



## CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Working to Create a Cycle Friendly City.....

# CYCLING MATTERS!

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CHESTER CYCLING CAMPAIGN



AUTUMN 2021

### Launch of Chester Cycle Buddies Scheme

Page 3 Click [here](#)



### A summer of Women's Cycle Maintenance Classes

Page 5 Click [here](#)



### New Venue for Campaign Meetings

Page 6 Click [here](#)



### Cycle and Pedestrian Path obstructed by road sign

Page 7 Click [here](#)



### Campaign Response to Proposals for Cycle Lanes on Ring Road

Page 8 Click [here](#)



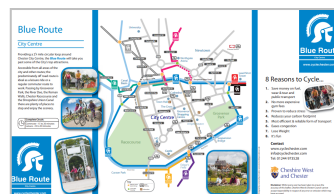
### Campaign Members Contributed to Highway Code Improvements

Page 9 Click [here](#)



### Complete Library of Free Chester Cycle Route Maps

Page 10 Click [here](#)



### Join the Campaign and Get a Free Bike Safety Check

Page 10 Click [here](#)



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# Chester Cycle Buddies launched



Image credit: London Cycling Campaign

The Campaign has just launched Chester Cycle Buddies, a scheme to match experienced volunteer cyclists who are Campaign members (Helper Buddies) with those who would like some support to help them cycle more in Chester (Cycle Buddies).

Helper Buddies can help their Cycle Buddy with planning cycle-friendly routes to places they would like to go, ride with them to test out the routes and answer any queries.

Advice has been taken from various organisations including Cycling UK and especially the London Cycling Campaign who operate a successful scheme which has already helped many people.

So if you are one of the many people who say they would like to cycle in and around Chester but are unsure about riding on your own, riding in traffic, where to park your bike, etc. etc, or maybe you're back on a bike after some time and need a bit of a confidence boost, or maybe you're unsure about choosing routes to where you want to go (work, children's schools, shops, city centre, leisure, friends, etc), do click through to [Chester Cycle Buddies](#) on our website.

Or if you are an experienced cyclist and may like to use your local knowledge and cycling experience to help others to cycle more around Chester, consider becoming a Helper Buddy! Click the link above to find out all about the scheme.

We look forward to meeting you!





## Join the Chester Cycling Campaign!

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Post Code</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	

If you are happy to receive your Campaign bulletins by e-mail and to be notified of Campaign activities by email, please tick here: ☐

- |                          |                       |                |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Membership | <b>£10.00</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Unwaged\Student       | <b>£5.00</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family Membership     | <b>£15.00</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Corporate Membership  | <b>£25.00</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Membership       | <b>£100.00</b> |

Membership is valid until end of September during year of joining. Join after April 1<sup>st</sup> and it will be valid until the end of September in the following year!

How did you hear about the Chester Cycling Campaign?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chester Cycling Campaign website<br><input type="checkbox"/> Friend<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cycling Matters Newsletter<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other – state: | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Event<br><input type="checkbox"/> Local Press<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social Network |
|--|---|

I enclose an additional donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to this information being placed on an electronic database for Campaign purposes only.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form & cheque (payable to Chester Cycling Campaign) to:

**Chester Cycling Campaign Membership Secretary**  
**1 King's Crescent West**  
**Chester**  
**CH3 5TQ**

## A summer of Women's Cycle Maintenance Classes

This summer, the Campaign has run monthly introductory cycle maintenance classes specifically for women, which have been a huge success. Each session had spaces for 20 participants and all were fully booked, showing that there is a huge demand amongst women riders to learn about maintaining their bikes.

The 2-hour classes were free of charge and open to non-members as well as members of the Campaign. The classes were run at [Bren Bikes](#), a cycle workshop set up by the Bren Project, a local charity which supports people with learning disabilities to reach their full potential.



Classes were run by the Bren Bikes' volunteers, who are also Campaign members, and overseen by Steve Fidler, Bren Bikes' workshop supervisor and a Cytech qualified mechanic.

