



2011 Autumn

Go Bike News

Annual General Meeting with Matthew Kerr, GCC and Patrick Harvie, MSP

Thursday 17 November 2011 at 1930

Registration and refreshments from 1900

The Go Bike AGM will take place in the Friends' Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G2 4PS. Most time will be spent on discussions about cycling issues in Glasgow led by two guests.

Councillor Matthew Kerr has been cycling since age 13, became a keen racer with the Fullarton Wheelers and currently chairs the Glasgow Cycling Forum. He has represented Craigton ward on Glasgow City Council since 2007 and revived the council's Bicycle Users' Group.

Patrick Harvie MSP is a member of the Scottish Green Party and since 2003 has represented Glasgow in the Scottish Parliament, where he is Convenor of the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee. He has taken a particular interest in environmental issues like climate change, as well as equality and civil liberties, food, energy, IT, and more.

The discussion will follow the brief, formal meeting (agenda on back). We encourage all members to attend – put this date in your diaries *now*. The more people who contribute, the more we can achieve, so please join the committee! Volunteers for Secretary and Publicity Officer would be particularly welcome.

**Please come and demonstrate your support for our
campaigns to improve cycling in Glasgow!**

Open to members and non-members

Glasgow Cycling Forum (GCF)

Two meetings of GCF attended by representatives of Go Bike have taken place since the last newsletter. The membership of GCF is expanding and regular participants include the Cycling Officers with Glasgow City Council (GCC), Alan Maclean and Collin Little; Councillor Craig Mackay, Anderston and City Centre Wards; representatives from GCC's Development and Regeneration Services, Planning and Transport; from the GCC Bicycle Users Group and officers from Glasgow Life. Representation from local organisation include The Glasgow Bike Station and Freewheel North as well as national organisations with an interest in local cycling issues such as CTC, Sustrans and Cycling Scotland. In the latest meeting it was agreed to invite cycling representatives of Strathclyde Police; the SPT Director of Bus Operations, Bruce Kiloh, who has a particular interest in cycling issues; and Victoria Leiper of the Glasgow Bike Club.

Go Bike representatives continually encourage the GCF and City Council to adopt strategies of new and renewed on-road cycle lanes, advanced stop lines (ASLs) and other facilities, usually easy to instigate, that would make cycling safer and render cyclists more obvious to other road users. Go Bike representatives have asked that cycle lanes be add as an item to the standing agenda.

GCF minutes are posted to the Go Bike web site at <www.gobike.org/meetings.php>. Please take time to look at these and send any comments to Go Bike Officers for discussion in future GCF meetings. We will keep Go Bike members updated on developments.

Here is a summary of some of the many matters under discussion.

GCC funding for cycling – Alan Maclean, GCC Cycling Officer, outlined the sources of funding available for cycling improvements. GCC does not directly fund any cycling other than paying for the Land and Environmental Services (LES) Cycle unit. No funding has yet been set aside for improvements outlined in the Glasgow Strategic Plan for cycling except where these are funded by outside bodies. Go Bike representatives asked that funding becomes a part of the GCF standing agenda to include details of GCC standalone funding, joint GCC funding with other organisations, and funding solely given by other organisations.

Connect 2, East End Regeneration and Smarter Choices two-way segregated cycle lanes – Go Bike representatives and others raised concerns about the use of these routes on Connect 2 and the East End Access Routes resulting in site visits with the Senior Project Manager of LES. There are still a number of unresolved snagging issues on the first phase of Connect 2 and Alasdair Macdonald, Volunteer Ranger for Sustrans, is looking into the issues such as removal of the post box on the Sauchiehall Street/North Claremont Street junction and the phasing of traffic lights on Sauchiehall Street. Noted particularly was the problem of cars parking on pavements that have become shared cycle routes as part of Smarter Choices, particularly on Crownpoint Road. LES have asked the police to look into this and issue fines and removal orders as necessary.

Reporting minor, low cost improvements to Land and Environmental Services – GCC have set aside some funding for low cost improvements to cycle routes throughout the City. Alan Maclean and Collin Little asked that suggestions for improvements, such as the input of a dropped curb, an ASL, the removal of bollards and easy to install signage should be emailed to LES at <les@glasgow.gov.uk>. All suggestions will be monitored and audited and the originator contacted with a progress report. Good examples for reporting are Andy Preece's recent notification to ward councillors about the lack of a dropped curb at Aitkenhead Road and Myrtle Park and Go Bike's objection to a 'No through road' sign at Holeburn Road that does not exempt cyclists. So, Go Bikers, please start suggesting!

