



*"Working for a cycle-friendly Reading"*

[www.readingcyclecampaign.org.uk](http://www.readingcyclecampaign.org.uk)

## **Reading Cycle Campaign RBC Campaigning Officers' Report for AGM 2009**

The year 2008/9 was successful in terms of raising the importance of cycling with Reading Borough Councillors and saw a more pro-active attitude from RBC's Transport Department. An important battle was won with regard to keeping Cow Lane open. A summary of activity over the year is given below.

### **Councillor Debate at AGM 2008**

The 2008 AGM in April was followed by presentations from the lead councillors for transport from each of the political parties, as well as a representative from the Green Party, giving their vision for cycling in Reading. Individual presentations were followed by a 'Question Time' style debate with questions taken from the floor.

### **RBC Cycle Liaison Group**

The Cycle Liaison Group (CLG) was re-launched in October 2008 after having fallen by the wayside in 2007 and has met quarterly since that time. The CLG is chaired by the Labour Lead Councillor for Transport, Tony Page, and comprises the following members:

- Lead councillors for transport from each of the three political parties.
- 'Cycle Champion' councillors from the Labour and Conservative parties.
- Council officers from RBC's Transport Strategy Department
- Representatives from Reading CTC
- Representatives from the Reading Cycle Club
- Representatives from Reading Cycle Campaign

### **Cycling Strategy**

Reading Borough Council formally adopted a new Cycling Strategy in October 2008. The Strategy is associated with the five year Local Transport Plan (2006-11) and focuses on providing better cycle training for children and progressively creating a branded 'premier cycle route' network around Reading. The previous Cycling Strategy, written in 2001, was moribund and lobbying for the development and adoption of a new cycle strategy has been a key aim of the Cycling Campaign.

### **Thames Cycle Path**

In 2007/8 Adrian Lawson of RCC presented evidence to the Council to enable the Thameside Path to be dedicated as a cycle right of way between Reading and Caversham Bridges. RBC has decided not to proceed with this due to objections from local residents and the Thames Path National Trails Management Group.

### **Oxford Road Corridor Study**

RBC undertook a consultation on transport issues affecting on Oxford Road in March 2008. The Corridor Study will take into account the effect on Oxford Road of widening the Cow Lane bridges. We provided comments and suggestions to RBC that focused on the dangerous pinch points and road narrowings that have been introduced along this route.

### **Shinfield Road - Local Centre Proposals**

Following an initial consultation RBC developed proposals for traffic calming measures at Shinfield Road, which went out for consultation in December 2008. We commented on the proposals expressing our concern at the narrow traffic lanes being proposed.



**Cow Lane Bridges**

After intense lobbying by the Cycle Campaign against the proposed closure of Cow Lane, Network Rail announced that the road would not be closed as originally proposed. Cycle routes through the Cow Lane bridges will be enhanced as part of the revised scheme to widen the bridges.

**Town Hall Square / Duke St**

We commented on RBC's proposals for improvements to the layout of Town Hall Square in April 2008 and proposals to simplify the junction of Duke Street with the IDR in August 2008.

**King St / Buttermarket**

We persuaded RBC to change the 'No Vehicles' signs to 'No Motor Vehicles' on the newly pedestrianised Buttermarket. We have also requested that the 'all traffic turn left' signals at the King St / Minster St junction be revised to recognise that cycles can continue to Broad St.

**New Cycling in Reading Map**

RBC brought out a first draft of a revamped Cycle Map in January 2009. We collated comments from members and submitted suggestions for improvements to the Council.

**Bike Week**

Bike Week in 2008 was co-ordinated by the CTC funded Cycling Development Officer for RBC. Our activities in Bike Week included stalls in the town centre and at business parks and led commute rides to work. We also organised and led a family ride around Reading.

Keith Elliott / Ros Furley  
RBC Campaign Officers  
March 09