Participants brought and worked on their own cycles.

Many thanks to Steve and to Bren Bikes for all their help.



Bren Bikes provides work placements and experience in all aspects of work involved in a cycle workshop. It offers refurbished bicycles for sale at very affordable prices, as well as a professional maintenance and repair service. All work is signed off by a Cytech qualified mechanic.

Bren Bikes contact details:

Workshop Phone: 07975607688

Email: [brenbikes@brenproject.org.uk](mailto:brenbikes@brenproject.org.uk)

Address: Lime Wood Close, Chester, CH2 2HD



# New Venue for Campaign Meetings

Campaign meetings have been held online since lockdown last year, but from our September meeting (Wednesday 1st September) we are moving to both 'face-to-face' and online. We have found a new meeting room which has excellent features:

- Full Zoom conferencing facilities, so that people can join the meeting without being physically present.
- Fully accessible for people with mobility difficulties.
- Cycle parking behind a gate and under cover.
- Located centrally in Chester, close to the bus station and the rail station.

For people arriving by car, Brook Street Car Park (accessed off Hoole Way and St Anne Street) is close by.



Bowling Green Court, Brook Street, Chester

The room is within the **Bowling Green Court** complex, **2, Brook Street, Chester, CH1 3DP.**

Bowling Green Court is at the city centre end of Brook Street.

We ask those coming to the meeting to wear masks as they enter and leave the building, out

of courtesy to the elderly residents of the complex.

If you would like to join us on Zoom:

If you have a Zoom account, use Meeting ID:882 6087 5381, Passcode: 823465

If you don't have a Zoom account, click this link: <https://bit.ly/CCCMeetingSeptember2021>

**NOTE:** This link will also be used for all future Campaign meetings which will be both face to face and online.

Please join us!



## Cycle and Pedestrian Path obstructed by road sign

The cycle and pedestrian shared path near the Tarvin roundabout was widened recently. Shortly afterwards, a contractor placed a road sign and bollards on it, completely obstructing the path. The purpose of the sign was to advertise a temporary road closure further up the night-times only, for 5 nights.

The obstruction was caught on camera by a Campaign member who lives locally.



Such obstruction of cycle and pedestrian routes should never happen, of course! The Campaign sees this as one of many ways in little thought is given to people travelling on foot or by cycle, and the free-flow of vehicles is given higher priority. It is - literally - an obstacle to active travel.

The Campaign member reported it and Councillor Karen Shore quickly responded. The contractors have been told not to do it again! Our view is that they should be trained not to do it in the first place.

If you see such obstacles, please do report them to the Council. A quick and easy way is to use the [Cheshire West and Chester app](#), which has a “Report it” function. Campaign members use it to report problems on roads and paths, and the response from the Council is usually prompt.





# Campaign Response to Proposals for Cycle Lanes on Ring Road

The Campaign was pleased to be asked by Cheshire West and Chester Council to comment on a proposal for creating advisory cycle lanes on the ring road, in both directions, between the new Northgate development and the Grosvenor Roundabout.

The proposal was for the existing 2-lane road to be re-painted in both directions with an advisory cycle lane (ie marked with a dashed white line) 1.5m wide, and a 20mph speed limit, between Hunter Street on St Martin's Way and Chester Magistrates Court on Nicholas Street.



The cycle lanes were proposed as part of the re-instatement of the ring road following the end of the "Clockwise" diversions during the Northgate Development building works.

The Campaign welcome any move to introduce more facilities for cycling in Chester. But facilities have to be of a standard which will make cyclists feel safe and encourage more people to cycle. Over the last year, the Government declared that cycling will play a far bigger part in our transport system and published a "[Cycle Infrastructure Design](#)" guide which encourages properly-protected bike lanes and cycle-safe junctions. Unfortunately, the proposed lanes were not up to that standard. So the dilemma for the Campaign was: do we support poor cycling infrastructure as "better than nothing" or not support it?

