

NOTTINGHAM CYCLIST



Autumn 2008

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Two key cycle facilities closure shocks



Two key links in the local cycle network have been closed in recent months causing much disruption to their many regular users.

In both cases, the Wilford River Trent Suspension Bridge, and the River Leen path behind the QMC between Derby Road and Leengate, the decision to close the routes were taken very suddenly.

The closure of the River Leen path followed the emergency closure, on 29 September, of the nearby QMC multi-storey car park, on health and safety grounds. It was also decided that, for

safety reasons, the exclusion zone around the car park until it is demolished must include the cycle path. We understand that this path is likely to remain closed for about a year, very unfortunately!

Suspension Bridge closure signs

The emergency closure of the Wilford Suspension Bridge by STWplc at the end of July has caused much disruption for cyclists (as well as pedestrians) on one of the most valuable and well-used facilities of the Greater Nottingham Cycle Network.

The Suspension Bridge between the Victoria Embankment and Welbeck Road, is a private structure owned by the Severn Trent Water plc and was closed at the end of July, shutting off the main route between the City Centre, The Meadows and West Bridgford, and leaving only the much busier and more intimidating Trent Bridge for cycling between these areas, without going far further round via Wilford Bridge.

At first the closure was signed only at both ends of the bridge and not at all on the approach routes. This only began to happen once Pedals complained about the lack of adequate signing. At the time of going to press, we still want to see far more of this special signing including signs to indicate alternative routes where available such as the new riverside path on the south bank of the Trent between the Suspension Bridge and Wilford.

It is still, far from clear just what work will need doing to repair the bridge and how long it will take, nor indeed is there any guarantee from STW plc that the bridge will reopen at all! Other organisations are also concerned about the closure, e.g. Nottingham Civic Society, and we are liaising with them.

This blow has drawn attention to what Pedals believes is a fundamental problem of the present situation in that there is no legal right of way for cyclists (or pedestrians) over the bridge. Passage depends on a concession agreement with a private company, the STW plc.

This concession was made in 1982, following pressure from Pedals in our earlier years for legal cycle access, and only lasts for 40 years.

As well as getting the bridge reopened as soon as possible, we have also appealed to the County and City Councils to ensure that there is a far more secure right of way in future over the bridge and also that they give far more attention to providing more safe alternatives, given the dangers on Trent Bridge and Ladybay Bridge. This, we have urged, must also be given far more attention from now on.

For updates on the Suspension Bridge work see <http://www.stwater.co.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.3544>

QMC River Leen / Hillside path closure signs



The sudden closure of this path at the end of September followed the emergency closure of the QMC multi-storey car park nearby. It has meant the loss of this very popular link, also part of Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 6. It is likely to be shut for about a year.

Communicating with our members: Important Changes

The Pedals newsletter will from now on appear only twice and not three times a year. The decision to make this change follows the decision this Spring by Nelsons to drop their sponsorship. This had enabled us to improve the quality over the last 3 years. We have not been able to find a replacement sponsor and meanwhile, the costs of production and distribution have risen steadily.

To help save further costs we have also decided to reduce the length of each issue from 20 to 16 pages.

At the same time the Pedals website has been greatly improved, thanks to much hard work by Larry Neylon.

We therefore will be encouraging members to rely on the website more than the newsletter for up to date news, details of forthcoming events, and a host of other useful sections, e.g. cycling for health, cyclists and the NET, Local cycle guides and maps, cycle lockers and other cycle parking information, tips on looking after your bike and bike security etc, as well as links to other cycling websites.

Try these out at

www.pedals.org.uk !

You can also encourage friends to join by downloading a membership form from our website and they can now use PayPal to join and also to buy copies of the Pedals Leisure Rides Book 'City, County, Forest', whose price has now been slashed to £5. (Copies of the other Pedals publication, the Pedal Pushers' Guide to Nottingham, are now exhausted, by the way).

CCN (Cycle Campaigns Network) changes name to Cyclenation

The Cycle Campaigns Network (CCN) is the umbrella organisation for local campaign groups like Pedals and encourages the formation of new local groups as well as providing a network of support for existing ones and working with other national organisations like the CTC. Andrew Martin from Pedals is a CCN Board Member.

