

Reading Cycle Campaign WoBC Campaigning Officer's Report for AGM 2011

The year 2010/11 has seen no useful contact with Wokingham Borough Council. When we had enthusiastic cycling officers keen to listen to our views and obtain some progress through a cyclist-unfriendly council, an incentive was there. But over the years the council was 'not for turning' on ideas like introducing a cycle bypass past the pinch-point on the road between Waingel's School in Woodley and Charvil. And shared-use pavements for cyclist and pedestrian was always their priority.

On the question of the on-road cycle lane on the Wokingham to Reading road just South of the M4 being diverted onto the pavement at the approach to a pinch-point, I heard from the Editor of Cyclenation News. He saw no difficulty of staying on the road and 'if you do that, make sure you ride in the primary position of course ie . centre of the gap'. (I'm not convinced, it reminds me of being Dead Right.)

WoBC have jointly developed publicity with RBC to promote cycling schemes that cross the Borough boundary in Woodley, Earley and Shinfield. Through his associations on cycling matters with Woodley Town Council, Peter Glass was offered a copy of WoBC's notification of the routes and he replied to the Town Council with detailed comments on the 3 routes, R2, R20 and R3. In summary he appreciated the 20 mph limit on parts of R2, but these shared pavements on R20 and R3 should be anathema to a council wishing to encourage considerate motoring.

We are fortunate that Kevin Mayne, Chief Exec of CTC, lives in the borough and takes an active interest in how the council tries to improve the lot of cyclists. He responded to the Draft Local Transport Plan 3, which covers the next 15 years, with a well-reasoned case on why improving conditions for cycling ought to be a no-brainer for the council. It made me proud to be a CTC member.

Dougal Munro April 2011