



Cycle Alton Newsletter

September 2022

We're at cyclealton@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/cyclealton> <https://www.instagram.com/cyclealton/>
<https://twitter.com/CycleAlton>

Damian Hinds MP talks to local cyclists

Damian Hinds MP is making a series of short videos about the many reasons to visit and enjoy East Hampshire, and his most recent one is about cycling.

We thank Cycle Alton supporter Chris Wright who volunteered to speak to Damian for a couple of minutes about cycling for leisure and fitness in the local area.

A link to the finished video will be sent out once it's released.



Discussions with Alton Town Councillors

Barbara and Chris from Cycle Alton recently met several town councillors for an informal discussion on the way forward with our proposals for the town centre and safe school routes within the town. We're pleased to report that progress was made on both issues, and further details will be forthcoming in due course.



Alton Repair Café Saturday 10th September



The next Alton Repair Cafe coincides with the All Things Local Market on Saturday 10th September at 10:30 - 12:30, and will be held in Alton Community Centre.

Don't forget that you can get your bike checked over for free, and small repairs carried out such as puncture repairs and gears or brakes adjusted at Alton's Repair Café. Repairs are free, though donations are always welcome.

Email altonrepaircafe21@gmail.com for more information.



20mph Speed Limit Survey closes 12th September

There is still time to respond to Hampshire County Council's (HCC) speed limit survey. They want to hear from as many residents as possible to find out their views on 20mph limits in Hampshire.

The findings from the survey, together with other data, will be important in helping to shape HCC's future policy on 20mph speed limits. The survey runs until 12th September and takes about 15 minutes to complete.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportschemes/20mph-speed-limits-consultation>

E-Bike Loan from Alton Town Council

ATC has secured a grant from HCC for use of an e-bike for a year. Local residents can borrow it free-of-charge for up to 10 days to try out.

The bike is a Carrera Crosscity folding electric bicycle, and is bookable on the ATC website:

http://www.alton.gov.uk/E-Bike_Loan_42919.aspx

It's now fully booked until December, but there are bookable dates next year until June.

In May, the government announced Cycling UK would run a national e-cycle support programme, and a trial loan scheme has now launched in Manchester. Smaller towns like ours would never normally receive funding for such a scheme as this, so we're fortunate to have this opportunity.



The government's target is for half of all short trips to be walked or cycled by 2030 in England. In 2019 over 60% of trips between 1-2 miles were driven. E-bikes are a good alternative for short journeys like these. Research shows, however, that most people would cycle more if there was better investment in infrastructure, secure cycle parking, e-bike subsidies and charging networks.



Community Rail Partnership

Paul Ebbutt, Chair of the the local Community Rail Partnership (CRP) Alton station group, has contacted Cycle Alton to say Hampshire CRP has established a new CRP route based on the Alton Line. The new Hampshire community rail co-ordinator, Lucy Lomax, is keen to involve the local community e.g. in promoting cycling opportunities from local stations on the Alton Line.

If you have an interest in the railways and/or being the Cycle Alton contact for Hampshire CRP, please contact us at cyclealton@gmail.com.

Here is the website which already contains plenty of information about Alton on there: <https://easthampshirerail.co.uk/>



Should bicycles have number plates?

It's been hard to miss the recent furore caused by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps' suggestion that bicycles should display number plates in order to identify the rider in case of law-breaking. He immediately backtracked and the DfT has since confirmed there are no plans to introduce such a retrograde policy. The government wishes to encourage cycling, not further regulate it.

This came just a few months after the Government confirmed last December that it had no plans to force cyclists to wear identification, among other things, as it had been urged to do by a petition published by solicitor Nick Freeman, known as 'Mr Loophole' for his securing acquittals of drivers accused of motoring offences, often on a technicality.

The Government considers that the costs of a formal registration system for cycle ownership would outweigh the benefits. The safety case for such a system is not as strong as that for drivers since, by contrast with motorised vehicles, cycles involved in collisions on the highway are highly unlikely to cause serious injury to other road users.

As Selaine Saxby MP, co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cycling & Walking says, "If we are to decarbonise our transport, cycling and walking are clearly part of the solution, not the problem."