

Cycle Chesterfield Monthly Meeting

14/01/25

Present: Martin Farr (Secretary), Alastair Meikle (Chair), Tony Ford (committee), Tom Hardwick, Celia Hardwick, Megan Cook, Jason Dent (Newsletters), Ian Menzies (Treasurer), Dean Sas (Website)

Apologies: Sharon Stone, Kathy Farr

Minutes of previous meeting 8/10/24: No comments

Updates on outstanding actions

	ACTION	Progress	Owner
1	Cycle Friendly Employers scheme	None made.	TF/MF/AM
2	Climate Change Forum	TF confirmed attending next meeting. DISCHARGED	MF

Membership Report (MF, acting)

Members: 248

129 people were due for renewal in Jan, 72 have renewed and 57 outstanding.

Treasurer Report (IM)

Balance is £3509.97 as of the end of December.

Outgoing since the last meeting have included the usual internet and newsletter costs, £45 towards the 2024 cycle festival costs and small fees for expenses for speakers at the last two members meetings.

Secretary Report (MF)

AM & MF met with the Local Transport Plan Coalition which included representatives from various groups including CPRE, Pedals, Sustrans, Friends of the Earth etc to work on a letter for the Mayoral Authority about a local transport plan.

We've been supporting Pedals (Nottingham cycle campaign) to campaign against the cycle spaces on the new EMR trains. The new trains will have the same amount of spaces as at present but will be 'hanging' spaces which are difficult or impossible to use for many people. We've written to Toby Perkins, the East Midlands Mayoral Authority and EMR. EMR have said the changes are to strike a better balance between passenger seating and cycle spaces, and this will not be changed. They gave the same response to Toby Perkins, who then wrote to the DfT, who then gave the same response EMR did.

Two pieces of new cycling infrastructure in Chesterfield recently.

The Markham Vale cycleway opened between the environment centre and the Seymour Link Road. A number of members attended the opening ceremony.

The new Trans-Peninne Trail bridge was put in place over the Chesterfield Canal. A number of members attended the opening ceremony, along with Toby Perkins.

We have about twenty faults logged on the cycle network around Chesterfield. We have a new contact at the council who will keep us up to date with action on these, and we're currently waiting to hear from them.

Planning Report (AM)

Planning permission has been applied for a new police custody building which will include cycle parking for employees and visitors.

A large new housing development has been proposed for Duckmanton. The plans feature several cycling and walking paths, though it's not clear yet how wide the paths are being proposed to be.

Chesterfield College are replacing one of the buildings to the north; they'll add cycle parking as part of this development.

There's some proposed legislation in parliament so that planning officers can approve applications within defined housing and industrial zones without having to go to the planning committee.

Social Media Report (DS)

We now have a BlueSky account (<https://bsky.app/profile/cyclechesterfield.org>) BlueSky is similar to Twitter, we'll use the same content on both social media sites.

We currently have 19 followers on BlueSky, vs 381 on twitter, 838 on Facebook and 109 on Instagram.

Objectives (MF)

We surveyed members in earlier December with four proposed objectives for 2025 and a request for any other ideas. We had 62 responses with multiple votes each.

- 49 for audit infrastructure to contribute towards a potential LTP for Chesterfield
- 36 for Cycle Friendly employers
- 26 for increasing wider representation in cycling
- 12 for a Cycling Buddy scheme
- 30 Other Suggestions.

We decided to adopt the two most popular suggestions as objectives, though ad-hoc work can still continue on other ideas.

We'll share some further information about the exercise with members at a later date, and possibly also share information on the website.

For auditing infrastructure we'll look to get member involvement to identify main routes, ideas for new routes, possibly at the March meeting.

For cycle friendly employers we'll encourage some of the biggest employers to support employees to join the CyclingUK scheme. TF will lead on this. We can also place more information on the website.

Newsletter Review

We currently print 250 newsletters. We distribute or post 139 to members and share more with other people/organisations, but have a lot left over. We'll contact the printers to get a quote for printing 200.

Members requiring posted newsletters means their whole membership fee is based upon postage. We should encourage, but not require these members to change to receiving a newsletter by email instead.

MF volunteered to hand deliver newsletters not part of a round when possible. He'll liaise with AM for each issue.

Festival Update

We're moving to the first week of July, which coincides with the start of the Tour de France. We will run rides at both weekends and other organisations will run rides during the week.

Spire Cycling Club and Dronfield Clarion Cycling Club have definitely committed to run rides. We're waiting to hear back from Bolsover Cycling Club and Peak Cycling Club. Chesterfield BMX are unlikely to be able to take part.

The talk event will probably be at St Thomas'. Town centre venues have risen in price. The library has gone from £45 to £300+ and other venues are in the same ballpark.

We will have the Ben Vernon ride as part of the festival and cross-promote the two events.

Raising our Profile

Lots of cyclists and potential cyclists around Chesterfield have never heard of us or the Cycle Festival. How can we raise our profile?

Peter Grey's book, A Walk Around Hidden Chesterfield, mentions Cycle Chesterfield a lot. Can we get our name out in other media?

We were in S40 and S41 magazine last year for the festival. Could we get in Wings magazine (Wingerworth) or Twist too?

We have (or had) banners in the Royal Hospital. We also gave Cycle Festival posters to Queen's Park Leisure Centre. Could we put posters in other places people are trying to be healthier like GP's surgeries?

Any Other Business

- The pump we installed at Pleasley Pit has been vandalised, we've bought a replacement part.
- Cycle paths don't get gritted. We considered whether it was worthwhile purchasing a grit dispenser we could tow and have people grit the paths in icy weather. Probably not a good use of funds.
- TF is attending the upcoming climate forum to represent Cycle Chesterfield
- There's a Derby community climate change event on the 7th of Feb 10am-3pm. We're allowed to send two representatives, anyone interested should contact the secretary.

- Pedals (Nottingham) and Derby Cycling Group would like to restart the East Midlands travel forum. MF to sound out other former members to gauge their interest.
- Cycle Sheffield have an open invitation for us to go and see their new cycling infrastructure.

Outstanding Actions

	ACTION	Progress	Owner
1	Cycle Friendly Employers scheme	Letter / summary for distribution to selected employers. Make list of selected employers	TF/MF/AM
2	Newsletter printing	Get quote for printing 200 newsletters	JD