



## Start your own campaign!

This Spring Go Bike is encouraging members to start their own campaigns to improve cycle facilities by writing to their councillors. Try asking for a specific cycle improvement (dropped kerb, road closure reopened to cycles, advance stop lines etc) and let Go Bike know how you get on. Here are the main websites for a few councils to get your started; click through the pages to find your local councillor.

- Glasgow City <[www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)>
- East Dunbartonshire <[www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk)>
- West Dunbartonshire <[www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk)>
- North Lanarkshire <[www.northlan.gov.uk](http://www.northlan.gov.uk)>
- South Lanarkshire <[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)>
- East Renfrewshire <[www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)>
- Renfrewshire <[www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk)>

## Local news, routes and events

**School Cycle Train in Bishopbriggs** – Parents and pupils from St Matthew's Primary School have started East Dunbartonshire's first School Cycle Train. Adults escort a group of pupils, ranging from P1 to P6, for over a mile along a proposed Safe Route to School. Pupils take turns to lead the train, taking responsibility for crossing at junctions. They develop essential road safety skills and confidence under adult supervision. The Cycle Train was reported in the Glasgow Evening Times and Kirkintilloch Herald, and written up as a case study by Cycling Scotland. Further information from Mark Kiehlmann <[schoolcycletrain@gmail.com](mailto:schoolcycletrain@gmail.com)>.

**Clyde Tunnel Cycle Route** – Objections by Go Bike members have overturned a proposal to make parts of this route one-way. Plans to make Langcroft Road and Carleith Quadrant one-way have been dropped. Langcroft Road is part of the signed cycle route from Shieldhall Road to the Clyde Tunnel, possibly Glasgow's oldest cycle route, and the plan was to make it one-way in the opposite direction. Thanks to everyone who wrote in.

**NCN 75 cycle route in Airdrie** – North Lanarkshire Council is planning to site a new school across the path of NCN 75 in the Brownsburn Gartlea Community Nature Park, combining Alexandra and Rochsolloch Primary Schools, on the east side of the B802 Cairnhill Road. This is at the junction of the cycle route and its connection towards Airdrie town centre. There are also path connections nearby from Calderbank and Chapelhall. The proposal runs counter to the integration of such routes into transport planning for walking and cycling in preference to car journeys. The site is at a key entrance and exit to the park and the proposed site is also on land zoned as LR11 – for leisure and recreation in the context of the park. A possible alternative site for the school of the derelict former Stark premises on Cairnhill Road has been suggested by locals. Written representations are due by Friday 24 April 2009 to Murdo Maciver, Head of Educational Resources, Learning & Leisure Services, Kildonan Street, Coatbridge ML5 3BT.

**Sannox Gardens *not* to re-open to cyclists** – We have been advised that Glasgow City Council has abandoned its plans to reopen the southern half of Sannox Gardens, next to Alexandra Park, to cycles. The council considers that it would be dangerous for cyclists to turn right into Alexandra Parade at this location.

**Strathkelvin Railway Path** – Part of the path has been resurfaced between Strathblane and Lennox-town. Tarmac replaces the previous rough stony surface.

**Tradeston–Broomielaw Foot/Cycle Bridge** – This new bridge over the River Clyde in Glasgow is said to be opening in Spring 2009.

**Springburn Cycle Route** – Some work has been completed on phase 2 of this route, with new Toucan Crossings now in place on existing traffic signal controlled junctions on the Springburn Expressway. This phase will connect to the path from the city centre through Sighthill and extend the route to Springburn. The final stage will be to take Springburn Way and other minor roads to reach Stobhill Hospital and the city boundary. Go Bike has also asked the council for a branch from this cycle route along Petershill Road and Red Road to connect to the cycle lanes on Broomfield Road and Wallacewell Road. This could easily be achieved with cycle lanes on these relatively wide roads.

**Kirkintilloch Link Road** – Work has started on the new road between the town centre and the M80 motorway. This has resulted in the diversion of the Strathkelvin Railway Path south of Woodilee. A whindust path has been provided across the Bothlin Burn from the original path. This path does not join the tarmac path to the town centre directly opposite on Woodilee Road, so cyclists must ride on this busy road for a short distance before turning right just after a bend.

**Forth and Clyde Canal** – Part of the towpath has been resurfaced in Kirkintilloch. A new firm but gritty surface has been provided in place of whindust. However, the whindust remains once out of the town area and is waterlogged as usual in winter.

**Plans for Glasgow City Centre** – Gordon Street is the centre of many of the changes, with pedestrianisation proposed for the section between Renfield Street and West Nile Street, and semi-pedestrianisation for the section immediately west of Renfield Street. Go Bike is concerned about the impact this will have on city centre cycling, since cycling is not allowed in most other pedestrian precincts in Glasgow. Also under threat are the Hope Street contraflow cycle lane between Gordon Street and Waterloo Street, and the Jamaica Street contraflow bus lane between Howard Street and Argyle Street. Further pedestrianisation is proposed for Queen Street north of Ingram Street, for the east side of George Square, and for Trongate west of Candleriggs. A presentation and the notes for councillors can be downloaded from the Go Bike web site.

**West Nile Street cycle route** – As part of the traffic management plans for the city centre (above), Glasgow City Council is proposing making this street into a cycle route, linking existing cycle routes on the north side of the city centre into provision around Central Station. This is a long-standing Go Bike request finally being taken seriously.

