



**Bike  
week**  
2012

**EVERYDAY CYCLING  
FOR EVERYONE!**

16-24 June 2012  
[www.bikeweek.org.uk](http://www.bikeweek.org.uk)

Can we organise 9 days of Bike Fix?  
***YES WE CAN!***  
(or at least, we'll have a darned good try!)



Under new management!

*Birmingham City Council*  
Under new management!

If you would like to help make the newsletter happen, please contact any of the Newsletter team.

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Newsletter Team:  
Graham Hankins  
David Gaussen

Birmingham Cyclist has a readership of nearly 1000 cyclists. We offer competitive advertising rates. For more information on advertising please contact: secretary@pushbikes.org.uk

## Push Bikes AGM

After a very well-attended Annual General Meeting, the Push Bikes committee for 2012/13 is:

Chair - Chris Lowe

Secretary - Graham Hankins

Treasurer - Sharon Baker

Membership Secretary - Ann Griffiths

Minutes secretaries - Kate Fox, Ann Griffiths

Newsletter Editor - Graham Hankins

Webmaster - David Little.

Rides - Nick Wattison, Simon Harrison

Committee - David Gaussen, Esther Boyd, Howard Boyd,

Michael Groll, Paul Webster, John Bennett.

### *Retiring Chairman John Bennett comments:*

In signing off from the honour of being Push Bikes chairman, I feel that although Push Bikes is healthy it is not fully fighting fit. In sporting terms we may be able to play but not good enough to win. There is more to be done to get our message for better cycling across both to the public and to the decision makers – on the city council and elsewhere. Fortunately we have some new and enthusiastic members joining the committee to tackle these issues.

I am grateful for all the support that I have had as chairman and I hope that Chris Lowe as my successor will have at least as much. He, and the rest of the team, will need the backing of all members if they are to be fully effective in making Birmingham a city that can proudly boast to be 'cycling friendly'. Best of luck!

John

## Changes at Birmingham City Council after May elections:

### **Leader:**

Sir Michael Lyons

### **Cabinet Member for a Green, Safe and Smart City:**

Cllr James McKay.

The title of Cabinet Member for Transport etc seems to have been lapsed.

### **Council Officer for all matters cycling:**

Mike Cooper - Smarter Choices Manager.

Contact Mike by email to [cycling@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:cycling@birmingham.gov.uk)



## Bike North Birmingham - official Launch!

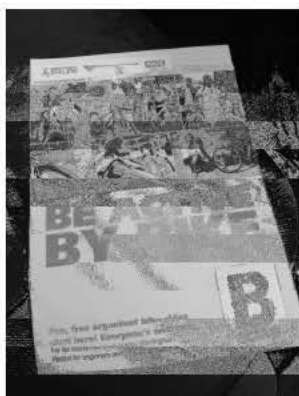


Bike North Birmingham is a major (£4.1M) project to provide cycle routes in and around the Erdington and Sutton Coldfield areas, eventually expanding to Bike South Bham and Bike East Bham. Project Manager Richard Leonard (pictured) stated that it was the intention of BNB to remove the real AND PERCEIVED barriers to cycling by 2015. BNB aims to put in place what has been seen to increase cycling at the Demonstration Towns created by Cycling England a few years ago.

BNB had four sections - Bike Work, targeted at 30 employers and key local centres, Bike Everyone via Active Travel Champions and Ride Leaders, Bike Schools (obvious) and Bike Routes.

Bike North Birmingham provides free, short leisure rides on **four days a week, every week until mid-July**. Tuesdays and Fridays from Wyndley Leisure Centre, Wednesdays from Brookvale Park and Thursdays from Erdington Leisure Centre. Doesn't matter if you haven't got a bike - there are bikes stored at each venue and the Ride Leaders will select and adjust a bike for you to ride.

I was very impressed by the number of delegates - 50 - and the Delegates Pack of leaflets. But for the launch of such a major project covering a wide area of north Birmingham, where was the local Press? Where was the Sutton News? This newsletter has been sent to the Press - perhaps they might respond?



BeActive by Bike is another community cycling programme, this one supported by British Cycling, NHS and the council. BABB operates from six Leisure or Sports centres acting as Cycle Hubs and operates led rides on one Saturday each month from each Hub.

