



Cycle Alton Newsletter

Edition 5, July 2021

Welcome to the July 2021 edition of the Cycle Alton newsletter, and we hope you find it interesting. We'd love to hear any comments or suggestions on local cycling issues so please message us at cyclealton@gmail.com, <https://www.facebook.com/cyclealton>, or @CycleAlton on Twitter. Our website is here: <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/our-groups/cycle-alton/>

Cycle Alton news

Alton Cycling Charter

The Alton Cycling Charter has been launched and has gathered 151 signatures so far. Do please add your signature at <https://altonclimatenetwork.org.uk/alton-cycling-charter-please-sign/>. In the near future we will be asking local businesses and organisations for their support too. The lead statement on the charter is "We, the residents, businesses, organisations, schools and colleges of Alton, want a safe cycle network within our historic town, connecting surrounding villages and helping to create a sustainable, healthy and vibrant place to live, work and study."

Adult Cycle Training Event



A cycle training session for adults was recently held in Amery Hill School, organised by Cycle Alton and delivered by Pedal Power Training. 17 participants were divided into three groups by ability. One group remained in the playground to focus on bike handling skills, and the other two groups went onto the roads to learn how to cycle safely in traffic. Everyone who attended the 2-hour session found it very helpful and enjoyable, and further similar events were requested.

The three qualified instructors were described by attendees as informative, patient and knowledgeable, and comments ranged from "it's made me feel more confident" and "I learned about gears/brakes/the proper way to signal" to "fab instructor!" If you'd like to join a similar cycle training course in the future, please register your interest with us at cyclealton@gmail.com.

Riding Alton's Cycle Routes linking Schools and Colleges



On a recent damp morning Cllr Rob Mocatta, together with officers from East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and Hampshire County Council (HCC), joined two Cycle Alton supporters in a ride around some of the Alton cycle routes identified in EHDC's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). They focussed on routes between housing areas and the schools and colleges, pointing out any gaps and difficulties along the way. Cllr Mocatta described it as "a really useful day."

EHDC's Community Infrastructure Officer, who was on the ride, has promised to be in touch when they have information about the start of the

LCWIP prioritisation work. A similar ride was undertaken two days later with Cllr Suzie Burns. We thank all the councillors and officers for their time and interest.

Cycle Four Marks News

Cycle Four Marks has circulated a report on Safe Routes for Active Travel to Four Marks Primary School following a consultation with parents. The school is very keen to increase the number of children who walk, scoot or cycle to school and a group of parents are keen to progress this. Currently there are no routes which parents consider safe enough for active travel. HCC has been non-committal in its reply to the report. Cycle Four Marks feels there is a conflict between what the school needs and HCC policy, and is considering its response.

Walk Alton

Cycle Alton supporter Leon Bissonnet attended Walk Alton's recent annual forum on our behalf, to maintain a link between the two groups who share many supporters and have a similar agenda, e.g. finding ways to promote our activity for both everyday travel and leisure, and how to include harder-to-reach groups such as children and people with disabilities.

Alton & Town Council News

Cycling and Walking-themed Open Air Market 15th May

Delayed for a week because of poor weather, Cycle Alton had a presence at the Walking & Cycling themed market in the Public Gardens. We had many visitors to our stall including Damian Hinds MP, (see photo below) and we gained numerous new supporters as well as signatories for the Alton Cycling Charter.

Cycling Festival 7-9th May Feedback:

If you took part Alton Town Council (ATC) would appreciate it if you could complete a short feedback survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cycling2021>

Community Fair 19th June: Barbara Tansey represented Cycle Alton at the Alton Climate Action Network (ACAN) stall, and we thank them for accommodating us there.

Anstey Park blockage

We asked ATC whether the barrier that was put in place during the works at the end of Anstey Lane, to prevent motorists from cutting through the park to avoid the queues, could be made permanent, given that the rat-running would not stop. ATC will consult Anstey Park tenants on this and the matter will be discussed at the next Open Spaces Committee meeting on 25th August 2021.



East Hampshire District Council news

Cycle Alton Presentation to Alton Placemaking Strategy Group

The Alton Placemaking Strategy Group is comprised of councillors and officers from EHDC as well as Damian Hinds MP, ATC and HCC. They meet to discuss the 'placemaking' projects in Alton which currently are the Station Forecourt Regeneration and the Coors Brewery Development.

We were invited to present our route analysis of the LCWIP as it relates to Alton to their May meeting. Our Powerpoint presentation was well-received on the day and the link is given below. The dozen or so route slides were included simply to show how much information has been gathered rather than to discuss each one, as we were only allocated 10 minutes.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1in25vz9KmIuukxoZ8eNK_aKvh96BAZ29?usp=sharing

COP East Hampshire Transport Action Group

Cycle Alton was invited to send a representative to the initial meeting of this group on 28th June, It was set up by Damian Hinds MP to mirror the 26th international 'Conference of the Parties' (COP26) to be held in Glasgow later this year which will address climate change. The aim locally is to raise awareness of active transport actions to help reduce carbon emissions in East Hampshire. There will be an all-day public event in Alton Maltings on Friday 8th October, with more information to follow.

Whitehill & Bordon's Green Loop

<http://whitehillbordon.com/green-loop-wayfinding/>

The Green Loop is a 7km network of pedestrian and cycle paths connecting the town's key facilities. Over the next few months attractive and colourful totems, benches and blocks are being added to the loop to guide residents on their way or give them a chance to rest. The project is being delivered in partnership

by EHDC, HCC, Urban Place Lab and landowners, using money awarded from the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Planning Application for a Cycle Storage Box in Cowdray Park, Alton

Cycle Alton wrote in support of the resident's application.

Hampshire County Council news

E-Bike trial scheme announced

The Workplace Cycle Parking Grant and E-Bike (Electric Bike) Loan scheme was approved at a recent decision day by Cllr Russell Oppenheimer, Executive Member for Highways Operations. He said "I think this is a great scheme. It will enable businesses to apply for a grant that can be used to provide cycle storage and encourage sustainable travel. Offering businesses an opportunity to loan e-bikes to their employees will make it easier and affordable for more people to take up cycling."

See more at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20210621WorkplaceCycleEBikeGrant>

Cyclist & Pedestrian Access to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

At a recent decision day, HCC Cllr Rob Humby, Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport & Environment, approved the reintroduction of access by cyclists on a controlled basis to all 24 HWRCs operated by HCC from July 2021, utilising the current booking system. Cyclists have been barred from HWRCs since March 2020 on grounds of health & safety, and social distancing.

Government News relating to cycling

Fix Your Bike Voucher Scheme

Deadline to use vouchers from last 2 releases extended until the end of August! Work to be completed by the end of October. Vouchers are valid for 90 days once you've applied.

Other Cycling-related News

Cycle Back to Health

East Hampshire Community Rail Partnership (EHCRP) <https://easthampshirerail.co.uk/> is putting on adult cycle training sessions at three East Hampshire stations throughout the summer – Liss, Petersfield and Rowlands Castle - but not at Alton Station this year. Alton will be included if they run it again. Under the banner 'Cycle Back to Health' they also offer Bike Doctor sessions and led rides. Since Pedal Power Training won't be revisiting Alton for some time because they are catching up with Bikeability training for children, these are worth checking out. For event details see this link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1thwth2S9Ws_58-B8YgD98cV3XpjeAzk6/view?usp=sharing

Bike Maintenance Session

Hilary Hill is offering a one-to-one bicycle maintenance session at £25 for one hour. If interested please contact Hilary at hilary@cad2go.co.uk.