



Following the AGM last November 2006, the new committee of Go Bike is: Peter Hayman (Convenor), Stephen Murray (Vice Convenor), Andy Preece (Treasurer) and Jennifer Young.

Could members please pay their annual subscriptions if they have not done so already? The renewal date is on your address label. Membership is by donation. Please use the form on the back page or make a donation on a ride.

New cycling map of Glasgow

Work on the new Glasgow Cycle Map, which Go Bike is producing in cooperation with Spokes Maps, is progressing. We urgently need members to send in updates, comments and corrections to the CycleCity Glasgow Cycling Map, and for volunteers to do detailed surveying of areas once we have a first draft of the new map.

Core Path Planning Event

There is to be a Core Path Planning Event in Glasgow, *provisionally* scheduled for 19/20 May. The Friday evening is proposed to be a drop-in workshop for groups such as Go Bike and CTC in the City Chambers. We hope to tie this in to a social evening. The Saturday daytime event may take place in the Kibble Palace in the Botanic Garden and will be open to the public. The dates and formats are yet to be finalised: check the website or call 07932 460093 nearer the time.

Local news

Continuing problems at the Clyde Arc (squinty bridge) – The *Evening Times* reported on 15 January that “Confused motorists are being driven to distraction by the road system at the £20 million Clyde Arc. And scores more are causing danger by flouting rules on the approaches to the ‘squinty’ bridge, which opened in August to link Finnieston with Pacific Quay. In just one hour dozens of drivers ignored road signs when the *Evening Times* went to investigate complaints about restrictions on the bridge. One of the main problems is drivers’ disregard for a no-left-turn rule meant to stop cars turning on to the bridge from Lancefield Quay. Motorists flouting this restriction plough over a pedestrian crossing showing a green man. Glasgow City Council said today it was considering altering the system.” (From www.eveningtimes.co.uk)

These dangers were highlighted by Jennifer Young of Go Bike over a month ago. The squinty bridge may look pretty. It will get the BBC workers in from the West End but just about everyone else is restricted. A nice new icon for Glasgow, which hinders as much as it helps.

London Road/Dalmarnock Road Streamline (QBC) route – up for review. Please let Andy know urgently of comments that you wish Go Bike to make.

Local routes

Hyndland crossing – a bollard has been installed to improve access for cyclists.

Link between Torrance and Balmore–Cadder path – a new path now runs alongside the River Kelvin and provides a direct link between Torrance and Bishopbriggs.

Springburn Cycle Route confirmed – Glasgow City Council has confirmed that it is planning to implement a cycle route between Sighthill Park, Springburn and Stobhill Hospital. This will incorporate a section of cycleway alongside the Springburn Expressway postponed from the Springburn Streamline (Quality Bus Corridor) project. The first section of route through Sighthill will be done by the end of March with the rest following in the next financial year. The route uses paths and the expressway footpath as far as Atlas Road then minor roads including Springburn Way between Springburn Station and Stobhill Hospital. The route links with the Cumbernauld Cycle Route which provides a connection from the City Centre.

Bishopbriggs to Glasgow – a cycle route has been signed (albeit with one or two signs missing, and no destination signs) between the Forth and Clyde Canal at Bishopbriggs Sports Centre and the Glasgow boundary at Milton. This route uses residential side streets, many with “Twenty’s Plenty” speed signs, and a couple of connecting paths.

A suggested route from the city boundary to Glasgow City Centre without cycling on any very busy roads is to follow Ashgill Road, Ashfield Street and cross Carlisle Street and Keppochhill Road to use the Sighthill path network. This in turn connects to the existing Glasgow Cycle Network at Sighthill Park, all as shown on the Glasgow Cycling Map. Go Bike is seeking to get this route adopted as a cycle route and improved to a decent standard, including legalising cycling through the Ashfield Street Bus Gate. If this is done, there will be a continuous cycle route between Torrance and the city centre!

It is also possible to follow the canal from Cadder to Maryhill and the city centre (Spiers Wharf). This is more scenic but less direct and you must cross under the canal at Stockingfield junction in Maryhill. The Springburn Cycle Route (above) will provide a more easterly option (via Stobhill entrance).

Kilmarnock to Ayr – Transport Scotland plans to link up the back road out of Kilmarnock with the shared path alongside the A77. This is the missing link that should allow cycling from Glasgow to Ayr off main roads.

National and international news

‘No case to answer’: Cyclist who refused to stay in the gutter wins appeal – A cyclist has won an appeal against his conviction last August for obstructing the highway. The judge at Shrewsbury Crown Court told Cadden that he was as entitled to be on the road as anyone else and there was no obligation on him to use the cycle path.