At its AGM earlier this year CCN agreed to change its name to 'Cyclenation' with a key goal to campaign, not for cyclists, but for people within communities to be able to cycle.

To achieve this it has set itself some ambitious targets:-

* To foster campaign groups in all towns with over 50,000 population

* To have a clear agenda and policies (such as to see an increase in cycle trips to 10% by 2012 and to 20% by 2015)

*To increase the skills and effectiveness of campaigners

*To influence central government, public opinion and transport advocates

There are a number of organisations with which Cyclenation has common cause such as CTC, Sustrans, Cycling England, the ECF (European Cyclists' Federation), the Department for Transport and the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS)

There are some issue on which cyclists and motorcyclists agree. There are also some organisation which are not overtly anti-cyclist but are inherently anti-cycling , such as 'Safe Speed' and the Association of British Drivers (ABD).

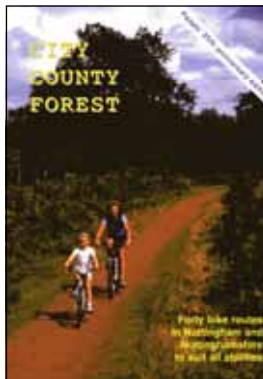
In July the Cyclenation Board had an open meeting in Birmingham, who which affiliated groups were invited to launch its new name and reinvigorated policy.

Pedals and the Notts CTC will be hosting the autumn national CTC-Cyclenation Campaigners' Conference in November 2009, one of a series of events to make Pedals 30th birthday. We will need lots of help from our members please! Watch out for more details nearer the time!

Many thanks for donation to Pedals

Many thanks to Councillor Karrar Khan for arranging for a £100 donation to Pedals from Rushcliffe Borough Council this summer.

City, County, Forest book now just £5 including postage!



City County Forest, the guide-book to cycling for pleasure in Nottinghamshire, was updated in 2004 for Pedal's 25th anniversary and the price has now been cut to £5 a copy.

The guide details forty leisure cycling routes, ranging from 4 to 45 miles, suitable for cyclists of all abilities. Each route has an easy-to-follow route description and a sketch map, along with information on places of interest and refreshment stops.

(For just £7 more, you can also have family membership of Pedals. See for details)

Copies (price £5) are available from:

Lawrence Geary, 96 Pierrepont Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5DW. Tel: 0115 982 2720

Or buy online with PayPal at http://www.pedals.org.uk/join_or_donate_using_paypal

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Dates for your Diary

Come and join us!

Pedals monthly meetings —

for an update see

[http://www.pedals.org.uk/
meetings](http://www.pedals.org.uk/meetings)

These are held on the third Monday of each month in the top room of The Globe PH on the London Road and Rye Hill Street, just north of Trent Bridge, at the edge of The Meadows, starting at 7.30 p.m.

We often devote the first half of the meeting to a discussion with a visiting speaker. People are welcome to come just for this and then leave before the second half of the meeting, devoted to general business!

There is space at the back of the room for parked bikes which you can bring up the fire escape stairs at the back of the pub!

- **Monday 17 November** including discussion with Cllr. Jane Urquhart, City Council Portfolio Holder for Transport, Environment and Regeneration

- **Monday 15 December: Pedals Christmas Social Evening**, including food, a quiz



and cycling holiday slide show.

- **Monday 19 January 2009:** including discussion with Paul Rea, Realistic Solutions, about his **Cycle Audit** work for Nottinghamshire County Council including Kimberley, Netherfield, West Bridgford, Ruddington and Arnold.