**Mountain biking in Cathkin Braes Country Park** – This was included in the 2014 Commonwealth Games bid document as the proposed venue for the mountain biking competitions and a preferred alignment for the course has now been identified. See [www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk) for details of the proposed circuits (the consultation is now closed).

## National news

**Which group endangers pedestrians the most, cyclists or motorists?** – If you believe the tabloid press, it's often the former. But the statistics tell a different tale. According to figures from Hansard, there have been 364,082 pedestrians injured by drivers over the last ten years, compared with 2,623 injured by cyclists. The same data shows that, as a pedestrian, you are 263 times more likely to be killed by a driver than a cyclist – despite the fact that cyclists and pedestrians often share the same space and much of motor vehicle mileage is made on motorways, where pedestrians are prohibited. (From [ctcnews.org.uk](http://ctcnews.org.uk))

## Cycle rides 2009

*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 stated otherwise. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number 07932 460093 with you in case of problems.*

### **Sunday 3 May 2009 – Neilston to Ayr**

Leaving from Neilston station in Renfrewshire, heading over the hills on minor country roads, then descending to Kilwinning, before following NCN 7 cycle route towards Ayr. Return by train from Ayr (or from Kilwinning for those wanting a shorter ride).

*Catch 10:20 train from Glasgow Central to Neilston or meet Neilston Station 10:50am.*

### **Sunday 7 June 2009 – Chatelherault and Larkhall**

Following the River Clyde out of Glasgow along NCN 75 cycle path, then through Uddingston to Strathclyde Park. After cafe lunch, continue along Avon Walkway to Chatelherault Country Park, with option to return by train from Hamilton or Larkhall.

### **Bike Week 13–21 June 2009**

Check the website nearer the time for details of events happening during Bike Week 2009.

### **Sunday 5 July 2009 – Palacerigg Country Park**

Out of Glasgow following the Cumbernauld Cycle Route to Muirhead, then via country lanes through Gain to reach Palacerigg, for lunch at the tearoom. Return via the outskirts of Cumbernauld before following country lanes parallel to the Luggie Water to reach Kirkintilloch and the Forth and Clyde Canal.

### **Glasgow Fair Weekend Ride 18–20 July 2009**

Check the website nearer the time for details of the weekend ride along the c2c cycle route across Northern England, possibly Go Bike's most adventurous ride to date!

### **Sunday 2 August 2009 – Mugdock Country Park**

Through the West End of Glasgow on the Kelvin Cycleway before heading along the Forth & Clyde Canal to Westerton, then climbing out of the suburbs on a mixture of local roads and paths to reach Mugdock. After lunch at the tearoom, return to Glasgow via a different route.

### **Sunday 6 September 2009 – Bothwell and Blantyre**

Taking NCN 75 cycle route eastwards through Glasgow Green and out of Glasgow to Uddingston, then via part of the proposed NCN 74 route and a railway path in Bothwell to reach the David Livingstone Memorial Footbridge. After lunch at the adjacent visitors' centre, climb over Dechmont Hill to descend steeply into Cambuslang, then return to Glasgow. As always, please ensure your brakes are in good working order!

### **Sunday 4 October 2009 – Erskine Bridge**

Heading westwards through Govan on a mixture of roads and paths, then past Braehead and Renfrew on the riverfront, to Erskine to reach the Erskine Bridge. Once across the bridge, return to Glasgow via the Forth and Clyde Canal. Note that this ride involves a short section on the busy A8 road between Renfrew and Inchinnan.

### **Sunday 1 November 2009 – Southern Parks and Lanes**

A tour of parks and country lanes to the south of Glasgow, taking in Rouken Glen, Waterfoot and Kittochside, before returning to Glasgow for something to eat.

### **Sunday 6 December 2009 – Gleniffer Braes**

Heading out via the Waulkmill Glen and Balgray Reservoirs, and crossing a former railway viaduct in Barrhead, before climbing up the Fereneze Hills. Stopping at the Gleniffer Braes viewpoint, then returning to Pollok Park for something to eat.

*Suggestions for future rides are always welcome!*

## Meetings

The next Go Bike meeting will be at 1930 on Wednesday 29 April 2009 in the Friends' Meeting House, Elmbank Street, Charing Cross, Glasgow. Directions can be found on the web site. Future meetings will be held on 26 August and 25 November (AGM). Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite would be welcome.

The current committee of Go Bike is Peter Hayman (Convenor), John Davies (Vice Convenor) and Andy Preece (Treasurer).

Could all members please pay their annual subscriptions for 2009 if they have not done so already? Use the form below or make a donation on a ride.

## Glasgow Cycle Map

The current edition was produced by Go Bike in association with Spokes Maps and was published in late 2007. It is available for £4.95 from Go Bike; in most good cycle shops; by sending a cheque for £4.95 made payable to 'SPOKES' to: Spokes Maps, St Martin's Church, 232 Dalry Road, Edinburgh, EH11 2JG; or online at <edinburghpaths.info/spokesmaps.htm>.

## Cycling leaflets

Go Bike has supplies of 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](http://www.gobike.org).

## Contact us

Go Bike Strathclyde Cycle Campaign  
PO Box 15175  
Glasgow  
G4 9LP

Phone: 07932 460093  
Email: [campaigns@gobike.org](mailto:campaigns@gobike.org)  
Web: [www.gobike.org](http://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 £.....