



2010 Spring

Go Bike News

Glasgow Cycling Forum launched

At Go Bike's last AGM in November 2009, it was agreed that we write to Bailie James McNally, Chair of Glasgow City Council's Roads and Transportation Committee, with a view to establishing a Glasgow Cycling Forum, along the lines of the very successful forum operating in Edinburgh. A prompt response was received from Councillor Matt Kerr, Bailie McNally's depute, expressing his willingness to be involved in, and chair, such a forum.

Jonathan Ridge and Tricia Fort held an informal meeting with the Councillor in February and the inaugural meeting of the Forum was held in March, with representatives from Go Bike, CTC (Peter Hayman) and Land Services (Allan Maclean) present. The next meeting is planned for June and it is intended that a representative from the Planning Department of GCC will be present; this will allow us to consider the inclusion of cycling facilities at the very early stages of any proposed changes to the city's infrastructure.

We are very fortunate to have Councillor Kerr to chair this forum; he is a keen cyclist, was proactive in the formation of GCC's Bicycle Users Group and was an active member of Fullarton Wheelers. The Forum is in its very early stages but we hope, through a group representing active cyclists in the city along with prime decision-makers, to make Glasgow a welcome city for cyclists.

Updates on the Forum's activities will be given in future Go Bike newsletters and at the AGM.

Local news, routes and facilities

Clydeside path – An advertising sign near the City Inn obstructs the path on the north side of the Clyde. Go Bike has been trying for some months to get this sign removed but efforts have been frustrated. Glasgow City Council's Land and Environmental Services (LES) have stated that the sign will remain in place until planning issues have been resolved. LES will also seek funding from the Glasgow 2014 Games Board to improve the narrow, shared cycle/pedestrian route along Lancefield Quay, east of the City Inn, but only once roadworks are completed at the end of 2010. In the meantime, LES intend to carry out interim work to clear overhanging shrubbery and other obstructions from the route. We would like to thank all the Anderston Councillors for their continued support in trying to get these issues resolved.

Record turnout for Go Bike ride in March – 25 participants toured nine of Glasgow's northern parks including Kelvingrove, Springburn and Tollcross, visited tourist attractions such as the Sunlight Cottages, Ruchill Flagpole and Balgray Tower, and ended up at the People's Palace in Glasgow Green for refreshments.

Glasgow East End on the move – This campaign to encourage residents in the East End of Glasgow to make more use of active forms of travel kicked off on Monday 19 April. It is a £2.5 million project and part of the Scottish Government and COSLA's *Smarter Choices, Smarter Places* demonstration programme. This invests in improvements including better walking and cycling infrastructure, lighting, signage and aesthetic environment throughout the area. The roadshow visited the Forge Shopping Centre, East End Healthy Living Centre, the Banbury Centre, the People's Palace and Bridgeton Cross.

Renfrew Ferry – Clyde Link commenced operation of the Yoker–Renfrew ferry service on 31 March 2010. The new ferry is a small but brand-new DDA-compliant vessel and carries cycles. The service replaces the two larger SPT-owned ferries and the timetable is on the Clyde Link website www.clydelink.co.uk.

The Bike Shed – This Glasgow-based Community Social Enterprise and charity recycles bicycles from a variety of local sources. Refurbished donated bikes and re-useable parts will be sold in the shop. All other parts will be dismantled for scrap. It also offers bicycle related training and advice to local communities such as puncture repair, bike maintenance and cycle training. A part of the workshop space will be avail-

able to customers two days a week to visit and to use the tools to repair their own bikes under the supervision of our mechanics. The Bike Shed will also help to promote cycling in Glasgow.

Google Maps – aerial photography of the Glasgow area has been updated with 2009 photos, showing amongst other things recently completed NCN 756 and on-going M74 motorway works. StreetView has been expanded to cover most roads in the UK, including rural areas.

Wanted: 111 cyclists to perform *Eine Brise (A Breeze)* – This is described as a 'Transient Action For 111 Cyclists' by its avant-garde Argentinian composer, Mauricio Kagel. The rehearsal is at 1330 on Saturday 29 May at Glasgow Green with the performance at 1500. All you need is a bicycle with a bell or a horn – a bell can be provided on the day if you don't already have one. Please email Oliver Rundell and Alex South at ArcticCycle2010@ollyandalex.com if you would like to take part; further information is available at www.ollyandalex.com.

Report potholes and other road faults – Web pages and telephone numbers for reporting road faults in local council areas are collected on the Go Bike web site at www.gobike.org/faults.php.

Dobbies Loan underpass at Garscube Road – This should reopen on 14 June following construction works for the Garscube Landscape Link. The ramp to the canal should be completed by 16 July.

Netherlee Road – the contraflow lane between Cathcart and Clarkston is now complete.

Cycle parking at Glasgow Central Station – Several double-tier cycle racks have been installed on platform 15, giving a vast increase in the provision at this busy station.

Cycle parking at Partick station – Go Bike is trying to get cycle parking installed at Partick station. Please help by writing to your councillor about it.

Connect2 – Work is under way on the Connect2 linking route from Kelvingrove Park to Anderston.

Sustrans Rangers' report on Connect2 at Larkhall – Four of us cycled from Uddingston via Bothwell Bridge to Strathclyde Park and on to Larkhall. We looked at the work which has been done on the Connect2 project to Larkhall. Two long sections each 3 metres wide are in place providing a superb run from the Mausoleum in Hamilton to Chatelherault. There are still some bits to be done in this section, particularly under a bridge over the Clyde. However, it is work of an excellent quality and already well used.

From Chatelherault to Larkhall, there are three options.