- **Monday 16 February:** including discussion with Helen Clayton, The Big Wheel (Greater Nottm Transport Partnership) about cooperation with Pedals in 2009

- **Monday 16 March:** Pedals Annual General Meeting

- **Monday 20 April:** including discussion with Clive Wood, the new Cycling and Walking Officer at Notts. County Council (*tbc*)

Other meetings / events:

Sat 16 November: Cyclenation (Cycle Campaigns Network) and CTC Autumn Campaigners' Conference, Warrington, hosted by the Warrington Cycling Campaign – details at <http://www.cyclenetwork.org.uk/latest/>

13-21 June 2009: Bike Week 2009 – see <http://www.bikeweek.org.uk>

Sunday 21 June 2009 (tbc): Great Nottinghamshire Bike Ride- entry forms available from March from local libraries and cycle shops and from the Nottinghamshire County Council website:

300 people at the wheelie wheelie big breakfast despite drizzly weather!



The Photo shows Pedals member Richard Cooper getting ready to fill up

On Wednesday 18th June cyclists from all over Nottingham were treated to a free breakfast on their way to work.

The Wheelie Big Breakfast – which supports Bike Week – was organised by the Big Wheel in association with Nottingham City and Nottingham County Councils to reward cyclists for commuting to work by bike.

Over 300 people attended the event which also included free bike services, complimentary sports massage, health checks, information for cyclists and cycle displays.

The very successful breakfast event was followed by the annual Cycle Forum at the Council House, which was chaired by Gary Smerdon-White. Attendees listened to presentations from the City Council on the Cycling Action Plan, Cycling Towns Bid and City Schools Cycling, as well as an overview of recent County Council cycling initiatives and the PCT's Cycling for Health project.

Ruddington Fields Cycle Fair

The Pedals stall at the Ruddington Fields Cycle Fair, held in Bike Week in June to encourage interest in cycling to work by employers and employees at the Ruddington Fields Business Park.



Pedals is keen to work with the County Council and other partners to get action on the many ideas generated for encouraging cycling to and from this major worksite.

East Midlands Cycling Forum

More than 30 local campaigners attended the 5th East Midlands Cycling Forum in Lincoln in September, hosted by CycleLincs, and including an afternoon bike tour of Lincoln in blazing late summer sun!



Nottingham's Cycle Town bid fails the last round!

The last issue, in May, reported on the shortlisted Nottingham bid for one of the second round of Cycling England's Cycling Towns and Cycling City demonstration projects.

This involved a comprehensive package, focusing on the areas adjoining Sustrans Route 6 in the west of the City, and integrated with a variety of health and educational programmes, to encourage families to cycle.

It is still possible that some of the part of the bid may be taken up through other programmes, we understand.

Cycle scheme update:

Recently completed schemes include:-

- New cycle lockers in the Victoria Centre (next to the Shop-mobility centre by the car park at the top end) and at the park and ride site at the Phoenix centre NET tram terminus (see:

http://www.pedals.org.uk/city_cycle_lockers)

- New section of the riverside path improvements on the north bank of the Trent between Colwick Park (Racecourse Road end) and Trent Lane.

- Riverside path improvements east of Clifton Bridge, on the north bank of the Trent near the Park and Ride site.



- Riverside path improvements west of Clifton Bridge, on the north bank of the Trent between the City/Broxtowe boundary and Beeston Rylands

- Riverside path improvements on the north bank of the Trent between Beeston Lock, Attenborough and Trent Lock and including the Attenborough Loop route near the Attenborough Wildlife Centre.



- Shared path and toucan crossing on Bramcote Lane near Alderman White School.

Proposals to go ahead in the next few months or year include:-

- Improvements to the contraflow cycle lane on Pilcher Gate near the multi-storey park entrance



- A replacement cycle-foot bridge for the present narrow bridge over the Canal basin entrance at Castle Marina
- An improved link between the canal towpath and the path on the north side of the Trent just east of Clifton Bridge

Other issues recently raised by Pedals with the City and County Councils include:-

- Pedals response to the Turning Point East proposals for the inner ring road on the east side of the Lace Market and City Centre
- Eastside proposals on the Island Site between London Road and Manvers Street and Poplar Street and City Link
- Cycle parking needs at stations including Beeston, Attenborough and the new East Midlands Parkway station due to open early next year. We also hope there will soon be more developments on the plans for the secure Bike Compound in the Milk Dock area at Nottingham Station (Station Street side)
- Canning Circus and Ilkeston Road highway layout changes