We had intense and lengthy discussions which also took up most of the August Campaign meeting. In the end, the decision was that the Campaign could not support the lanes as proposed. We would, however, very much welcome the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, which would improve safety for those few cyclists who use the ring road.

Having considered the views of the Campaign and other bodies, the Council's decision was that the lanes would not be implemented and consideration would be given to a 20mph speed limit.

See the Campaign's response to the Council [here](#).





# Campaign Members Contributed to Highway Code Improvements

Campaign members responded to a Government consultation last year on amending the Highway Code to improve safety for vulnerable road users: pedestrians (particularly children), older adults and disabled people, cyclists and horse riders.

The amendments affecting cyclists are:

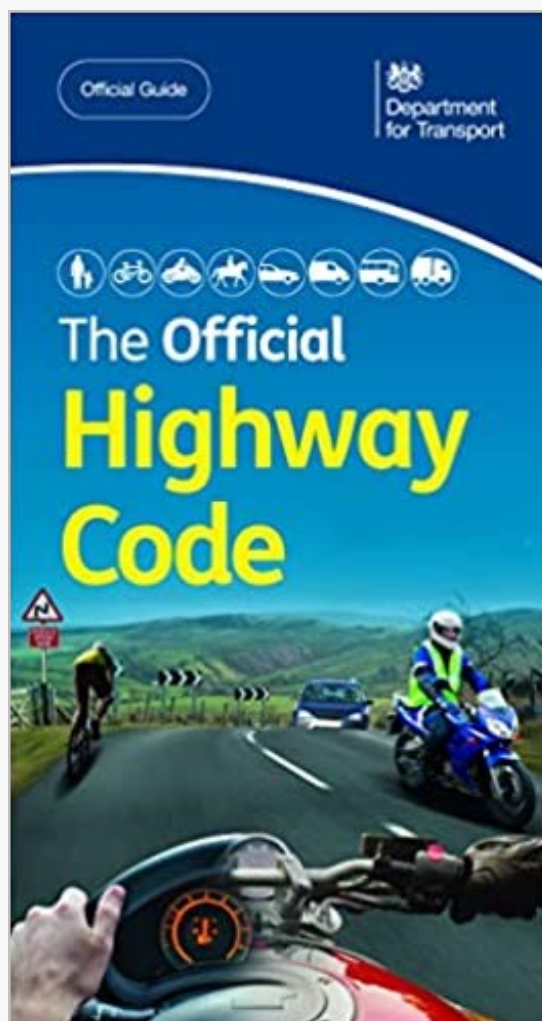
- **Responsibility of road users:** Introducing a “hierarchy of road users” which means that those who drive bigger vehicles have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to other road users.
- **Cyclist and pedestrian priority at junctions without traffic lights:** Drivers and riders should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross the road.
- **Overtaking passing distances and speeds:** Guidance on safe passing distances and speeds when overtaking cyclists or horse riders, and ensuring cyclists and horse riders have priority at junctions when they are travelling straight ahead and a vehicle intends to turn left.
- **Opening vehicle doors:** Introduction of the “Dutch Reach” (when getting out of a vehicle, open the door using your opposite hand so that you naturally turn your shoulders and head, making it easy to look out for passing cyclists).

The consultation ran for 12 weeks (July to October 2020) and received nearly 21,000 responses, of which 16,500 were via Cycling UK (many Campaign members are also members of Cycling UK and the Campaign is [affiliated to Cycling UK](#), which means that Campaign members can get reduced price membership!). There was overwhelming support for all the proposed amendments.

The proposed amendments are not yet confirmed, but are expected to be fully implemented after they go before Parliament in the autumn. Read the response to the consultation [here](#).

The Department for Transport says that since last year, cycling in England has risen by 46% – the greatest increase in post-war history and more in this one single year than over the whole of the previous 20 years! So it is even more important for all road users to share the road.

Cheshire Road Safety Group recently produced an excellent video “We All Share the road”, about everyone having the right to use the roads safely, regardless of how they choose to travel. Watch it [here](#).