However, the court’s verdict cannot be taken as a precedent for all circumstances and cyclists must be aware of their responsibilities to others, and not expect to be ‘in the right’ just because they may legally use a road. (From www.ctc.org.uk)

Web sites to report potholes and off-road obstructions – The CTC has launched two new online tools, which will help get potholes fixed and off-road trails cleared of obstructions. Go to:

- www.fillthathole.org.uk to report potholes and other defects in roads
- www.clearthattrail.org.uk to report off-road obstructions

Cycling up and cycling down – Transport Statistics Great Britain 2006 shows that the amount of cycling in 2005 was 4.4 bkm, *up* from 4.2 bkm in 2004. Previous totals were 4.5 bkm in 2003 and 4.4 bkm in 2002.

However, the National Travel Survey, also recently published, shows a *fall* in the amount of cycling per person from 2004 to 2005 – 39 miles down to just 36 miles. In 2003 it was 37 miles and in 2002 36 miles. (From www.cyclenetwork.org.uk)

Grant to CTC to raise awareness of climate change – The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has awarded CTC a grant of almost £300,000 to raise awareness about climate change among cyclists. At the heart of the project will be a thought-provoking short film to be shown this summer in cinemas and on other media. (From www.ctc.org.uk)

Europe backs WHO anti-obesity charter and cycling – European health ministers from 53 countries approved the world's first charter to fight obesity in November, vowing greater action against the epidemic of expanding waistlines across the continent. The charter commits governments to things like improving the availability of healthy foods and adopting regulations for safer roads to promote cycling and walking.
(From www.cyclenetwork.org.uk)

Cycle rides 2007

Rides start at 1000 from Bell's Bridge unless otherwise stated.

1 April 2007 – Balgray Reservoir and Castle Semple Loch

Leaving Glasgow through Pollok Park using NCN Route 7 cycle route, then via minor roads and paths to Balgray Reservoir. From there it is via mainly minor but hilly roads through Uplawmoor to Beith before turning to reach Castle Semple Loch. After lunch, return to Glasgow along NCN Route 7 cycle route, which is a flat railway path as far as Paisley.

Sunday 6 May 2007 – Palacerigg Country Park

Heading along the Glasgow to Cumbernauld Cycle Route past the Hogganfield Loch and on to Muirhead, then leaving urbanity behind to head through minor country roads through South Medrox and Mossywood to reach Palacerigg. After lunch at the country park, return to Glasgow via NCN 75 cycle route at Plains, with the option of catching a train from Drumgelloch.

Sunday 3 June 2007 – Eaglesham and Auldhouse

Taking in Pollok Park and Thornliebank to reach the Newton Mearns Cycle Route, before branching out through to Waterfoot and the ford at Hole. After visiting the tearoom in Eaglesham, taking minor roads to Auldhouse, crossing East Kilbride, then continuing through Rogerton and Carmunnock to enjoy summer views over Glasgow.

Sunday 1 July 2007 – Balloch and Helensburgh

Cycle route all the way with NCN 7 Loch Lomond Cycle Route to Balloch, followed by the recently built route via Arden to Helensburgh. Option of returning by train from Balloch or Helensburgh.

Glasgow Fair Weekend, 14–15 July 2007 – Carlisle to Glasgow along NCN route 74

This is about 100 miles but don't let that put you off – it's mostly level or on gentle gradients and could be stretched to three days to take in the Fair Monday as well, allowing a more leisurely pace. Train Saturday morning to Carlisle with overnight B&B stop at either Moffat (if done as a two day trip) or Lockerbie and Abington (if done over three days). Please telephone Douglas Bingham on 0141 632 8707 or send email to drb61@binghamdonaldson.net a.s.a.p. indicating preference.

Sunday 5 August 2007 – Kilmacolm and Erskine Bridge

Heading through Paisley and Bridge of Weir on the NCN Route 75 cycle route for pub lunch at Kilmacolm. After lunch, taking minor roads (with some hills) across to Bishopton before crossing the Erskine Bridge and joining the Forth and Clyde Canal back to Glasgow.

Where would you like to cycle on future rides? Please send your suggestions.

Meetings

The next Go Bike meeting will be Wednesday 28 March 2007 at 1930 in the Friends' Meeting House, Elmbank Street, Charing Cross, Glasgow. Directions and details of future meetings can be found on the web site. Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite would be welcome.

Cycling leaflets

Go Bike has supplies of various free leaflets from Glasgow City Council and others. If you would like a selection please send a C5 stamped, addressed envelope to the address below. Leaflets include the Loch Lomond cycle route, Clyde Coast routes, Paisley and Cumbernauld cycle routes, and the Critical Mass ride.

Yahoo group

To keep in touch with cycling news and views and to find out about events, sign up to the Go Bike News email group. You won't be deluged with messages, we promise! For more information see www.gobike.org

Contact us

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Join *Go Bike*

Membership of Go Bike is by donation, which covers the cost of campaigning, newsletters, meetings and the web site. Please send your donations to the above address.

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