



SHOTLEY PENINSULA CYCLING CAMPAIGN Newsletter No.5, October 2011

www.spcc.info

Hello once again to all our members, and to other readers of this newsletter. There is quite a lot of news to give you, as it has been a while since the last newsletter was produced.

Christmas Party:

We are pleased to announce that The Stour and Orwell Society has invited us to join with them in holding a Christmas Party, which will take place on Friday 9th December, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at the Royal Harwich Yacht Club. We will shortly be sending you an email with more details of the event, and the price of the tickets.

Please put the date in your diary, and do try to come along. This is not only an opportunity for the SPCC to raise some money for the development of the Cycle Route, but also a great opportunity for us to reach people who are not aware of the SPCC, and perhaps to recruit some new members. It should be a very enjoyable evening.

Annual General Meeting:

Our AGM and Public Meeting to launch the Draft Report in July were not very well attended, which was a bit disappointing. Also, no one at the meeting volunteered to join the committee, which we had rather been hoping for. So, the committee was re-elected en bloc and you are stuck with us for another year!

Subsequently, however, Mike Havard, who is also a member of Suffolk Cycle Touring Club, has very kindly offered his services. He was co-opted onto the Committee at our meeting in August. If any of you out there would like to get more involved, please contact our Chairman, Mike Crouch.

We would also like feedback from our members to help make our 2012 AGM better attended. Did the venue, down at Pin Mill where parking is rather limited, put some of you off? Let us know.

Membership:

The SPCC now has 158 individual/household members, and 7 group memberships, which include 4 of the peninsula schools, and three other local cycling groups. This is really pleasing as our numbers are slightly up on last year, and the greater our membership, the more credibility our collective voice will have.

However, the committee would like our numbers to hit 200, and we would like to ask all of you to try to recruit another member to help achieve, or better still, exceed this target.

We have now introduced an alternative way to join the campaign or renew your membership (still only £5 per household or group); you can now join the SPCC online, and pay using a debit or credit card, or Paypal. We hope that some of you will find this an easier option.

Consultations on our Draft Cycle Route Report:

Following the launch of our draft cycle route report at our AGM in July, we have been consulting a number of bodies, as well as all our members, which will be crucial to the successful creation of a cycle route.

At a recent meeting at Babergh District Council, the SPCC received very positive and supportive feedback. A meeting with Ipswich Borough Council is also scheduled for early November, as is one with the regional director of Sustrans. Meetings are now also being

sought with Natural England, and Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Partnership. Meetings with landowners will also be needed.

The Environment Agency has responded with constructive comments, and the two local MP's have written supportive letters to us.

We are of course looking for any comments that our members may have regarding the proposed route: it is still not too late to email these to chairman@spcc.info

Traffic Surveys:

Some of you may have seen our volunteer surveyors, either at Shotley Street, or on the Strand at Wherstead, during August and September. Each location was surveyed four times, on a weekday and a weekend day, during the school holidays and during termtime, between 7.00am and 7.00pm, using the method employed by Sustrans and the County Council. This was quite an undertaking, but has proved extremely worthwhile, as we now have some very interesting and informative data on the volumes and types of traffic using the B1456.

To briefly summarise: the traffic levels at Wherstead are just over 3 times greater than at Shotley Street, with the morning rush hour into Ipswich, and the afternoon rush hour out from Ipswich, being the most heavily trafficked. However the volume of traffic remains quite high all day, and even weekends can be very busy.

Cycle usage is higher than perhaps we expected, with 406 cycle movements recorded over the 8 days, averaging out at over 50 movements per day.

The complete survey figures and a short report of our initial findings are available for you to look at on our website(www.spcc.info).

Questionnaires:

During July, August and September, we distributed questionnaires to a number of shops and other public locations to gather information on current cycle usage and likely future usage once a cycle path is in place. We were aiming to get back at least 250 (5% of the peninsula population) completed forms, but we have actually received 350 to date.

If you have not already completed one yourself, you still have time to do so. Please go to our website, and return the on-line version by email to the chairman or secretary of the SPCC.

Website:

Tony Gould has very kindly taken on the job of SPCC webmaster. He can be contacted at webmaster@spcc.info.

Our website is now fully operational, and on it you will find the minutes of all our committee meetings, newsletters and general information regarding the campaign. The Draft Report and maps of the proposed route are also to be found there, as are the recent traffic survey findings.

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