



Glasgow Core Path Plan

Glasgow City Council is currently consulting the public on the Core Paths Plan, which will influence the development of Glasgow's path network over the next five years. They have produced a thick booklet with maps that shows all paths, both those that will be designated as Core Paths and others. Core paths will receive priority for maintenance and improvement, and should receive greater protection from development. The network includes 'paths on water' for non-motorised activities. You might be interested to know that "The River Clyde between the weir at Glasgow Green and the Erskine Bridge is an active port, therefore there is no right of public access to the river for safety reasons." Fortunately this doesn't mean that the existing paths alongside the river are excluded! Please check the paths that you use and send any comments to the Council before 30 May 2008.

Details and maps at <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/GettingAround/CorePathPlan/>.

Report from the AGM

The first attempt to hold the AGM had to be abandoned because too few members were present and the second only just met the quorum. Go Bike is seriously short of man and womanpower, despite the continuing success of the monthly rides! Please come to the meetings to demonstrate your support for our campaigns and increase their impact. Following the AGM, the committee comprises Andy Preece, Peter Hayman and John Davies.

Local news

Dave Brennan, TV and Radio star – Go Bike member Dave Brennan has been using a camera strapped to his helmet to record his journeys to work and back for over a year. Last year he persuaded the First bus company to improve their drivers' awareness of cyclists and many members of Go Bike have reported positively on the impact.

Sadly, he has since received threats such as "I will knock you off if I see you" after his videos were posted on some aggressive car forums. This led to an article in the *Sun* newspaper, which branded him as a 'vigilante', followed by interest from STV who interviewed him for the news on 24 March (there is a summary on www.stv.tv). A positive article in the *Sun* followed and Dave was again interviewed for Radio Scotland's Fred McAuley Show on 28 March. Well done, Dave!

CTC Glasgow rides again! – The local group of the CTC (Cyclists' Touring Club) has not organised regular rides for some years but this has changed with the formation of a new Member Group earlier this year. There are now rides on the third Sunday of each month and it is hoped to arrange further activities such as evening runs during the summer. Many members of CTC Glasgow are also active with Go Bike. There should be a web site soon; meanwhile, please contact John Davies (0141 956 5821, davies@waitrose.com) or visit the CTC's Scottish web site at www.ctcscotland.org.uk.

Glasgow Cycle Map – in case you have not bought your copy already, this is available for £4.95 in in most good cycle shops, online at edinburghpaths.info/spokesmaps.htm or from Go Bike.

Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) – This will be developed over the coming year, with the goal of getting more people to cycle more often. This follows the Cycling Scotland conference last November, where Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson backed delegates' call for the development of such a plan. CTC Scotland and Sustrans are represented on the board. See Cycling Scotland <www.cyclingscotland.org> for further details.

M8 Baillieston to Newhouse – Transport Scotland has reported that the scheme to upgrade the A8 to motorway standard between Baillieston and Newhouse (actually a scheme to build the motorway in addition to the existing A8 producing a 10-lane monster highway) has attracted so many objections that it will go to a Local Public Inquiry. A pre-inquiry meeting was held in April and details of the actual inquiry will be notified in due course.

M74 Raith Interchange – We are still no further forward in trying to convince Transport Scotland to provide a direct cycle route through the Raith Interchange between Bothwell and Strathclyde Country Park for National Cycle Network Route 74. We suggested moving their proposed cycle route from one side of a road to the other to avoid a detour across several Toucan Crossings, but Transport Scotland says it can't be done without buying additional land to resite some drainage ponds. However, motorists using the A725 will get a direct route, removing the need for them to use the Raith Interchange roundabout.

Gordon Selway – died last November, just after our previous newsletter was printed. He was a member of Go Bike, despite living in Bromsgrove, and had been on the Lanark–Berwick ride a few years ago. Gordon did splendid work on behalf of cycling throughout the UK and will be sadly missed. There is an obituary in the February/March 2008 edition of the CTC magazine.

Local routes and facilities

Colleges Cycle Route – This is to be upgraded in Hyndland and around Glasgow University. New traffic calming features will be installed at an early date in the entrances to side roads, and parking controls will be altered on University Avenue and Clarence Drive once a Traffic Regulation Order has been promoted. A new cycle track linking the two sections of Turnberry Road will be built, along with the installation of upgraded cycle route signing.

Glasgow City Centre – A couple of recent Go Bike successes after contacting the council: uprooted cycle parking in Dundas Street, opposite Queen Street Station, has been reinstated and the bus gate signs which fell down nearby in Cathedral Street have been replaced.

Infilling of underpass in Cowcaddens – Go Bike has received consultation on the planned infilling of an underpass in the Cowcaddens area, under Dobbies Loan, on the way to the canal at Spiers Wharf and to Woodside. The cycle route would be replaced by a couple of pedestrian crossings across the very busy Dobbies Loan, with poor sightlines due to the legs of the M8 flyover that covers the area. As underpasses go this is far from the worst, and Go Bike will be asking for improvements to the underpass such as to the drainage.