- Strelley commuter cycling 'corridor' enhancement proposals, including Crown Island, Beechdale Road, New Road and Hartley Road, Radford



- Dangers for Cyclists at the Orange Tree' junction (Shakespeare Street and South Sherwood Street)
- Dangers for cyclists on the roundabout by the west entrance to Nottm University
- Woodside Road cycle path change proposals
- Accidents involving trams and bikes on Fletcher Gate
- junction of Porchester Road and Carlton Road
- Various Cycle route signing issues especially in the City Centre and in The Meadows area, including cross city centre route signs and missing 'except cycles' plates under No Through Road etc. signs



- Plans for safer cycle facilities on London Road between The Meadows (Kirkewhite Walk) and Cattle Market Road
- Local station cycle access routes
- Gedling former Colliery site redevelopment access road
- Need for lighting and signing on riverside path between the Suspension Bridge and Wilford
- Opening the completed new cycle path at Gresham Park past Emmanuel School to the riverside path

Pedals praise for County Council cycle audit work

Paul Rea of the Lincoln-based Realistic Solutions consultancy, who earlier this year produced the last of the 4 cycle maps for Nottinghamshire, commissioned by the County Council, has also been involved in detailed audit work in some areas to study the quality of cycling provision and make recommendations for changes.

This work, which started about two years ago in the Mansfield and Ashfield area, has been extended in the last year in the south of the county. Several months ago Paul carried out cycle audit studies in Kimberley and Netherfield, followed this summer by West Bridgford and Ruddington and soon will be doing similar work in Arnold, in close consultation with key local Pedals members.

Pedals much welcomes this thorough review and we will be encouraging the County Council to follow up the recommendations and improve provision.

Much of which was implemented many years ago, is now sub standard and dated, and also often made worse by poor maintenance



Paul Rea

New County Council Cycling officer starts work

After a gap of about 10 months, Clive Wood started work in September as the new County Council cycling officer, we are very glad to report.

A long backlog of issues has built-up and we hope soon to make a start on raising these issues with him

Help improve the system for report potholes etc.

Everyone who uses the City Council's online highway defect reporting system to let them know of problems like potholes, intruding vegetation, missing or loose signs etc, is now supposed to get an **acknowledgement number**. You can then use this to chase progress in getting the problem sorted.

However, experiences suggests that this improvement, covering the City Council area (not the rest of the county) does not always work in practice and we are trying to work with the City Council to gather more evidence of how well it works.

If you have had any particular problems, such as not getting an acknowledgment number or, after many weeks, seeing no sign of action in response to your report, please pass on full details, including all relevant dates, to **Chris Carter**, email: chris.carter@nottingham.gov.uk

The online service can be found at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/roads-fault-city.htm> which also covers County Council roads. Despite our suggestions the first step improvement of giving each person using the service an acknowledgement number has still not been agreed for County areas.



Cyclists and the NET – Pedals has been working hard to see what lessons can we learn from NET Line one for the proposed extension lines – see http://www.pedals.org.uk/cyclists_and_the_net

New public art on a cycle route in Lenton.



Cycle lockers sign – for more information on cycle lockers see

www.pedals.org.uk/cycle_lockers





New Cycle training scheme for Nottingham



schools

RideWise is going into partnership with the City Council to provide 'Lifecycle' to all school kids. One of the reasons road safety people in the City Council have developed the concept is that by starting young (year 2 at school) more children will have been brought up to be road aware when they get into motorcycles or cars thus they may be more sensitive to the needs of cyclists.

Subjectively this seems right when the people who run me off the road (here's some terrible stereotyping) – boy racers and ladies in 4x4s - clearly don't understand the road from a cyclist's perspective. Sean or Francis the City Council Road Safety experts may have may have evidence to support this.

Nottingham of multiple deprivation where we will be improving cycle infrastructure smarter choice activities.

Cycling Proficiency for the 21st Century.

