

2010

Cycle Chester

**Cheshire West and
Chester Council**

August 2010

AV017L



[CYCLING UPDATE AUGUST 2010]

This document provides a brief snapshot of Cycling activities across Chester, with information provided by members of the Cycle Chester Steering Group. Please feel free to disseminate this information to your contact lists and pass on my contact details so that updates from external groups can be included.

From CTC

Safety mirrors

Cycle safety mirrors have been installed in London and this [BBC video on cycle superhighways](#) shows the view from the cab of a lorry. The driver says: "It does [make a difference], because you can see all the way down - you actually have no blind spot." 39 'Trixi' mirrors will be installed as part of a six month trial.

Chester Station Parking

Karen Kinder (Station Manager Chester) has informed CTC that new additional cycle racks will be installed behind the Costa Coffee Shop. The hope is to have them in place by the start of the new term, though that is dependent on the site being ready as it is currently an access point for materials needed on platforms 4 and 7. Karen will be consulting the Campaign on spacing between the new racks.

Chester ladies bike ride

The last ladies ride saw us hunting Rhino's - not our usual type of ride but a bit of fun. We cycled 14 or so miles and found 7 Rhinos - there were more but there was a choice between the few rhinos by the river, or the cafe! You can read all about it and see the photos on our blog www.chesterfabulousladies.blogspot.com

The next ride is scheduled for the 7th August, meeting at 10am at Kingsway cafe. Information about what to wear, what to bring and what to do on the ride is all available on the blog; other queries or to book yourself on the next ride, please get in touch with Sue at development@ChesterAndNorthWalesCTC.org.uk

From Sustainable Blacon

Blacon's Giant Mosaic unveiled

Final touches have been made to an impressive community based art project in Chester. A four metre diameter mosaic, consisting of 1,000 individually designed tiles now takes pride of place at the Old Greenway Station site in Blacon, adding to a recent major improvement programme at the site.

Almost 800 of the tiles featured have been designed by local school children and community groups. Pupils from all five primary schools in Blacon and Blacon High School have been involved. Other groups involved include Flora, Fauna, Recreation, History and Blacon Today,

the Delta Centre Youth Club, BYPP (Building Young People's Potential) and KCC (Kids Community Club).

Resident Rosemary Burns said: "We wanted to create a piece of art work which is truly community created with the hope that getting people involved will increase the sense of ownership and provide a feature that can be enjoyed by generations to come."

Blacon Schools Enjoy 'Cycle Sunday'

Teachers, pupils and parents from the Blacon Schools turned out in force on a sunny 'Cycle Sunday', last week-end, to cycle in their school groups from the Blacon Old Station Site into the centre of Chester.

Organised by Stephen Perry, on behalf of Sustainable Blacon, and Dave Williams Chairman of the Blacon Education Village nearly 100 people took part in the cycle ride along the Greenway and Shropshire Union Canal. En route the children were delighted to see the fantastic collection of narrow boats gathered in the Telford's Warehouse Canal Basin.

Once in the city centre everyone enjoyed the wonderful programme of cycling related activities available in the City Centre and provided by Cycle Chester.

At the end of the day Dave Williams, Head Teacher at Dee Point School agreed, 'Sunday was one of those 'it's all worth it' days! Perfect weather, perfect activities and great promotion of our local community.'

From Groundwork Cheshire

Wannabe Cyclists Have Their Say

Cycle Chester has a vision - to double the number of cyclists in Chester by 2012. In order to find out what obstacles Chester residents face to getting in the saddle they recruited local charity and consultation-specialists Groundwork Cheshire to ask the right questions of non-, nervous- and infrequent-cyclists.

Earlier this year, Groundwork set up a number of focus groups and went out and about with questionnaires to try and engage with people who are wannabe cyclists. This is a novel project approach and has generated interest from all over the country.

In total seventy residents participated in the project, aged from 13 to 77 years old, from all across the city. Their responses will help shape the Cycle Chester programme and enable Cheshire West and Chester Council to continue working to encourage cycling around the City.

Most participants were nervous cyclists or could not ride a bike and cycled less than a couple of times a month, if at all. Participants want to start cycling for a variety of reasons including weight loss and to enable family cycle rides.

“My child has a bike and I’d like to accompany her on rides”

The respondents also provided information about the negative issues which they felt prevented them from cycling as much as they would like. A few could not ride a bike and requested training, some did not have access to a bike and the overwhelming majority said they felt intimidated by other road users.

Bethan Vaughan, Cycle Chester Manager says:

“Cycle Chester is running a variety of initiatives which can help to address these issues: adult cycle training for beginners and on-road training for improvers, a bike loan scheme and personal route planning, as well as infrastructure projects and events. There is also an e-newsletter which anyone can sign up to. For more information please visit www.cyclechester.com , email info@cyclechester.com or call 01244 973948 for more details.”

Other issues participants raised included concerns about specific junctions and roads and a lack of knowledge about suitable routes and cycle ways. A number of solutions were suggested too; including a ‘Think Cyclist’ campaign and cycle maintenance training workshops.

Cycle Chester will be using the consultation report to try and address the issues raised and consider the solutions suggested. The report will be accessible through the Cycle Chester website shortly (www.cyclechester.com).

From Cycle Chester

Deva Link now open

Works to create off road routes for walkers and cyclists in Chester have been completed. The routes now link the Chester Millennium Greenway, the Shropshire Union Canal towpath and the Deva Link road, creating alternative routes to Sealand Road, Blacon and Mickle Trafford.

The works, next to the University of Chester’s campus, close to Parkgate Road, have been carried out on land owned by Railway Paths Ltd, British Waterways, the University of Chester and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The new route, designed to be accessible to all users of the new pathway, including those with mobility problems, with two shared use ramps now installed, leading to the Deva Link road and the canal towpath.

Cycle Loan Scheme demand increases

Cycle Chester has 120 bikes available at no cost, to lend Cheshire West and Chester residents for a 6 month period. Currently, 110 of the bikes are with members of the public, enabling individuals to increase their level of cycling without worrying about incurring

immediate costs, while deciding whether or not to purchase. Terms and conditions apply, depending on the district where the individual lives. For further information, contact Bob Hughes on 01244 976986.