The Hubs are at Handsworth Leisure Centre, Court Road Health and Fitness Centre, Nechells Community Sports Centre, The HUB Bromford Drive, Ackers Adventure and Ward End Park. As with BNB, there are cycles available at each Hub - and if you cannot ride at all, a Ride Leader MAY be available to teach you to at least balance and pedal!

Contact the Hub of your choice for more information.



## Active Travel Champions wanted in Birmingham

*Sustrans is seeking enthusiastic cyclists to train as Active Travel Champions, 'spreading the word' within their community about how enjoyable and worthwhile cycling is. ATCs will help with or organise information tables, talks and events and Sustrans is putting on a short course for Push Bikes members who want to be ACTs. It really IS 'short' - a single training session from 6:30pm to 8pm on the evening of Wednesday June 13th. Still some places.*

Spread the Word – induction - Wednesday June 13th, 6:30 to 8pm, Sustrans, Holloway Head.

Overcoming obstacles and communicating the benefits of active travel. How to: give a talk, run an information stand, create a display. Contact [secretary@pushbikes.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pushbikes.org.uk) URGENTLY if you want to come, or for more information.

### Seeing Red



When a motorist complains that cyclists shoot red lights I react with a mixture of weary amusement and pent-up irritation. Why are all cyclists condemned as though we are a single, law breaking, breed? Do all motorists use mobile phones, break speed limits, park on pavements? There are irresponsible people – some are motorists, some cyclists, some neither. That's a good reason for responsible cyclists to obey the law and counter any bad image.

But why should a motorist be particularly angered by cyclists going through red lights? It hardly ever affects them. It is the cyclist who may put himself (rarely herself) in danger. Does anyone ever ask why a cyclist makes an apparently dangerous manoeuvre? Maybe he sees it as both a chance to speed up his journey and as the least dangerous option.

### Least dangerous option?

Consider a cyclist approaching a known lights controlled junction –with lights just turned to red in his direction. There is a gap in the traffic on the crossing route. Should he stop and wait in the queuing tonnes of revving metal that are ready to accelerate passed him as soon as the lights change? He may make a wobbly start putting him in considerable danger, and using a lot of physical energy to get going. There is also a heightened risk of a collision by being hit whilst hidden from cross turning traffic.

You may not agree but there is a case for taking the least troublesome option –and shooting the light. In some countries this is well recognised and there is a phase in the lights sequence allowing cyclists to move off before other traffic. In the UK there is a case for allowing cyclists to cross at the same time as pedestrians at those crossings where there is currently a pedestrian only phase.

### Back to the irritated motorist!

The angry motorist in criticising the cyclist is not worried about laws being broken, or concern for the cyclist's safety, no, he is simply annoyed that in the heat of the battle to progress along the road, he has to watch his protagonist get a head start. How frustrating! How deflating to his machismo!

John Bennett

**NOTE: Regardless of cyclists' 'reasons' for doing so, cycling through red lights is absolutely illegal and the most frequently quoted 'anti-cyclists' case given by the media. Ed.**



Cyclenation is the Federation of cycle campaigning groups. It represents cyclists' views at Parliamentary level.

Cyclenation is presently seeking a single national campaign objective and is considering a list of, at the moment, six, from which it is asking its affiliated group to select.

The six are, provisionally:

That local councils be mandated to make cycling at pedestrian refuges (Road narrowings) much safer.

The local councils be pressed to permit contra-flow cycling along all One-Way streets.

Strict Liability

'Going Dutch' - although this is being covered by the London Cycling Campaign.

Road maintenance.

Permeability (?)

Push Bikes members are invited to indicate their preference or suggest others.





### Cycle Confidently and more Safely



Cycle training is a proven way of improving your cycling confidence on the road. It's also an effective way for non-cycling adults and children to get cycling easily and quickly. We offer:

- friendly one-to-one tuition for all ages
- training for adult and child complete beginners
- help with starting to cycle on the road
- advanced training for busy roads

Purr-fect Pedalling provides CTC-accredited training to the new National Standard for Cycle Training. Our training is tailored to your needs and takes place in **Solihull, South Birmingham and Leamington Spa/Warwick**. Please email us at [info@purrfectpedalling.co.uk](mailto:info@purrfectpedalling.co.uk) or call **07896 885726** or **01564 779235** for further information or to book a lesson.

