



Cycle Alton Newsletter

February 2022

The next Cycle Alton Meeting

This is on **Wednesday 9th February at 7pm** via Zoom.

Do join us to discover what Cycle Alton has been doing. This is also your chance to meet other supporters online and to have your say about what you think we should be doing next.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85900761262?pwd=clhmek5NNkY6dHBvTWZFcStsQThyUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 0076 1262

Passcode: 662649

New Highway Code

You're most probably aware that a revision to the Highway Code is to be published today, 29th January. In the absence of a timely government information campaign, the press has filled the void with inflammatory articles highlighting the supposed dangers the new rules will cause. In fact the new rules are simply clarifying existing guidance. Read about it here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022?fbclid=IwAR3MhE85e0h0qFBmcjEp6JWL8-is-z8xrQ_lqZWZhnLKfHH7ntmIJNg-Vc



The OFFICIAL
**HIGHWAY
CODE**

The government plans to communicate the new guidance in two phases:

- In early February the government's THINK! Campaign will launch a communications drive, backed by over £500,000 in funding, raising awareness of the changes and ensuring road users understand their responsibilities;
- A broader behaviour change campaign later in the year, to align with seasonal increases in active travel, to help embed the changes and encourage understanding and uptake of the new guidance.

We'll be looking out for these!

Active Travel England



The government has just launched its long-awaited *Active Travel England* (ATE), the new cycling and walking inspectorate and funding body, with Chris Boardman as its interim commissioner.

ATE's responsibilities will be:

- driving up the standards of cycling and walking infrastructure; managing the national active travel budget;
- awarding funding for projects that meet the new national standards;
- inspecting & approving finished schemes;
- reporting on highway authorities for their performance on active travel;
- helping local authorities to train staff to spread good practice in design, implementation and public engagement;
- acting as a statutory consultee on major planning applications to ensure that the largest new developments properly cater for pedestrians and cyclists.

ATE's establishment follows the government's commitment of £2 billion for cycling and walking over this Parliament. Its commitment to spending £27.4bn on new roads remains, however.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/new-executive-agency-active-travel-england-launches>

Anstey Park

Cycle Alton has written to the Town Clerk and Cllr Suzie Burns, Chair of the Open Spaces Committee, to request they reconsider replacing a barrier in Anstey Park to prevent through-traffic. You may have noticed the planters that were installed there at a cost of £1000 were quickly moved aside then removed completely, after notification from sports clubs that an ambulance was delayed.

If emergency vehicles are told about the barrier then they can access the park via the Anstey Road entrance without any delay.

We believe allowing through-traffic in the park turns this from a space for people into yet another space dominated by cars. It would make the park safer, quieter, less polluted and a more pleasant experience for those visiting it. It would also contribute towards achieving some of the actions listed in the ATC Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2023.

Abandoned Bikes

Cllr Paula Langley has contacted Cycle Alton with a request for something to be done about abandoned bikes which are frequently highlighted on local social media pages.

She said "We keep finding abandoned bikes that nobody claims. Nobody wants to take them either. There is one in my ward right now. We were wondering if anyone might want to collect them and do them up and give to free for people who can't afford them?"

While hesitant at the idea of collecting up bikes which presumably belong to somebody, it does seem a pity to let them remain abandoned and unused when somebody could be making use of them. It would need somebody with the time, space, effort and skills to do them up and then to organise their donation.

If you think you might be able to help out, please get in touch with us or Cllr Langley at paula.langley@easthants.gov.uk.



Expected soon from Alton Town Council

In addition to the arrival of an electric cargo tricycle which will be available for Alton residents to try out, ATC is also expecting the delivery and installation of 14 Sheffield-style bicycle racks which will be placed in various locations around the town such as at Jubilee Fields, The Butts and Kings Pond. Watch this space!



Alton Climate Action Network

				
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INTRODUCING ACAN AND ITS GROUPS

Find out who we are, what we can do for you and what you can do with us, by joining us online

at 7:30pm on Thurs 3 Feb 2022

for Zoom link  altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk



Since 2019 ACAN has brought people in Alton and the surrounding villages together, to take action to improve biodiversity and reduce our carbon emissions.

Alton Climate Action Network Zoom Presentation 3rd February 19:30-21:00

A reminder of the forthcoming 'Introducing ACAN and its Groups' meeting via Zoom. At this free online event, Cycle Alton and all the other groups will share their current activities and future plans.

Please spread the word! Email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com for the Zoom link, and download the leaflet here

<https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/ACAN-Introduction-3-Feb-22.pdf> for more information.



Alton Repair Café 26th February

The next Repair Café is on 26th February at 10:30 - 12:30 in Alton Community Centre.

Volunteers will carry out simple bicycle repairs and adjustments, and will show you how to mend a puncture and adjust your gears and brakes. They also carry out repairs to small electronic and mechanical items, clothing and furniture. Repairs are free, though donations are always welcome.



Email altonrepaircafe21@gmail.com for more information.



Survey on Women's Cycling



In their latest research project #BikeIsBest is looking for women's views on a range of topics around cycling. All respondents enter a prize draw for a £600 bike voucher.

Please help them get thousands of women's thoughts on what they want and need to cycle. The survey closes on 3rd February.

https://www.research.net/r/views_on_cycling_survey_Jan_2022b



Winter Raffle

Cycling UK has a Winter Raffle! Buy your ticket(s) for the chance to win £500 cash, a Madison waterproof jacket, or one of many other great prizes. Your entry will support Cycling UK's charitable work and campaigning to make cycling safer and more accessible.

Tickets cost £1 each and you can buy them in blocks of 10, 20 or 30. Entries close at 10am, Monday 21st February 2022.

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/raffle>