# Complete Library of Free Chester Cycle Route Maps

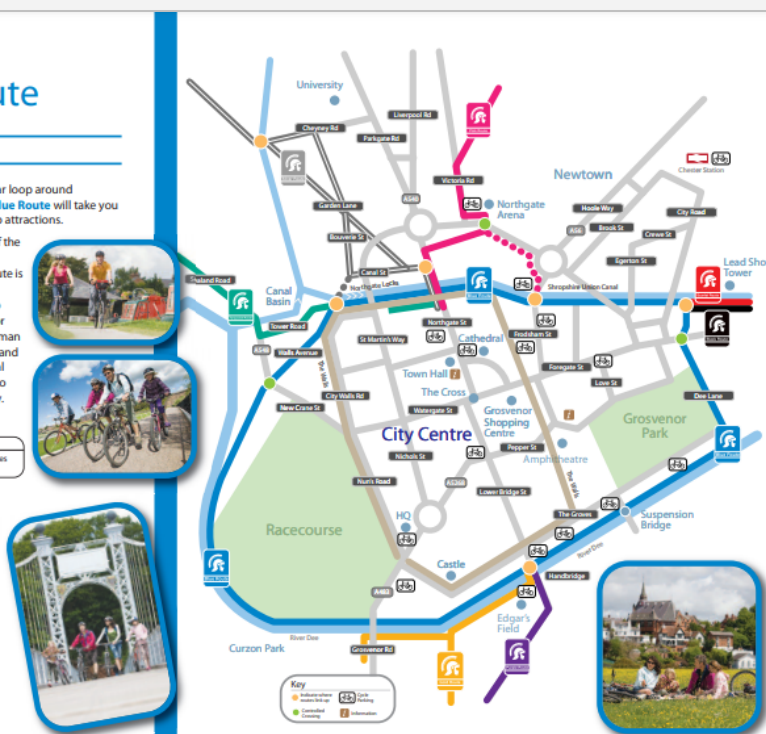
## Blue Route

### City Centre

Providing a 2½ mile circular loop around Chester City Centre, the **Blue Route** will take you past some of the City's top attractions.

Accessible from all areas of the city and other routes; the predominantly off road route is ideal as a leisure ride or a regular commuter route to work. Passing by Grosvenor Park, the River Dee, the Roman Walls, Chester Racecourse and the Shropshire Union Canal there are plenty of places to stop and enjoy the scenery.

**Complete Circuit:**  
Commuter - 15 to 20 minutes  
Leisure - 25 to 30 minutes



### 8 Reasons to Cycle...

1. Save money on fuel, wear & tear and public transport
2. No more expensive gym fees
3. Proven to reduce stress
4. Reduces your carbon footprint
5. Most efficient & reliable form of transport
6. Eases congestion
7. Lose Weight
8. It's fun

**Contact**  
www.cyclechester.com  
info@cyclechester.com  
Tel: 01244 973528



Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of this leaflet, Cheshire West & Chester Council cannot accept responsibility in respect of any error or omission which may have occurred.

One of the most popular pages on Chester Cycling Campaign's website is the Maps page, with lots of people looking for cycle routes in and around Chester, whether for getting around the city for transport, or for leisure.

The Campaign's online library of local cycle maps includes maps produced by the Chester Cycling Campaign, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Sustrans and the old Cheshire County Council.

All of these colourful and attractive maps can be downloaded from the website. Definitely worth a look if you haven't seen them already - follow [this link](#).



## Join the Campaign and Get a Free Bike Safety Check



Do you have a bike which you haven't ridden for a while? Would you like to start using it around Chester? Maybe you're not sure whether it's roadworthy and would like it checked out?

One of the benefits of joining Chester Cycling Campaign is that you can have a free bike safety check, including puncture repairs, brake adjustments, and derailleur gear adjustments. Here's more information:

<https://www.chestercyclecity.org/free-bike-safety-checks/>

Join us, get your free bike check and you'll be all set for cycling! See our website: <http://www.chestercyclecity.org/membership/>

