monthly meetings: -<u>http://www.pedals.org.uk/meetings</u>



Don't forget that with your Pedals membership card you can get discount at several local bike shops.

A full list of local bike shops. Highlighting those offering discounts to members, can be found on the Pedals website at <u>http://www.pedals.org.uk/looking_after_yo</u> <u>ur_bike</u>



Keeping in touch with Pedals – Website and Facebook

To keep in touch with Pedals visit our website, <u>www.pedals.org.uk</u>, which is regularly updated.

You can also follow us on Facebook at <u>http://www.facebook.com/pedalsnottingham</u>



Discounts for Pedals members at local bike shops



Pedals Committee contacts

Pedals Committee members now are:-

- Chair / Facilitator vacant
- Peter Osborne (Secretary)
- David Easley (Treasurer)
- Larry Neylon (Webmaster)
- Hugh McClintock (Newsletter Editor)
- Hilary Backhouse
 (Membership Secretary)

- Peter Briggs
- Arthur Williams
- Susan Young
- Andrew Martin
- Press and Publicity officer: vacant

Contact details are on our website at http://www.pedals.org.uk/contacts_list

Pedals chairing arrangements following Andrew's resignation at the AGM

At our AGM on 28 March Andrew Martin stepped down from being Chairman after 5 years and noone else offered to take his place.

As an interim arrangement we have now decided that we will have a system of different people chairing meetings including Andrew Martin, Hugh McClintock, Susan Young and David Lally.

Roland Backhouse has now stepped down from being our Press and Publicity Officer and that position is also vacant.

Plea for help with new Pedals poster design:

We badly need a new Pedals general recruitment poster. If anyone can help please in designing this please contact <u>Hugh.McClintock@ntlworld.com</u>

Pedals QR code for quick response access from your Smartphone to our Website!



Newsletter printed by Portland Print;

The Pedals newsletter is printed by Portland Print based at the Portland College near Mansfield.

We deliberately choose them in order to support their very important work for people with physical disabilities.

Next issue:

The next issue will appear in October 2015. (Editor: Hugh McClintock: email <u>Hugh.McClintock@ntlworld.com</u>)





UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

Life Cycle 4: Go the extra mile for Children's Brain Tumour Research

Sunday 31 August 2014

Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park

Take part in one of our sponsored cycle rides to fight the UK's leading cause of cancer deaths in children

Come along to Lakeside Arts Centre to cheer the riders on and enjoy a BBQ and post-ride celebrations

www.nottingham.ac.uk/lifecycle/getinvolved

