

NEWS SHEET

Tring Cycling Campaign

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TRING STATION CYCLE PARKING

On Tuesday May 2 Tring Cycling Campaign were at the station to ask cyclists to write to, or email, the retail manager of Silverlink County appealing for more parking and a cleaner cycle shed. We noticed that 72 cyclists were trying to attach their bikes to 67 stands, and that the shed was malodorous since it is used as an emergency toilet. Due to the design and spacing of the ancient, rusty racks it is very hard to find those that are vacant as the shed fills up.

Since then we have had several phone calls from this manager in which he promised to provide extra parking for between 20 and 50 cyclists, and to clean the shed. Due to the small size of the shed this additional parking would have to be somewhere else, and he was considering and costing three alternatives. A notice would be put up at the Station by Silverlink before the end of the month outlining these improvements.

CYCLE THEFT TOPS STATION CRIME RATING

The latest edition of *Transport Trends*, issued by the Department for Transport reveals that theft or damage to bicycles at railway stations has increased by around a third over the last six years. It is now the most reported crime at stations. For comparison theft from cars was down by 50 per cent over the same period. This would suggest that train operating companies are not giving adequate attention to security of cycle parking areas. No surprises here then for users of Tring station cycle storage facilities!

But it need not be like this: An experimental cycle park, installed by Transport for London, has opened at Finsbury Park, North London. It will be staffed during peak hours and provide 24 hour secure parking for 125 bikes. With a smart card operated lock system users will be able to access the cycle park 24 hours a day. If feedback from users shows the scheme is a success similar parks may be installed at other major transport interchanges in London.

Hopefully such facilities will be designed into the new Tring station, and this is something TCC will be pressing for.

DACORUM CYCLE STRATEGY

Maps of Dacorum have been prepared by Groundwork showing existing cycle paths and parking, roads suitable for cycling which need no improvement, places where parking is needed, roads that could do with a little improvement, and routes or areas which are top priority for improvement. These have been given to Dacorum Borough Council for inclusion in the Dacorum Cycle Strategy, which is undergoing final revisions.

The eight top priorities for the Tring area are:

1. Upgrading Footpath TU41 to dual use. This path runs from Pond Close to New Mill.
2. Extending the Station Road cycle path into the new market and providing a safer crossing of London Road.
3. Upgrading Footpath TU39 to dual use. This runs from Station Road to Tring School.
4. Providing safe access from Beggars Lane to the Station Road cycle path.
5. Providing a cycle path along Northfield Road from Tring Station to Folly Farm to join with the existing cycle path from Pitstone.
6. Providing a cycle path from Tring Hill roundabout to the Icknield Way industrial estate.
7. Providing a dual use path across Miswell Lane playing field.
8. Improving the conditions on the muddy section of Marshcroft Lane over the railway bridge.

Cycle parking is needed at Tring School, Cow Lane Sports Centre and at the theatre at Pendley.

HIGHWAY CODE UPDATE.

Over 11,000 cyclists emailed their local MP over proposed changes to the Highway Code. This means the issue has well and truly reached Parliament. Cycling portal website bikeforall this week reported that encouraging noises were being made by Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Transport, Derek Twigg. And MP Mark Lazarowicz has secured a 90-minute Parliamentary discussion on cycling during which he has promised to raise cyclist's concerns over proposed changes to the Highway Code update where they directly affect cyclists.

NEW TRANSPORT SECRETARY.

The recent Cabinet reshuffle has led to Alistair Darling MP being moved from Transport Secretary to the Department for Trade and Industry. From a cyclist's point of view Darling's tenure at the Department for Transport (DfT) was notable mainly for being entirely un-notable.

His replacement, Douglas Alexander, is MP for Paisley, has no previous background in transport, and is not only Secretary of State for Transport but also Secretary of State for Scotland, so is unlikely to be able to devote much time to cycling. It would seem that under-secretary Derek Twigg will stay on in the Department keeping his responsibilities for both rail and cycling related issues.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 pm at 83 Dundale Road, Tring. A copy of the accounts which had been signed by the auditor was not at hand at the AGM, but will be available for inspection at this meeting.

TCC WEB SITE

After a dormant few months our web site is up and running again thanks to a friend of a friend. Whilst this arrangement is workable in the short term it is far from ideal, relying as it does on someone who lives a distance away and is not familiar with Tring and local transport issues.

Looking at other cycling campaign group web sites we believe there is tremendous benefit to be gained from having a well designed and up to date site, and using it to promote cycling and related issues to an audience well beyond our members.

So, a plea from the heart: is there a member who could take on the mantle and become TCC's Webmaster? Alternatively if you would like to learn how to build and operate a web site then again please get in touch as the person currently looking after the site on our behalf could guide you through the basic principles.

FUTURE RIDES

Sunday 18th June – This is our traditional TCC Fathers Day Ride during Bike Week, and will start outside St Peter's Church in Tring at 11am to travel for about 8 miles through Astrope, Puttenham, Wilstone and Gubblecote to StartopsEnd Reservoir, where there is a choice of a café and two pubs (all with cycle parking) for lunchtime refreshment.

Thursday June 29 - Evening Social Ride: We shall be meeting outside St. Peter's Church, Tring, at 7pm, and will have a gentle ride, looking at the top 8 priorities listed on the front page, before visiting a place of refreshment for exchange of views.

Autumn Cream Tea Ride. This is another popular annual ride and will take place on either Sunday September 3 or Sunday September 10, meeting outside St. Peter's Church at 1.45pm for a 2pm start. We expect to ride for about 7 or 8 miles before a cream tea at Mead's Farm Shop by Wilstone Reservoir..

Visit our website: www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk

Our News Sheet Editor is John Boielle, 83 Dundale Road, Tring, Herts. HP23 5BZ.
(01442 822575) Email: john.boielle@virgin.net