[www.purrfectpedalling.co.uk](http://www.purrfectpedalling.co.uk)

  
**Purr-fectPedalling**  
*friendly and helpful cycle training for everyone*

## SCOTTS CYCLES

Official Suppliers of

**Dawes, DiamondBack BMX  
Electric PowaBike, Probike  
Custom builds available**

*Member of Association of Cycle Traders*



wheel building service available

**PICK A NUMBER**

**1 2 3 4**

ANSWER IN SHOP



YOUR LOCAL CYCLE SPECIALISTS FOR SALES,  
REPAIRS & SERVICE OF ALL MAKES OF CYCLES

**1345 STRATFORD RD HALL GREEN**

(OPPOSITE WAITROSE SUPERMARKET)

**0121 777 2532**

**COMPARE OUR PRICES!!**

ALSO AT: 132 NEW RD, RUBERY, 0121 453 3148

Discount 10% on cash, 5% on credit card, (except bikes) on production of  
Push Bikes membership card

Editor's Note: this NL has been produced quickly with reduced pages to get an edition to members before Bike Week; at the time of going to print (Tuesday 29th, because of Bank Holidays and our printer closing for a week) Bike Week arrangements are still being investigated, so details will be in the Stop Press supplement within this newsletter.

An Action Points page will be coming.....

Page counts of future NLs will vary depending on content and timing.

## MEMBERS - CAN YOU HELP?

Urban Cycles in Ward End need volunteers for short (8 week) blocks to help out with their after schools club and weekend schools programme.

What will volunteers be doing? Teaching children from one of Birmingham's most deprived neighbourhoods to ride with safety, confidence and a huge dose of enjoyment. Time commitment: 2 - 4 hours a week for 8 weeks.

Contact Urban Cycles via: 0121 327 6951, Twitter: UrbanCycles, [info@urbancycles.org.uk](mailto:info@urbancycles.org.uk) or visit Urban Cycles, Ward End Park, Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, Birmingham, B8 2HB; Wednesday to Sunday 09.00 to 18.30. For more information on the project see the May 2012 edition of Birmingham Cyclist.



### **Bike Week update:**

At the BNB Launch, contacts were made Tesco, Aston Villa FC and the Head of Sport at the council. Letters of request have been sent to Tesco and AVFC, and the HoS as emailed all the city's Leisure Centres:

#### *Colleagues*

*It is Bike Week 16-24th June and a local campaigning body Push Bikes would like to work with you and your customers to promote cycling opportunities. They are looking at stalls/talks etc. I am not envisaging that it would generate any work for you or your staff, but would rather be an opportunity for a local group to come into contact with your customer base about cycling. Where you are close to or have bike hubs, there would be an obvious link and advantage.*

*I have copied Graham Hankins in to this email, and he is the link person for this initiative. Can you please respond to us both, letting us know if it would be possible for Push Bikes to have some time and space in your site. You will be aware that promoting cycling opportunities are a key part of the city's strategy to promoting healthy lifestyles and sustainable transport, and so any co-operation you can provide is most welcome.*

**Offers of help have now been received from Handsworth Leisure Centre, Wyndley, and Stechford Cascades. So why not do three days at each? See Supplement for the very latest updates on this.**

**Active Travel Champions wanted! Spread the Word – induction - Wednesday June 13th, 6:30 to 8pm, Sustrans, Holloway Head. Still places left!**

**Contact [secretary@pushbikes.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pushbikes.org.uk) if you can help with Bike Week or becoming an ACT.**

