

NEWS SHEET

Tring Cycling Campaign

ISSUE 67

JULY 2007

ROAD SURFACING ON LOCAL HILLS

Rob Hill complained about recent road-surfacing, so we contacted David Burt, the Herts Cycling Officer to find out what had happened together with suggestions that the surface should have been rolled, and that what was suitable for the flatlands of East Herts was not appropriate for the hills of Wigginton and Hastoe (i.e the highest area in Hertfordshire) Below is Rob's original complaint, followed by a reply from a principal officer of Herts Highways who had been alerted by David Burt.

TCC: I'm contacting you regarding a situation with road surfacing just carried out up Oddy Hill and The Twist (i.e. the only roads into and out of Wigginton in the Tring direction). As usual 'they' have applied a surface of chippings, leaving a huge quantity of loose stone on the surface, which now makes both these roads very hazardous on a bike- bearing in mind both include steep hills. Is there some way we can complain to the highway authority about this? Regards, Rob

Dear TCC,

Thank-you for your recent enquiry.

Due to the gradient of these two sites they have had a double dressing applied to them i.e. binder/larger chipping/binder/smaller chipping rather than the standard dressing using only 1 layer of binder under the larger chipping. This gives a more stable dressing and reduces the risk of ongoing shedding of loose chips.

The dressing is indeed rolled using a pneumatic tyred roller. This has a row of multiple pneumatic tyres at the front and a rubber coated solid drum at the back. Old fashioned solid steel drum rollers are no longer used as they crush the chippings.

The dressing should have had its first sweep within 2 days of the dressing. The contractor has told me that he carried out a second sweep over the weekend 23/24 June. I have been in contact with my Clerk of Works on Site and he will check.

Many of the rural hills that we have dressed this year have had more loose gravel and other debris removed from them before dressing than loose chippings after dressing.

For your further cycling interest and insight into my background in cycling matters, I own a second home in Belgium. We live near the Kemmelberg, a 1 in 5 hill surfaced with debris covered uneven granite setts, where deep pot-holes are sometimes filled with whole loose bricks. It is a regular feature of Gent-Wevelgem and my young sons and I regularly use it in training in order to become true "Flandriens".

In April I cycled the Tour of Flanders Sportive, in May "The Hell of the North" Paris-Roubaix and next month it is the Tour de France Stage 2 Sportive from Diksmuide to Gent. My sons aged 11 and 13 are regular participants in Flanders Cycling School events. They did the Kids Tour of Flanders and are doing the Kids Stage 2 Sportive from Deinze to Gent.

To us, "SlimeTubes" are the best invention since sliced bread and only cost 6 euros in Belgium and France as opposed to around £7 over here. We all use road bikes but with 28mm Vredestein Premiatos or Michelin Ultra Tourers.

Finally, not everything is flat in East Herts. There are some short but sharp climbs around The Hadhams, and Violets Lane near Furneaux Pelham is a river bed over its middle kilometre and quite fun but only on an MTB.



NEW CYCLE PARKING IN TRING RURAL VILLAGES

Last year we suggested to Tring Rural Parish Council that cycle parking was needed in Wilstone and Long Marston. We gave them information on a source of funding, a manufacturer and installer, so that the council would not have to pay or provide labour. These cycle stands have now been installed and are shown in the pictures above.

NEW HERTS CYCLING STRATEGIES

The recent Hertfordshire Cycling Strategy together with supporting Cycle Parking, and Cycle Monitoring Strategies, can be found on the Herts Direct website by following this link:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/vrcouncil/hcc/env/plan/transplan/loctranspln/newcyclestrat/>

We would be very interested to know what you think about them. Please let the editor know (address, email and phone below)

FUTURE EVENTS

Sunday, September 2nd – TCC Cream Tea Ride

Meet outside St. Peter's Church, Tring at 1.45pm for 2.00 pm departure for our traditional leisurely family ride along a quiet, flat route to Long Marston for a cream tea.

Saturday, September 8th – Historic Churches Ride

We will have a display in St Peter and St Paul's Church (and possibly another church) during this ride.

Sunday, September 16th – Berkhamsted Bike Fest

Meet during afternoon at Canal Fields on the other side of the canal to Waitrose. This event is run by our sibling, Berkhamsted Cycle Group, and will include cycle training.

Sunday, September 23rd - Charity Bike Ride

Meet outside Robin Hood Pub, Tring at 8.45 am for a 26.5 mile ride in aid of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and Cancer Research UK. You need to register by 31 July. Details, map and sponsorship forms available in Robin Hood Pub.

BAD BIKES IN BIERTON

There has been a huge increase in cycling at Bierton School, near Aylesbury, where on occasions over 120 children cycled to school for breakfast. Recently Jill Henderson (who checked bikes during our recent "Cycle Safely" event) has been looking at their bikes, and has found that 55 per cent were unsafe, usually because the brakes did not work properly.

Many of these bikes had been bought cheaply, and it is clear that suppliers (including Halfords) are not checking them before they leave the premises, and that some parents do not make sure bikes are road-worthy before their children ride on them. The safeness of children's bikes is as important as their ability to cycle competently.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

Firstly: *Let this be a lesson to all parents.*

Secondly: *What are we going to do about the unsafe bikes of young cyclists in Tring?*

Please send suggestions to the editor.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday September 5th at 83 Dundale Road. For details please contact the editor.

Visit our website: www.tringcyclingcampaign.org.uk

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