Advanced stop lines (ASLs) – Some funding has been set aside for new ASLs and renewing others. ASLs would be added to all major junctions unless they were inappropriate, that is where the road is too narrow. There was some agreement that it is probably more important to add ASLs to narrower junctions, such as those at Partick Cross and along Alexandra Parade, where cyclists are often squeezed off the road and resort to cycling on pavements to get in front of long queues of traffic. The operations section of LES has been asked to report back on where ASLs have been installed as part of reconstruction work.

Cycle Racks – After consulting with the Go Bike committee, LES have installed a number of new cycle racks throughout the City Centre. Collin Little, LES cycling Officer showed the forum a map of all the cycle parking facilities within the city, highlighting the new ones.

20mph zones – Cllr Craig McKay summarised his extensive research on a legal limit of 20mph as opposed to a voluntary limit. This will be subject to further investigation and research, particularly how it is dealt with on other cities.

New Southern General Hospital and North and South Clyde Tunnel access – Dave Reynolds, Senior Planning Officer for Development and Regeneration Services updated the GCF on progress to routes in the Southern General. It was agreed that much of the funding would concentrate on access to and from the North and South sides of the Clyde Tunnel and that all cycle routes should be on road, direct and connect with 'through' routes as opposed to pavement sharing or minor roads where these do not give tie in with other major commuting routes. Neighbouring communities, such as Govan and Scotstoun, have regeneration funds to encourage sustainable travel and Sustrans, through an initiative by their Volunteer Cycle Wardens Roland Hahn and Alasdair Macdonald, are putting some funding towards cycle access in Scotstoun for the Commonwealth Games. It was agreed that discussions would be held with all fundholders and, later, with Renfrewshire Council, to create excellent, on-road facilities for commuter cyclists.

GCC Go Safe Cycle Campaign – This excellent campaign strategy, recently circulated to all Go Bike members, recorded a 24% increase in cycling accidents in 2010 within the city compared to 2009, mostly involving on-road commuter cyclists. GCF members agreed that increasing awareness of cyclists in the city centre would help to make cycling safer, particularly through the use of cycle lanes and ASLs.

Glasgow Harbour Masterplan – A map of plans along the river front was issued to the GCF. It was confirmed that the Glasgow Heliport will be closed and that the lanes will be regenerated with new and continuous riverside cycle routes to tie in with a planned new bridge across the Kelvin.

Pedicabs – Many licences for pedicabs are being turned down because of the requirements of the licensing board. Cllr Matt Kerr summarised the lengthy list of requirements and it was agreed that representatives of the pedicabs and the licensing board should be brought together to discuss ways around the problem.

Local events, routes and facilities

Glasgow Cycling Forum/Go Bike cycle ride – Tricia Fort, our Vice Convenor, has invited members of the Glasgow Cycling Forum to take a ride with members of Go Bike to look at the good and bad features of cycling in the City Centre and around. This follows Go Bike's monthly ride in October, which celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Glasgow Cycling Campaign's first *Pedal The Parks* event. The idea originated from cycle campaigners in Newcastle, who invited the city's chief executive for a ride, recorded their experience and put it on YouTube. Andy Preece has arranged a special route to take in a bit of everything. We will keep members informed and invitations will be issued when we have set a date.

Meanwhile in London, Mayor Boris Johnson has been invited to saddle up and experience for himself the dangers of the roads around Kings Cross, where a young woman cyclist died recently. (From road.cc)

Go Bike Spoke Cards – Alan Munro, recently elected by your committee to be responsible for Go Bike's publicity, designed some excellent spoke cards in time for National Bike Week. The first print run is now exhausted but we will issue these again and ask members to take bundles to put on any parked bicycle wheels in their place of work, in their neighbourhood, railway stations or wherever there are bicycles.