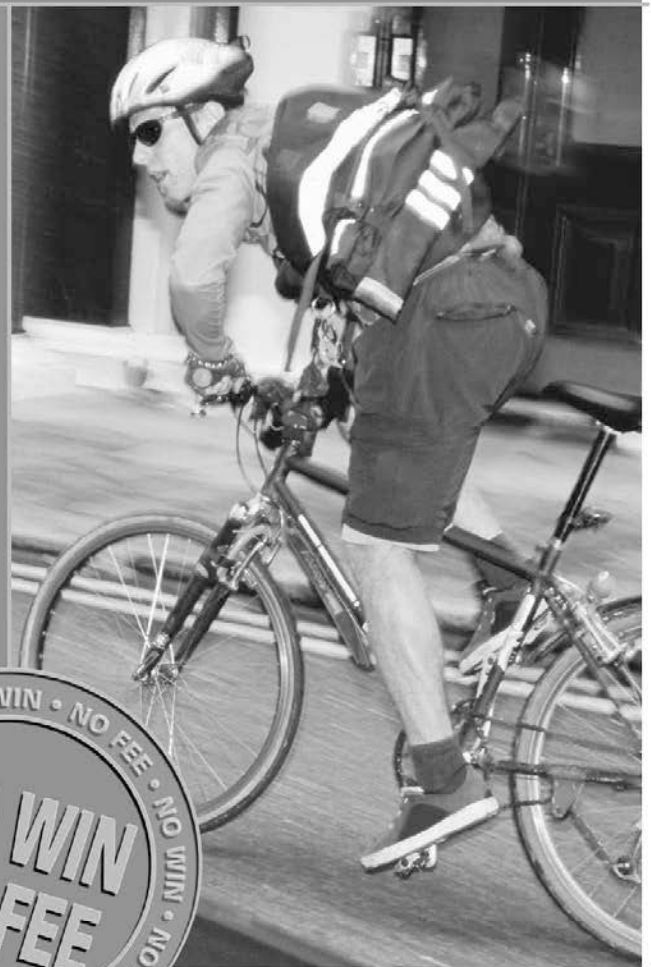
# [www.cycleinjury.co.uk](http://www.cycleinjury.co.uk)

Specialist lawyers to advise and represent  
cyclists with all types of accident claims

## Have you been injured?

Speak to Tim Beasley, Push Bikes member  
and specialist in Cycle Accident Claims

- Specialists in Cycle Injury Claims
- Home and hospital visits arranged
- Receive your compensation in full
- No deductions for lawyers  
or insurance



Call us on  
**0121 212 0000**

Offices in Birmingham and London  
Email: [tbeasley@levenes.co.uk](mailto:tbeasley@levenes.co.uk)

**Levenes**  
SOLICITORS



We are based in the Friends of the Earth building:

'The Warehouse'  
54-57 Allison Street  
Digbeth  
BIRMINGHAM  
B5 5TH

Telephone: 0121 632 6909 and leave a message with FoE Reception.

E-mail: [secretary@pushbikes.org.uk](mailto:secretary@pushbikes.org.uk) As a voluntary organisation, the office is not manned on a regular basis. The most effective means of contacting us is by e-mail.

We hold meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 19:30 ; next meetings 19 June and 17 July.

## Sprocket Cycles

**Child and adult bike sales, accessories, repairs and spares.**

**10% discount for Push Bikes' members**

**Now open 10-4 Mon, Wed - Sat.**

**54 Allison St. Birmingham B5 5TH  
Tel. 0121 633 0730**

## Push Bikes' Rides

### Wednesday Evening Rides:

See web site.

To join the emailing list, please email: [pbrides@pushbikes.org.uk](mailto:pbrides@pushbikes.org.uk)

When a ride isn't listed on a Wednesday, we arrange this closer to the day and put details on the website and email those on the rides mailing list.

All Wednesday rides meet at the Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, near the boating lake, at 7.30, for a 7.45pm start. Occasionally we start from the Hippodrome if we're heading north.

### Sunday Rides:

Check web site

## Membership Application Form

I/we\* wish to join Push Bikes June 2012

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (inc. Post Code) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I/we\* enclose one year's subscription:

Individual, waged (£11) .....

Individual, unwaged (£5-50) .....

Joint/Family (£14-00) .....

Voluntary donation (optional) .....

TOTAL .....£.....

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about Push Bikes from \_\_\_\_\_

I/we\* would like to help by: (✓)

( ) Letter writing ( ) Helping on Push Bikes' stall ( ) Organising activities for Bike Week

( ) Reviewing plans ( ) Writing articles for Newsletter ( ) Setting up a Bicycle User Group

( ) Leading rides ( ) Assisting with Newsletter ( ) Newsletter/leaflets distribution

( ) Newsletter stuffing ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Members' Discounts From:

Bike Shop	Location	Exceptions
Scott's Cycles (see advert p.4)	Hall Green	bikes
Bike Pro	Rubery	bikes
iCycle	King's Heath	none
Red Kite Cycles	Harborne	none
Sprocket Cycles	Shirley	bikes
On Your Bike	City Centre	none
	Digbeth	bikes

**You will need your Push Bikes' membership card to claim the discount**

