



Cycle Alton Newsletter

July 2025

Hello again! We hope you enjoy reading our latest newsletter.

Cycle Alton's 5th birthday gathering: back in May we celebrated our 5th birthday with a gathering of 20 supporters at No.16 Market Square, a free-to-hire space from Alton Town Council (ATC).



After some cake and fizz and viewing a short PowerPoint presentation about our recent achievements, we split into three groups for each to come up with one issue they wanted prioritised over the next year.

The three topics were: the state of the cycle path beside the A339 Basingstoke Road; the surfaces of local bridleways, particularly the path through Chawton Park Woods and Mounters Lane; a publicity campaign to educate drivers about the Highway Code changes. We discussed what follow-ups there could be from these.

Then the meeting was addressed by Wendy Simson of ATC, who gave a very interesting talk including the interesting nugget of information that the ATC bike hire scheme goes from success to success, and she estimated that it has led to about 20 bicycles being purchased following a try-out by the hirers. This is great news!

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**New Alton sign:** the new Alton sign at the entrance to town on the Butts Bridge roundabout was unveiled by the mayor in mid-June, followed swiftly by a photo-call featuring the Hearty Riders.



Find out more about Alton's cycling groups [here](#).

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Local Government Reorganisation - Hampshire and Solent Mayoral Combined

Authority: the current two-tier organisation of East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council is set to be combined into a single unitary authority with an elected mayor in the next three years.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250709LGRoptionproposal>

All regional mayors, bar one, have signed up to an plan to create a "national active travel network", focusing on helping children to walk, cycle or scoot to school safely. It will focus on safer road crossings and blocking motor traffic outside schools at drop-off and pick-up times.

The scheme enable the devolving of transport planning to the new authorities who could implement schemes that would help in their area, working with [Active Travel England](#) (ATE).

Chris Boardman, the former Olympic cyclist who heads ATE, said the focus on routes to schools followed focus group work which found that people are particularly amenable to messages about walking and cycling when it is about children being able to travel safely and independently.

He said countries including Finland had travel cultures in which primary school-age children routinely make their own trips, adding: "If you start with asking people, do you want that for your kids, you'll have a very, very strong, powerful and politically popular – yes."

Cycle Alton has been asked by Southampton Cycling Campaign if we would be interested in working together with other Hampshire cycle campaign groups to lobby the candidates and the new authority about active travel provision. If you would be interested in this role, please get in touch.



Anstey Road cycle markings: a few bicycle pictures have been painted on Anstey Road following its surface treatment which are to replace the previous painted cycle lanes.

They designate a bike route which drivers can still drive over, but act as a reminder to expect and look out for people cycling.

The opinion of road users is divided on whether you consider these an adequate replacement for the cycle lanes. What do you think?



GDPR compliance: Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN) has recently reviewed its compliance with GDPR (the General Data Protection Regulation).

Compliance requires that we only collect the information we need, i.e. your email address, which was given voluntarily and is stored securely.

We must ask annually if you wish to remain on our mailing list. No reply to this question implies your consent. We remind you that if you wish to be removed from our list you're welcome to email us at any time at the address given at the end of this newsletter.

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**HCC new webpage for cycling:** HCC has a new page on its website devoted to cycling information here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/lifesbetterbybike>

It has information on routes, groups to cycle with, and links to cycle-related websites.

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<https://www.instagram.com/cyclealton/>

Website: <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/our-groups/cycle-alton/>

Or email us at cyclealton@gmail.com