

New Cycle Link to the Hospital

A useful cycling link has recently been completed, linking the Countess of Chester Health Park site with the Shropshire Union canal towpath. This new link between Blacon, and Upton, improves access to the canal towpath and will be useful to staff and visitors.

On the Campaign's cycling infrastructure 'wish list' for many years, after hard lobbying by the Campaign the building of a cycle link to the canal was a clear planning condition for the new housing.

Monthly Meetings
7:30pm on the first
Wednesday of the
month upstairs in
the Custom's House
Watergate Street

Join the Chester Cycling Campaign!

Name	
Address	
Post Code	
Phone	
Email	

If you are happy to receive your Cyclomania Newsletter by e-mail and to be notified of Campaign activities by email, please tick here:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | £5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged/Under 16/OAP | £3.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | £10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership | £50.00 |

Membership is valid until end of September during year of joining. Join after April 1st and your membership is valid until the end of September in the following year!

I enclose an additional donation of £ _____

I agree to this information being placed on an electronic database for Campaign purposes only.

Signed _____ Date _____

Please send completed form & cheque (payable to Chester Cycling Campaign) to:

Chester Cycling Campaign Membership Secretary
10 Balmoral Park
Chester
CH1 4BQ

Steering Committee

(enquiries@chestercycling.co.uk)

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Cyclomania

A voice for Chester cyclists



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Campaign talks to Government Minister

The official launch of the Chester Cycle Town status was held on the 25th April. The Campaign participated in the festival of stall held outside the town hall and led two cycle rides the next day.

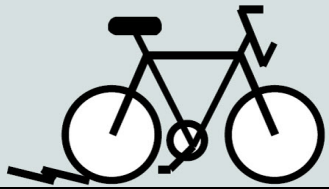
Transport Minister Paul Clarke and MP Christine Russell attended and talked at length with Campaign member Mary Gillie. We emphasised the need to provide cycle training and support to give people the confidence to cycle. New infrastructure alone will not raise cycle numbers.

The Campaign were pleased with the enthusiasm shown. Paul Clarke agreed to meet us again and we are keen to continue the dialogue.

Whilst the role out of Bikeability is a good start, one year on the

award of the CDT status we need faster more wide spread action. Members of the Campaign brought back lots of ideas from a Cycle Promotoion seminar in Manchester. We will try ourselves or promote them to speed up action by the Council

The document Vision 2050: A Sustainable future for Cheshire West and Chester is now published and gives a vision of a low carbon society in Cheshire and the steps needed now to achieve it. Low carbon transport and cycling are key components and we are keen to link the document and progress of the Cycle Demonstration Town. Go to <http://www.chester.gov.uk/pdf/Vision2050.pdf> to read the document.



Blacon's Cycle Surgery

The Campaign was very pleased to work with Blacon Community Trust (BCT) to encourage cycling as part of the CDT. Since then the BCT has forged ahead.

A cycle surgery was held at Dee Point Centre in Blacon on Saturday 9th May and proved to be a huge success. The surgery was set up by Cheshire West and Chester Council, NHS Community Care Western Cheshire and BCT. The aim was to ensure that the people of Blacon have access to bikes that are in a road safe condition.

During the day approximately 50 bikes were serviced, with typical repairs including simple adjustment of brakes and gears, fixing punctures or replacing inner tubes and adjust-

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ment of bikes to suit the rider. Qualified cycle mechanics (provided by The Bike Factory and NHS Community Care Western Cheshire) also showed members of the public how to do routine cycle maintenance themselves. One grateful parent commented "I can't keep my son off his bike but I was always worried that it wasn't safe, now at least I know that everything works."

Dave Cotterell from NHS Community Care Western Cheshire commented "There are a number of excellent cycle shops within Chester that currently provide a good quality of service for supplying and servicing cycles. However the basic cost for a cycle service is in the region of £30 to £40 plus parts and this cost will be beyond many families living on low income or benefits. Cycle surgeries like this bring the benefit of cycle maintenance to many families who otherwise could not afford it. We hope it will encourage them to cycle more and reap the health-related benefits that go with it."

It is hoped that another Cycle Surgery will take place in July as part of the Blacon Festival.

Cycle Festival Consultation

Hundreds of residents participated in the Cycle Festival on the 25 April, in the Town Hall Square. The Campaign took the opportunity to carry out a consultation on the cycling improvements that residents would like to see around the city. The large number of responses received have now been analysed and will be shared with the Cycle Demonstration Town Steering Group. Responses fell into the following general categories which give a flavour of public concerns about cycling provision in the city:

Category	%
Cycle Route Needed	28
Courses	5
Cycle Parking	23
Other Facility	31
Cycling Policy	13

The types of **cycle routes** needed are safer routes for children to get to school by bike, a proper cycle way beside A540 from Willaston to Eureka Café. A cycle path is needed from the Ferry Lane Footbridge across the Dee to rear of Airbus factory and Broughton Park.

Cycle maintenance and **Bikeability courses** were requested. **Cycle parking** is needed at Sealand Road shops and retail park, more places outside Tesco's and in many places in the city centre.

Our New Online Journey Planner

In partnership with our colleagues in the Cambridge Cycling Campaign, the Chester Cycling Campaign is pleased to announce the launch of [CycleStreets](#), an online cycle route planner for Chester. The planner, which is currently in beta, allows you to plan a cycle route between any two places in Chester. The results are presented in three ways, fastest, quietest and shortest routes. CycleStreets will also tell you the overall length of your trip and how long the trip will take at various cycling speeds. It also displays 'Quietness Rating' for each route.

Organised weekend family cycle rides, better repairs the roads and cycle hire for a nominal fee in the city centre with various drop off points were other ideas.

It was emphasised that the surface of cycleways and more on-road cycle routes are needed.

We hope that the CDT minor works budget might be used to fund some of these relatively small, but key improvements which could have a positive effect on the number of cycling journeys undertaken in the city.

Thanks for your input and ideas.