



Cycle Alton Newsletter

January 2022

We would like to wish all Cycle Alton supporters a very happy and healthy New Year, and hope you have a successful and productive year in 2022.

E-bike for hire

Alton Town Council successfully applied for a grant to purchase an electric bike which will be available for hire to anyone interested in trying one out. At this early stage many details are still to be determined, such as the terms and conditions of hire, and even whether the bike will be a standard electric one or an e-cargo bike. The bike is due to be delivered soon and more information will be given out in due course.

This fulfils ATC's commitment to promote electric bikes as specified in their Climate Change Strategy Action Plan 2020-2023, updated in October 2020.

<http://www.alton.gov.uk/UserFiles/Files/Alton%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20plan%20review%20October%202020.pdf>

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

A discussion entitled 'What can ACAN do for you?' will be an introduction to the ten groups that make up the Alton Climate Action Network, one of which is Cycle Alton. Since 2019 ACAN has brought people in Alton and the surrounding villages together to take environmental action. At this free online event, each group will share their current activities and future plans.

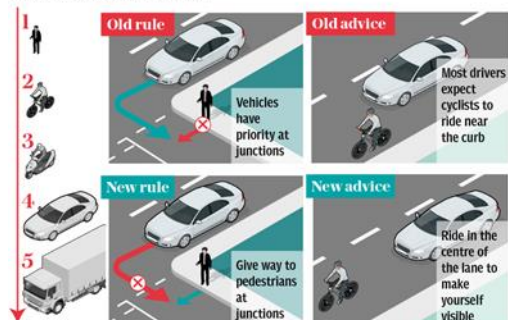
Please spread the word! You can email [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com) for the Zoom link, and download the leaflet here <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/ACAN-Introduction-3-Feb-22.pdf> for more information.

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New Highway Code

A revision of the Highway Code is to be published on 29th January, following a public consultation last year after advice on wording suggested by Cycling UK. The update will include a new hierarchy of road user. For the first time in Britain the law will recognise that those who pose the greatest risk on our roads to others have a higher level of responsibility. This means someone cycling will have greater responsibility to look out for people walking, while someone driving would have greater responsibility to look out for people cycling, walking or riding a horse.

New hierarchy of road users



Other key amendments in the new Highway Code include:

- Clearer guidance for drivers overtaking people cycling to give at least 1.5m;
- Guidance on how drivers and passenger can prevent 'car-dooring' cyclists by using the 'Dutch Reach';
- Simplification on rules related to non-signalised junctions to prevent "left-hook" collisions, bringing Britain in line with similar laws on the European continent.

The new rules have legal implications and it's essential the public is informed about them. The government has announced a publicity campaign will be launched simultaneously with the new Highway Code rather than in the lead-up to it.

Cycling UK believes the Highway Code changes need a long term and well-funded communications campaign to help make the roads safer for everyone. However, news of the changes has started to be reported by the media in news and radio programmes, but a recent poll by the AA of 13,000 of its members worryingly found 2 in 3 knew nothing of the changes.

Read more about the new Highway Code here:

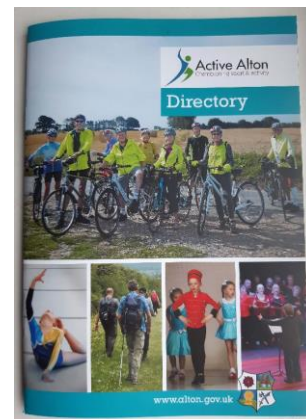
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1037306/table-of-change-to-the-highway-code.pdf

Active Alton Directory

Active Alton Directory has recently been published in booklet form, which includes a list of 6 cycling groups in Alton. Whatever your experience, confidence or speed there's a group for you!

Pick up a copy in various locations around town - Alton Library, Community Centre, Community Hospital, doctors' surgeries and local schools.

There is more information on the website <https://altonevents.co.uk/active-alton/>



Consultation on Barriers to Cycling

Steve Willoughby of Hampshire County Council's Economy, Transport & Environment Department is asking cycling groups around Hampshire to report back to him by the end of January about any barriers to cycling in each local area. His brief is to develop a position statement for HCC on the use of 'No Cycling', 'Cyclists Dismount' and 'End of Route' signs, as well as the use of staggered barriers on walking and cycling routes, to avoid their use unless absolutely necessary on safety grounds.

Cycle Alton has already compiled a list to submit, which is shown below. Can you let us know of any more you're aware of?

Barriers to cycling in Alton

Barley Fields to London Rd - opposite Eggars
Flood Meadows to Steeple Drive
St Swithuns Way behind Treloars to Howards Lane,
Holybourne
Chawton subway under A31
Kings Pond to Paper Mill Lane
Anstey Mill Lane to Garstons Way
Anstey Mill Lane to Newman Lane
Steps - Eyre Gdns to Baverstock Manor Estate
Steps - The Lamports to Newman Lane

Barriers to cycling outside of Alton

Steps & gate - From Gosport Rd, Chawton to A32

Road Signs

'End of Cycle Route' - Chawton Park Rd by
entrance to Leisure Centre

Consultation on a proposed Pump Track for Anstey Park

Alton Town Council is consulting on a proposal to build a pump track in Anstey Park. It will be for BMX and cycling as a sport rather than utility, but as it's cycling-related the link to the presentation and questionnaire is given below. Please complete by the end of the month.

http://www.alton.gov.uk/Anstey_Park_6321.aspx