



# Cycle Alton Newsletter

## June 2022

A round-up of recent local cycling-related news.

### **Rejection of Cycle Alton's Proposal for a Low-Traffic Town Centre**

If you've been a supporter since 2020 you may remember our first initiative which was to help revitalise the town centre by discouraging drivers using it as a through-route, on the back of the government's promotion of active travel to address the climate emergency.

Our plan was to remove all on-street parking; closing the lower High Street to private cars, allowing access only for buses and vehicles of disabled people; provision of a contraflow cycle lane to enable two way cycling through town centre, with additional seating, planters and bike parking.

We believe this would alleviate the noise, nuisance, and air quality issues associated with cars, while making visiting the town centre a more pleasant experience. The majority of the 116 town centre businesses we consulted were in favour.

After a presentation to Alton Town Council (ATC) it was forwarded to Hampshire County Council (HCC) for consideration as part of their Alton 'town centre health check'.

We've recently received notification of the decision made by local town councillors at the Alton Strategy Group meeting in March. The town clerk wrote "Whilst Councillors are very grateful to Cycle Alton for the research and work that they have undertaken and whilst all three tiers of local authority are firmly committed to the climate change principles which support such a change to lower carbon emissions and endeavours to improve health and wellbeing, there is a deep concern that any change at this time could have a negative impact on the economic viability of the High Street.

"As a convenience town, many businesses in Alton rely upon passing trade using on street parking to "nip into the shops" and whilst not all business is conducted in this way, post pandemic, the Group needs to understand if shopping habits have changed and ensure that if any changes were to be made in future they would not be detrimental to business. Support and promotion of the commercial vitality of the high street remains the primary driver to any change and in order to manage expectations the Group have concluded that at this time, there will be no changes to either the layout or access to the centre of Alton.

"This will remain under review in the coming months and years as we monitor the changing dynamics of the town, engaging with shoppers, visitors and businesses, but for now, the status quo remains."

Naturally, we are deeply disappointed with this response which flies in the face of the changes the government is expecting all local authorities to make to encourage active travel & reduce car use to mitigate climate change and improve air quality.

We are now considering our next steps.



## Spare Bicycles for Ukrainian Women

A number of Ukrainian women and children have arrived in the area. A charity has kindly agreed to provide bikes for children, but there are many women who have no transport and would love a bike. Some of them are being hosted in Ropley, Medstead, Binsted and Long Sutton where transport is difficult.

Do you have a bicycle lying around that you no longer use, and would be willing to donate? If so, please contact Penney Hames on [penney.hames@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:penney.hames@hotmail.co.uk) or 07811 217 744. Alternatively, please contact [cyclealton@gmail.com](mailto:cyclealton@gmail.com). Thank you in advance.

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## Bike Week 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June



Organised every year by Cycling UK as a celebration of cycling, this year Bike Week is all about you and your local community, and the aim is to encourage as many people as possible to get out there and enjoy their community by bike. Read more about it here: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek>

Local cycling groups will be organising rides during Bike Week and throughout the year, and always welcome new members.

Find out more about them here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r46N1SZnuWfxA0uce1HlxM2tuC0Qpsfz/view?usp=sharing>

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## Alton Repair Café 11<sup>th</sup> June

The next Repair Café is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 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.

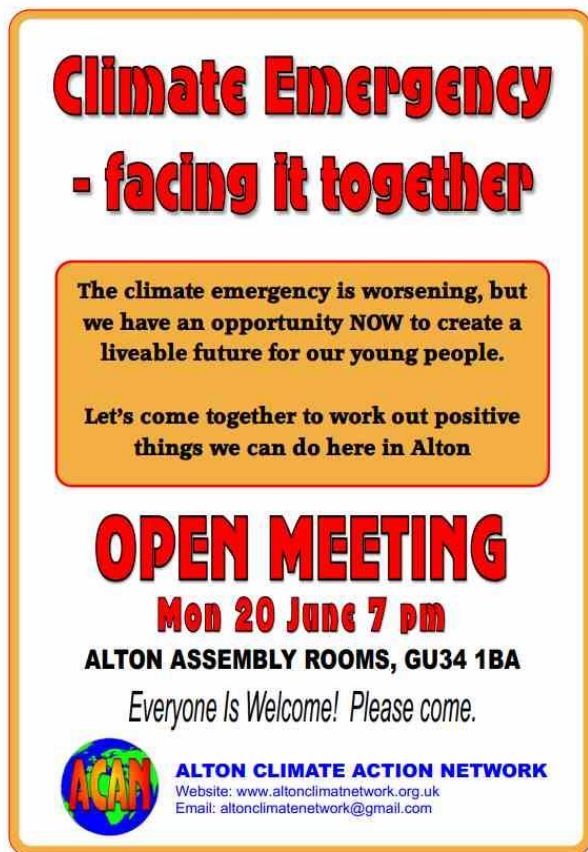
Repairs are free, though donations are always welcome.

Email [altonrepaircafe21@gmail.com](mailto:altonrepaircafe21@gmail.com) for more information.



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## ACAN Climate Emergency Open Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> June 7pm




**Climate Emergency**  
**- facing it together**

**The climate emergency is worsening, but we have an opportunity NOW to create a liveable future for our young people.**

**Let's come together to work out positive things we can do here in Alton**

**OPEN MEETING**  
**Mon 20 June 7 pm**  
**ALTON ASSEMBLY ROOMS, GU34 1BA**

*Everyone Is Welcome! Please come.*

 **ALTON CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK**  
Website: [www.altonclimatnetwork.org.uk](http://www.altonclimatnetwork.org.uk)  
Email: [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com)

The United Nations issued its 'Code Red for Humanity' last August. All of the IPCC's three recent reports stress the desperate need for urgent action - and have made it clear that it's 'Now or Never'. This means that we all need to be involved.

Everyone is invited to ACAN's discussion about this vital issue, to hear how the ACAN community network is making progress after its 3 years of work, and to discuss what more we can do locally to create a liveable future for our young people.

No booking is needed.

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## Hampshire County Council's new Local Transport Plan

Hampshire County Council has published a new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) which is now out for consultation. Please take a look and send in your response by the closing date of 26th June. LTP4 is a huge and ambitious plan for Hampshire which says many of the right things, but is it ambitious enough to get the government funding we will need, or to sufficiently cut climate emissions? Three versions of the document can be found here, as well as the link to 'Have Your Say':

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/localtransportplan>

Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) has produced a helpful 'Rough Guide' to the document:  
<https://www.winacc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/rough-guide-to-ltp4.pdf>

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