Airdrie to Bathgate cycle path still not complete – The Airdrie to Bathgate section of National Cycle Network (NCN) route 75 between Plains and Drumgelloch will now be replaced by a path adjacent to the main A89 between Towers Road and Plains, including a controlled crossing near Towers Road.

NCN75 broken in Uddingston – Sustrans advises us that Gardenside Street in Uddingston, severed by the construction of a new access road at the point where there used to be bollards across the road that let cyclists through, will remain broken for another three months.

New Go Bike Treasurer and membership payment – We would like to welcome Douglas Bingham as Go Bike's new treasurer, and to thank him and Andy Preece for all the hard work in setting up new financial and auditing procedures. Subscriptions fell due at the AGM in the past, which means that most members should now renew their subscriptions for 2012. Payment can be made through PayPal and we hope to accept standing orders in future. Membership now runs for 12 months from the date of payment.

Cycle rides 2011–12

Regular, easy-paced rides are held on the first Sunday of each month, starting at 1000 from the north end of Bell's Bridge in Glasgow unless otherwise stated. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number with you in case of problems: 07932 460093.

Sunday 6 November 2011 – Milngavie via Baldernock

Leaving Glasgow and passing Bishopbriggs and Cadder to explore the country lanes in the Balmore and Baldernock area. After lunch in Milngavie, return to Glasgow along the Kelvin Cycleway.

Sunday 4 December 2011 – Dalmuir via Garscadden Woods

Leaving Glasgow via the Kelvin Cycleway to the Science Park, then cutting across Bearsden to the Garscadden Way. Continuing onwards to reach Dalmuir Park at Clydebank, before returning to the centre of Clydebank for lunch at a nautically-themed eatery. Return to Glasgow along the Forth and Clyde Canal. There is a short flight of steps to negotiate in Clydebank.

Sunday 1 January – Dams to Darnley and back

Celebrate New Year's Day with a ride out of Glasgow to the Balgray Reservoir to see the progress on the new paths around the reservoir. Continuing through Barrhead we will also check out the South Paisley cycle path before returning to Glasgow for lunch.

Sunday 5 February – Kelvin Valley Circular

Leaving Glasgow via Auchinloch to explore country lanes in the Kirkintilloch area, before heading to The Stables on the Forth and Clyde Canal for lunch. Return to Glasgow along the canal.

Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!

A page for past rides has been added to the Go Bike website: see <www.gobike.org/ridespast.php>.

For further organised rides in the Glasgow area see CTC Glasgow, for Ayrshire see CTC Ayrshire, for Edinburgh see Spokes, and for relaxed weekend rides in Scotland and Northern England, try Mellow Velo.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 1930 on Thursday 17 November in the Friends' Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G2 4PS. Directions can be found on the web site. The agenda is:

1. Approve minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Consider the work done by, or under the auspices of, the Committee.
3. Approve the accounts.
4. Appoint an independent auditor.
5. Fix the membership fees for the coming year.
6. Consider any resolutions submitted by the Committee or Members (to be received by the secretary at least one week prior to the meeting – please send to the address below).
7. Elect Members to serve on the Committee.

The current committee of Go Bike is Jonathan Ridge (Convenor), Tricia Fort (Vice Convenor), Douglas Bingham (Treasurer), Peter Hayman, Calum McCallum, Alan Munro (Membership Secretary), Andy Preece (Cycling Policy Officer) and John Davies (Newsletter Editor).

Yahoo group

Sign up to the Go Bike News email group to keep in touch with cycling news, views and events. You are unlikely to be deluged with messages! For more information see www.gobike.org.

Contact us

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Join *Go Bike* or renew your membership

Most members' annual subscriptions fall due at the AGM because the membership year was fixed in the past. **It is now possible to join or renew your membership online** at www.gobike.org/join.php using PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account; credit and debit cards are also accepted. Membership runs for 12 months from the date of payment. Membership of Go Bike is by donation, which covers the cost of campaigning, newsletters, meetings and the web site.

If you prefer paper, please use the form below and send it with your donation to the above address. Make cheques payable to 'Go Bike – Strathclyde Cycle Campaign'. Alternatively, make a donation on a ride.

Name.....

Address.....

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Email.....Phone.....

I enclose a membership donation of £.....

I wish to purchase a Glasgow Cycle Map at £4.95

New members – How did you hear about Go Bike?.....