

Reading Cycle Campaign WoBC Campaigning Officer's Report for AGM 2009

The year 2008/09 has seen no useful contact with Wokingham Borough Council.

The draft Cycling Strategy published in February 2008 was abandoned in May 2008 when new in-house consultants WSP took over from Mouchel Parkman. In April 2009 there is no sign of a document and their ideas are best shown by their actions. They seem keen to invite us onto short stretches of shared-use pavement, where we lose our normal rights and are then told to dismount after about 100 m (not miles either).

I know of two summer 2008 cases, Bearwood Rd between Sindlesham and Barkham and outside the Piggott school between Twyford and Wargrave. On Bearwood Rd, a cyclist was surprised to see this pavement facility and thought he was expected to use it as recommended in a draft Highway Code. Unfortunately the high granite setts caught him out and his family missed their holidays as he nursed a broken wrist. As a cyclist preferring to stay on the road outside Piggott, I am conscious of frustrated motorists caught behind me while traffic is approaching from the opposite direction; like the council, they think I ought to be on the pavement and sometimes treat me accordingly.

Dougal Munro April 2009