BikeAbility is the Cycling Proficiency Test for the 21st century, designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. There are three BikeAbility levels and children will be encouraged and inspired to achieve all three levels, recognising that there is always more to learn and to enjoy on a bike.

It's all about being safe

Like most activities, cycling is not risk-free but fortunately serious accidents are rare. To put the risk in context, there is one cyclist death per 33 million kilometres cycled – it would take the average cyclist 21,000 years to ride that far.

Furthermore, in 2005, 148 cyclists were killed, which is 20 per cent below the 1994-98 average. Research has shown that the more people cycle, the safer it becomes. In the Netherlands, for example, as the number of people cycling has risen, casualties have fallen.

Cycling for at least 30 minutes a day for example gives people a level of fitness equivalent to being 10 years younger. In terms of life-years gained and lost, the Government acknowledges that the health benefits of cycling far outweigh any risks involved – by a factor of 20:1 according to information provided by CTC, the UK's national cyclists' organisation.

The National Standard for Cycle Training, which underpins Bike Ability, has been designed by the leading experts in the field of road safety as well as cycling. It is designed on similar principles to lessons for motorcycle riders and car drivers, assessing the likely risks and obstacles faced by cyclists at each stage of their development and created training that encourages them to make their journeys with the skills to manage these risks as far as is practicable.

See also the special section on the Pedals website www.pedals.org.uk/cycling_to_school

Cycling for Leisure Project

By Jenny Maybury, Nottingham City Council

The Cycling for Leisure project has been jointly developed by Nottingham City Council and Nottingham City Primary Care Trust. The purpose of the project is to encourage more people to walk and cycle to their local park or leisure centre and to enhance these places as a base for walking and cycling as part of an informal exercise programme.

Funding from the PCT's Choosing Health budget and the Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan (Smarter Choices) has been used to improve cycle parking at three City leisure locations, chosen in consultation with the City Council's Community and Culture department. The new facilities were installed at the end of June:

The Tennis Centre on University Boulevard now has 3 individual lockers

in addition to the existing cycle stands; Southglade Leisure Centre in Bestwood now has 5 individual lockers in addition to the existing cycle stands;

The Forest Recreation Ground has 4 cycle stands adjacent to the all-weather pitch.

Key management systems are planned for the new lockers but are not yet in operation so at the moment you have to bring your own lock. Please ask at reception at the Tennis Centre and Southglade for more information.



Pocket maps are in preparation for each area to show walking and cycling routes around each site along with a calorie converter so you can calculate the health benefits of doing more walking and cycling. The maps should be available by the end of October.

*Jennie Maybury
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Local bike recycling scheme begins to expand but URGENTLY needs offers of good condition used bikes!



‘The Bike Club is Framework Housing Association’s Community bicycle recycling service. Established in 2002 ‘The Bike Club’ has been running (quietly) in the Radford/Hyson Green area of Nottingham for around 6 years and is now expanding, in response to clear signs of increased demand for good condition recycled bikes, especially from the Nottingham Cycling for Health project.

Recently it has relocated to a large, indoor, workshop next to Framework’s central office in Forest Fields.

The service currently runs through a volunteer & donations basis & allows FHA service users as well as members of the local community to get involved with bikes & bike maintenance.

The level of involvement is down to the individual and as such can range from simply taking a general ninterest to getting a general

introduction to the basics of bike repair.

For the more adventurous this can progress to the finer arts of fault diagnosis, more complex repairs and even complete strip downs & rebuilds from bare frames.

All stock is donated by members of the local community, landlords, and other organisations such as local universities; many clients bring their own cycles to work on.

Wherever possible these donated bikes are saved, ‘recycled’ & passed on to a new owner. Bikes which are past the point of saving are stripped of their parts & these go to help other bikes return to action.

Framework Housing Association are currently funding the premises and time for the bike club, to ensure sustainability we are always looking for sponsorship or other forms of funding.

Contact Us

- to find out more,
- for volunteering opportunities,
- to come down and start work on a bike of your own, or

for bike & bike part donations please email Liam, Dom or Al on

thebikeclub@frameworkha.org

We’ll do our best to accommodate collection of donated items however, if you can get them to us that would really help too!

