

SHOTLEY PENINSULA CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Newsletter No.3, February 2011

Hello to all our members and other readers. The Campaign is now gathering considerable momentum and we have much news to report, below, including several dates for your diaries.

Ipswich to Shotley Community Path

After several months of applying for grants, the good news is that we have raised enough money to commission Suffolk County Council to carry out a feasibility study for a largely traffic-free path from Ipswich down to Shotley Gate, suitable for cyclists, walkers and wheelchair users. We are also looking at links across the peninsula, especially to Holbrook, to provide connections for all our communities to schools, surgeries, and leisure facilities.

The study will include a preferred route, phasing, costs, and likely demand. We should have the completed study by April, and will be launching it for discussion and consultation at our May public meeting (see below). We received support and funding for this study from almost all the Parish Councils along or close to the likely route of the path, and from a number of other local organisations including The Suffolk Foundation, Babergh East Local Strategic Partnership, Babergh District Council, Ipswich High School for Girls, and our County Councillor David Wood. Our grateful thanks go to all of them.

The next step is to get the agreement of all the landowners affected by the proposed route. We hope then to see work starting on the first section of path as early as 2012.

Fun Cycle Ride

By kind permission of Ipswich High School for Girls, we will be holding a Fun Cycle Ride for children, aged 11 years and under, in the grounds of Woolverstone Hall, on the morning of Sunday 10th April. It will be a great opportunity for them to enjoy some traffic-free cycling in beautiful surroundings, as well as a chance for you to find out more about our cycling campaign. Light refreshments will be available for a small charge.

Do bring your children along, with their bikes. You will need to arrive for registration no later than 10.30, after which time, part of the driveway can be shut off, and the cycling can commence! The expected finish time is 12.00 noon.

Public Meeting

We will be holding our second Public Meeting (open to non-members as well as members) on Wednesday 4th May 2011, in Shotley Village Hall, starting at 7.00pm. We will be releasing the feasibility study (see above), and talking about the proposals it makes, including the route, costs, and timing.

We are also hoping to use this meeting to launch our new web site, which has been designed for us by a small team of students from Ipswich High School.

Do come along for what should be an informative and exciting evening, whether you are already a member or are just thinking of joining the campaign.

AGM

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 14th July 2011, at Pin Mill Sailing Club, starting at 7.00pm. If you are a member, do come along to hear about our future plans, and elect the new committee for the coming year. Non-members are also welcome, but may not vote.

Why not come by bike, as parking at Pin Mill is limited.

The Sailing Club bar will be open for drinks before and after the meeting.

Join the Campaign

We now have 98 members, plus several group members, including the majority of schools on the peninsula. The more members we have, the more credibility we have, and the better the chance we will have of getting our voice heard when we seek to implement our project.

For just £5.00 per year you can register your whole household as members of the campaign. You will be able to participate in shaping our proposals, have your say, enjoy local cycling events, and receive regular (electronic) newsletters.

If you want to do more, then do have a word with one of the committee members as we need help in a number of areas including fund-raising, event-organising, publicity and route-development.

Membership renewal

To simplify matters, we are proposing to have an annual renewal date for membership that reflects when the majority of our members joined the campaign, ie in late May. As our annual subscription is only £5.00 per household, we hope that you will all feel able to pay your subs again in May. However, if any of you who have more recently joined feel that this is unfair, please feel free to pay whatever percentage of the £5.00 that would carry you through to May 2012. We will be sending out the reminder notice in the next newsletter.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 10th April 2011 Fun Cycle Ride at Woolverstone Hall, 10.00am to 12.00 noon.
Wednesday 4th May 2011 Public Meeting at Shotley Village Hall, 7.00 pm
Thursday 14th July 2011 AGM at Pin Mill Sailing Club, at 7.00pm

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