- The first is along the main road to Larkhall, which gives a relatively level direct route. It has been properly surveyed and Council officials say there is capacity for a dedicated cycle path alongside the road.
- The second option follows the Avon Gorge on the existing paths through the estate. Undoubtedly it is a spectacular off road route. However, the path is very narrow in most places with very steep gradients and tight bends, fairly steep drops over the edge, and serious drainage issues. On leaving the estate on a tarred, but very quiet road, there is a long uphill drag.
- The third option leaves Chatelherault about halfway along the path and joins the main road. But the resolution of access and ownership issues in places could be delaying and expensive.

An advantage of the West of Scotland is that it is well served by rail services, which lets us get to places, have a long (distance or time) or challenging ride and then get the train back home. We started at Uddingston and came home from Merryton, with a leisurely lunch at Chatelherault.

National and international news

Map of cycle accidents – London based cycle safety campaigner Ted Reilly has prepared a set of maps which shows the location of every crash that resulted in death of, or serious injury to a cyclist for the period 2000 to 2008. The map shows the location of the crash and some details of the crash. The mapping was first produced for London and the London Cycle Campaign use it in negotiations with local authorities. You can access the map for Scotland via www.CityBeast.com.

A Better Way to Work in Edinburgh – The Edinburgh Bike Station has been awarded the largest grant so far from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund – £750,000 to work with staff and employers in Edinburgh's small and medium-sized business. The project will promote sustainable transport and encourage workers to change their travel habits. (From www.ctc.org.uk)

Cycle theft rise – The latest British Crime Survey (England and Wales) shows a 7% rise in pedal cycle thefts from July to September compared to the previous year. Other thefts fell by 5%. (From www.ctc.org.uk)

Success for Cycling Demonstration Towns in England – Cycling England concludes that, for the first time in the UK outside London, 'lift off' has been achieved for cycling. The national trend of a gradual decline in cycling levels has been reversed. Averaged across all six towns, cycle counts increased by 27%. (From www.cyclenation.org.uk)

Summer trains to Fort William with space for bicycles – Whestrail run a train to Fort William on weekends in July and August. It is hauled by a heritage diesel engine and is advertised as being "designed to adequately carry bicycles and luggage to enable our customers to plan their weekend away in whatever way they choose to spend it". See www.whestrail.co.uk/tour-b.asp for details.

Cycle rides 2010

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 – note July ride. Please bring a note of the Go Bike phone number 07932 460093 with you in case of problems.

Sunday 6 June 2010 – Dams to Lochwinnoch

Leaving Glasgow via the Waulkmill Glen and Balgray Reservoirs, this route heads to Neilston before climbing over the Lochliboside Hills to Lochwinnoch. After lunch, return to Paisley and Glasgow via the somewhat flatter NCN 7 cycle path.

Bike Week – 19 to 27 June 2010

See www.bikeweek.org.uk for details of events happening during Bike Week 2010.

Saturday 19 June 2010 – Pollokshaws Gala Day (organised by CartBlanche)

Ride from Greenbank Park to Rouken Glen Park and back, and a stall from Go Bike.

All day event at Greenbank Park, Nether Auldhouse Road, Glasgow. Time of ride to be confirmed

Sunday 20 June 2010 – Big Bike Day at Chatelherault Country Park (organised by CTC)

Rides in the park, rides from the park, and a stall from Go Bike.

All day event at Chatelherault Country Park, near Hamilton

Sunday 4 July 2010 – Killearn and the West Highland Way

Starting from Dumbarton, this ride takes the NCN 7 cycle route through Balloch Castle Country Park and on towards Killearn on minor roads. After lunch, return to Milngavie and Glasgow via part of the West Highland Way and the Kelvin Cycleway.

Catch 1022 train from Partick to Dumbarton Central (Motherwell to Balloch train), meet Dumbarton Central station at 1055.

Glasgow Fair Weekend Ride, Saturday 17–Monday 19 July – NCN 7 route from Carlisle to Ayr

It is planned to cover some 165 miles of southwest Scotland's finest countryside over three days. Starting in Carlisle, National Cycle Network Route 7 will take us along the Solway coast and through the Galloway Forest Park and across the Carrick Hills to Ayr. Overnight stops at Urr Lodge (a private hostel near Dalbeattie) and Minnigaff YH. Contact Douglas Bingham *urgently* by email to weekend10@gobike.org or by phone/text on 07717 576248 if you would like to go. Further details are on the web site.

Sunday 1 August 2010 – Whitelee Wind Farm

Heading south from Glasgow, through Rouken Glen Park and the village of Eaglesham to the visitors' centre and café at the Whitelee Wind Farm on Eaglesham Moor. Return via the rest of the Eaglesham Moor Road and Newton Mearns.

Sunday 5 September 2010 – Drumpellier Country Park

Taking NCN 75 cycle route eastwards through Glasgow Green and along the River Clyde out of Glasgow and onwards to the edge of Coatbridge, then to Drumpellier Country Park. Return to Glasgow via the Strathkelvin Railway Path and the Forth & Clyde Canal from Kirkintilloch.

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](#) (based in Edinburgh).

Meetings

The next Go Bike committee meeting will be held on **Thursday 3 June 2010** in the Friends' Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow, G2 4PS. Directions can be found on the web site. Future meetings will be held on Thursday 02 September and Thursday 25 November (AGM). Note that the meetings are now on *Thursdays*, not Wednesdays! Suggestions for topics to discuss or for speakers to invite are always welcome.

Following the AGM, the new committee of Go Bike is Jonathan Ridge (Convenor), Tricia Fort (Vice Convenor, Andy Preece (Treasurer), Peter Hayman and John Davies.

Could all members please pay their annual subscriptions for 2010 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.

Contact us

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

Phone: 07932 460093
Email: campaigns@gobike.org
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.

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