For more information about the Cycling for Health Project take a look at http://www.pedals.org.uk/cycling_for_health www.getmovingnottingham.nhs.uk/ [ht www.thebigwheel.org.uk/index.php/new_news/more_news/lets_get_physical/](http://www.thebigwheel.org.uk/index.php/new_news/more_news/lets_get_physical/)

Bike trailers take-up spreads in West Bridgford

reports Karina Wells

As part of Transition Initiative West Bridgford 18 bike trailers were handed out to local residents who had shown an interest promoting the bike as a reliable mode of transport rather than a leisure activity.



The hope is that many more residents will follow in their 'tyre tracks' and free up the roads, making it even safer and quicker to get into, and around town. As it so happens 10 more trailers about to be distributed in our town in the next few weeks.

With fuel prices high, a really good infrastructure and a relatively flat town centre, West Bridgfordians are to leave their cars at home and use

in the enviable position of being able more sustainable modes of transport.

Plus, it helps you keep fit and healthy without having to spend time and money at the gym!

You don't need to cycle far: did you know that 75% of all journeys you take are less than 5 miles long and half of those are less than 2 miles. It's been shown that with a little practice most people can comfortably ride these relatively short distances.

If you would like to give it a go, but have not been on a bike for a while and want to build up the confidence to ride a bike safely in today's traffic conditions, contact Ridewise (Nottinghamshire adult cycle training) <http://www.ridewise.org.uk/>

This month <http://www.theecolist.co.uk/> will feature cycling and sustainable accessories, so keep an eye out for these products, or subscribe to the newsletter.

If you cycle you will be helping to improve the environment of West Bridgford in more ways than one as well as saving money. Happy pedalling!

This article first appeared in the August edition of Just Nottingham.



Pedals internet address

(Including downloadable membership form!)

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

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Secretary:

Vacant: offers welcome please!

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Membership Secretary:

Chris Gardner, 11 Main Street, Bradmore, Nottingham NG11 6PB, tel. (0115) 921 1783, email: pedalsmemb@aol.com

Subscriptions rates (Membership year runs from 1 May to 30 April)

£12.00 for a couple or family, £9.00 for an individual or £7 for unwaged

Please pay by Standing Order, if possible.

Membership forms can be downloaded from www.pedals.org.uk

Social Secretary: Dave Clark, tel. (0796) 9020795, email:

davidclark_71@hotmail.com

Publicity Officer:

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Distributor of the 'County - City - Forest'

Country rides book:

Lawrence Geary,
96 Pierrepont Road,
West Bridgford, Nottm. NG2 5DW,
tel. (0115) 982 2720

Pedals T-Shirts Distributor:

David Miller, 9 Studland Way, off Compton Acres, West Bridgford, Nottm. NG2 7TS, tel. (0115) 846 0688, email:

david.millervilla@ntlworld.com

T-shirts available in mid-blue

Ridewise Consultant:

Graham Hubbard, c/o Groundwork Greater Nottingham, Denman Street East, Nottingham NG7 3GX.

mobile: 07818 263738, email

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Larry Neylon, 17 Percival Road, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 2FA

email: lneylon@ntlworld.com

CYCLE ROUTE LEAFLETS AND OTHER INFORMATION?

See the Cycling Pages of the County Council website:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/traffic_and_travel/traffictavel-cycling.htm

or http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/traffic_and_travel-cycling

Maintenance reporting is via

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/trafficandtravel/traffictavel-cycling/tt-cyclepathfaults.htm>

County Council Cycling officer (NEW):

Clive Wood, Communities Department, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BJ, tel. 08449 80 80 80 –

email: urban_cycling@nottscc.gov.uk

City Council: Steve Brewer, Sustainable

Transport Officer, Transport Strategy Team, City Environment & Regeneration Dept., Exchange Buildings North, Smithy Row, Nottingham NG1 2BS, tel. (0115) 915 6596, fax. (0115) 915 6596,

email: steve.brewer@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

NB. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR THE POLICIES OF PEDALS

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