National and international news

Bike Week, 14–22 June 2008 – “A national celebration of freedom, Bike Week is an annual opportunity to promote cycling as a source of fitness and fun.” The focus this year is on families. See <www.bikeweek.org.uk> for details. Go Bike helped to organise some local events last year; watch the web site for details.

Crap Cycle Lanes – Our friends at the Warrington Cycle Campaign have published a small, hardback book called *Crap Cycle Lanes* at £4.99. It features a selection of poor quality cycle lanes from around the UK. They include the Coventry Velodrome, a cycle lane that is only just longer than a bus shelter, and the Leaning Bin of Warrington, which inspired the Campaign's *Cycle Facility of the Month* on the web at <www.warringtoncyclecampaign.co.uk>. Glasgow is not featured, although we could easily nominate some examples for a future edition! Buy it direct from Eye Books at <www.eye-books.com>. Royalties support the Cycling Defence Fund.

Cycle rides 2008 (updated since printing)

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. The extra rides have different arrangements. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number 07932 460093 with you in case of problems.

Sunday 1 June 2008 – Strathclyde Park, Dalzell Estate & Black Hill

Taking NCN Route 75 to Uddingston then via the route of the proposed NCN 74 to Strathclyde Park. After lunch via paths, parks and minor roads to Kirk o' Shotts to climb the hill past the Black Hill transmitter mast. Return to Airdrie for train or cycle back to Glasgow.

Saturday 7 June 2008 – Cyclists' Touring Club *Five Miles to Fabulous*

Women's Ride of about five miles from Kelvingrove Park; time to be announced.

Sunday 8 June 2008 – Cyclists' Touring Club *Five Miles to Fabulous*

Women's Ride of about five miles from Bellahouston Pavilion, Bellahouston Park at 1030.

Monday 9 June–Friday 13 June 2008 – Sustrans *Clyde Tae Forth Celebration Ride*

Starting in George Square, Glasgow at 1000 on Monday, and finishing in Edinburgh on Friday.

Saturday 14 June 2008 – Cycling event in George Square

Go Bike will have a stall. Other attractions include the Company of Cyclists.

Monday 16 June 2008 – *Cart Blanche* from Pollok Park to Holmwood House

An evening ride along the White Cart Cycle Route between Pollok Park and Holmwood House organised by Cart Blanche with assistance from Go Bike.

Meet 1830 at the riverside outside Pollok House, Pollok Park, Glasgow.

Thursday 19 June – Cyclists' Touring Club *Parks and Ride*

A gentle evening ride around the southern parks of Glasgow.

Starts 1900 from Bellahouston Pavilion, Bellahouston Park.

Sunday 6 July 2008 – Lochwinnoch Castle Semple Loch

Out via minor roads and paths to Neilston and Uplawmoor, then over the hill to Beith and Lochwinnoch. After lunch at the Castle Semple Loch Visitors Centre, return towards Glasgow along the NCN 7 cycle path.

Sunday 3 August 2008 – Palacerigg Country Park

Outwards via Glasgow Green, Alexandra Park and the Cumbernauld Cycle Route, then onto minor country lanes through South Medrox. After lunch at the Visitors' Centre, return via Greenfaulds then country lanes following the Luggie Water to Kirkintilloch where the Forth & Clyde Canal will be joined.

Sunday 7 September 2008 – Glasgow to Balloch

Via NCN 7 cycle path all the way to Balloch. Return by train from Balloch with option to continue to Helensburgh.

Saturday 20–Sunday 21 September 2008 – Pitlochry to Inverness

The second of the two weekend rides covering the NCN route 7 from Glasgow to Inverness. During this trip we will complete the northern section of the route from Pitlochry to Inverness. Please contact Douglas Bingham by email to enquiries08@gocscotland.org.uk or phone 0141 632 8707, mobile/text 07717 576248.

- *Saturday*: catch a train to Pitlochry then cycle through the pass of Killiecrankie to Blair Atholl and Dalwhinnie, then onto Newtonmore staying Saturday night at the Strathspey Mountain Hostel.
- *Sunday*: continue northwards via Aviemore, Tomatin, Balloch and Culloden arriving in the high-land capital late afternoon to catch a train back to Glasgow.

Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!

Meetings

The next Go Bike meeting will be at 1930 on Wednesday 30 April 2008 in the Friends' Meeting House, Elmbank Street, Charing Cross, Glasgow. Directions can be found on the web site. The theme for the meeting will be how to increase publicity for Go Bike and get more cyclists involved in our activities. Please check the web site for future meetings.

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 below or make a donation on a ride.

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

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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On the web: www.gobike.org

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.

Name.....

Address.....

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

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