



## SHOTLEY PENINSULA CYCLING CAMPAIGN

### Newsletter No.6, February 2012

[www.spcc.info](http://www.spcc.info)

A belated Happy New Year to all our members and other supporters. Whilst it has been a few months since our last newsletter, it does mean that there is a lot to report. Momentum is really starting to build, and this is also reflected in our membership, which now stands at well over 200, plus 9 organisations, including the six schools on the peninsula that could benefit from our proposals.

#### **New path should double cycling on the Shotley Peninsula:**

New research commissioned by the SPCC suggests that the proposed Ipswich to Shotley Community Path should give an enormous boost to cycling on the peninsula, doubling the current amount of cycling along the B1456 by making it safer and more enjoyable.

As you know, our principal target is to create a new, largely traffic-free, community path, suitable for both cyclists and walkers, from Bourne Bridge on the edge of Ipswich down to the foot ferry at Shotley Gate. In support of our campaign, we have asked Sustrans, the country's leading cycling and sustainable transport charity, to predict how much this new path might increase cycling along the B.1456 corridor. Based on the traffic survey work we carried out last autumn over eight days, Sustrans have estimated that, at the Wherstead end, there are currently about 14,600 cycle trips annually along the B.1456 and that this figure could double to about 29,000 with the introduction of the proposed community path. The corresponding figures at the Shotley end are approximately 12200, increasing to about 24,000 annually. Sustrans have calculated these estimates by looking at similar case studies they have worked on in other parts of the country.

This research from Sustrans has been backed up by the results emerging from the questionnaire survey we carried out towards end of last year. Over 300 people completed a questionnaire, which sought to find out more about their current cycling habits and how these might change with the introduction of this new path. Thank you to all those who took part and returned a completed questionnaire.

A large majority (nearly 80%) of those taking part normally cycle on the Shotley Peninsula for leisure purposes. Our analysis of the responses show that if this new path were to be introduced, the numbers of people cycling four miles or more per outing could be expected to double, those cycling once a week or more could be expected to increase by about 50%, and those feeling safe or very safe could be expected to increase about eightfold.

The Sustrans report and questionnaire results can be found on the campaign's website at [www.spcc.info](http://www.spcc.info)

#### **Progress on the New Community Path:**

Whilst waiting for Sustrans findings, and for the analysis of the questionnaire data, we have also started detailed discussions and investigations into how we can get the first section of this new path underway. The consultation exercise we conducted last summer/autumn confirmed that most people felt the case for a new safe path was most pressing at the Ipswich end, from Bourne Bridge to the top of Freston Hill. We have therefore opened discussions with the key landowners along this stretch, with a view to trying to agree a precise route. These initial discussions have gone very well, and all the landowners have been very positive about our

proposals. However, there are a number of detailed issues, which need to be agreed, and these are bound to take some time to resolve. As soon as there is agreement on a detailed route, we will inform you.

Whilst these discussions go on at the Wherstead to Freston end of the path, we have also decided to progress matters at the Shotley end, where we think there may be an opportunity to make faster progress. We are therefore hoping to have discussions with Shotley Parish Council, shortly, about the detailed route for the path between Shotley Street and Shotley Gate, where the preferred route for the path is entirely on County Highways land. This section of the path would improve the link between these two communities, and provide a safe route for those children travelling on foot or by bike between Shotley Gate and the primary school. This section of path is also likely to be the least expensive to construct.

We will keep you updated on our progress at both ends of the path.

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