



# *STRATHCLYDE CYCLE CAMPAIGN*

Parks Management Rules  
Land and Environmental Services  
Exchange House  
Glasgow City Council  
231 George Street  
Glasgow G1 1RX

12 February 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Proposed Parks Management Rules**

We wish to comment on the above proposal as follows.

Item 1.4:

“Unauthorised Gathering” means any gathering, meeting or assembly in the park comprising 20 or more persons which is organised by any individual, group, club or society or other organisation which has not had the prior written consent of the Director, howsoever organised and includes any kind of informal gathering advertised on Facebook, Twitter or any other social media operating from time to time on the Internet, mobile messaging service or any other electronic means.

We wish to clarify the meaning of this section. At Go Bike we have for some years organised regular led cycle rides, many of which pass through city parks or along the city path network, in the full knowledge of officers of the council, but without the express permission of the council. Some of these rides have attracted 20 or more participants. Would we have to seek the permission of the council to continue organising such rides, or face limiting the numbers of participants on each ride to 19?

If we did have to apply for permission, could we apply for permission to continue organising rides on a regular basis without specifying dates, or would we have to apply for permission for each ride separately? Would we have to specify which parks and parts of the path network we would be using, and indeed would we need to apply for separate permissions to enter each park or use each path?

If the intention of the proposed rules is that we should have to apply for permission, then we would like to ask for the council to reconsider this, and exempt non-commercial

organised activities such as cycle rides organised by ourselves and other similar organisations, that are in line with the council's declared policy of promoting cycling.

Item 6.1:

Except when entering or leaving a designated parking place, all vehicles in parks except for prams, wheelchairs and motorised vehicles for transporting people with a disability, require the prior written consent of the Director.

The wording of this section contradicts the heading 6 "Motorised vehicles and parking" in that it refers to "all vehicles", which implies that it applies to pedal cycles. Please clarify.

Item 7.1:

Cycling is welcome in parks, but only on tarmac paths or roads, designated cycle tracks or mountain bike courses.

We wish to object to this clause since it prohibits cycling on surfaces other than tarmac, such as monoblocs, paving slabs and blaes found in some of the city parks.

Item 7.2:

Cyclists must maintain proper control of the cycle and ensure they do not endanger other road users. Cycle speed should not exceed 5 miles per hour.

We wish to object to this clause since it imposes an unreasonable speed restriction on cycling, only slightly faster than walking speed, and slower than jogging. Other vehicles are to be restricted to a speed limit of 10 miles per hour (item 6.2), twice as fast.

We therefore suggest that either:

- The proposed speed limit on cycling is removed and cyclists are instead to take responsibility for cycling at a speed suited to the circumstances they find themselves in (our preferred option, and in line with the council's introduction to the consultation[1])
- The proposed speed limit is brought into line with other vehicles at 10 miles per hour

In any case, only a fraction of cyclists use speed measuring devices such as speedometers so may not be able to accurately judge their speed, and those devices that work off GPS are not reliable in areas with heavy tree cover such as the city parks and path network.

Item 10.1:

No person shall in any park, except with the prior written consent of the Director, and after agreeing to comply with the Conditions of Let issued:

- (a) organise or take part in any performance, event, ceremony, exhibition, assembly or procession or such activity,
- (b) display or distribute any advertising material or any written or printed paper or document,
- (c) organise or participate in any betting or gaming activity or any lottery,
- (d) recruit, drill or practice military or similar operations,
- (e) use any radio controlled equipment,
- (f) play or practice any game or sport in contravention of any notice,
- (g) play or practice any organised sport,
- (h) leave any goal posts or other equipment overnight,

- (i) make use of any park as an aerodrome or landing ground for aircraft, except in an emergency, or fly any aircraft (including power driven models).

As with item 1.4, this clause appears that it may prohibit organised cycle rides that do not have prior written consent (part a). Please clarify this.

The clause also appears that it may prohibit the distribution of documents such as maps or route instructions (part b). Please clarify this.

We hope you are able to take these comments on board and provide the clarifications requested.

Yours faithfully

*Andrew Preece*

Andrew Preece  
Go Bike! Strathclyde Cycle Campaign

[1] General introduction to Park Management Rules Consultation:

We encourage park users to:

- Take responsibility for their own actions
- Respect other people
- Care for the environment
- Help safeguard parks and open spaces for future generations