

NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN was set up in Summer 1990 as an independent pressure group concerned exclusively with the promotion of cycling in the city. It lobbies official bodies for better facilities, encourages employers to cater for cyclists and organises various bike-related events. We are a member of the national Cycle Campaigns Network.

## NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Newsletter No.8 OCT 1993

### INTRO

Autumn evenings are here, damp and dark, when most bikes like to come in and warm their mudguards by the fire, leaving only the chubby-tyred youngsters wanting to venture out through the puddles and fallen leaves. Time to take stock and plan for the brighter weather next spring. Your Cycle Campaign roadsters may be weary, but we're proud to be celebrating our third birthday this month. One of the original aims of the Campaign was to raise the profile of cycling in the city, and we believe we've helped to do just that. Hardly a day goes by now without cycling issues being in the news. Looking back on those three years, we've had our fair share of media coverage in the press, on radio and several times on TV; we've written countless letters and reports, attended goodness knows how many meetings, finally got the Council Cycling Forum and Cycling Officers. So where now? Winter scheming will be focussed on how we can best be involved in the nitty gritty of implementating schemes now that everyone agrees cycling is a good thing. It means helping planners and others turn their commitment into concrete action which will ensure brighter days ahead for old and young bikes alike.



### MEETINGS

Our last meeting of 1993 will be on 17th November at the Charing Cross Centre, St John Maddermarket, from 7.30 to 9.00 pm. There will be no meeting in December, but we'll continue on the third Wednesday of each month from January, hopefully in a NEW VENUE - at the New Greenhouse, 42-46 Bethel Street (where we're hoping soon also to have a regular bicycle workshop and other activities). Dates for 1994 meetings are 19th January, 16th February, 16th March, 20th April, 18th May and 15th June. If by any chance the Greenhouse isn't ready for the January meeting, we'll revert to the Charing Cross Centre.

• Please come along if you can.

### HALL ROAD RADIAL

Our association with the Norwich Road Action Group has recently centred on the Hall Road Radial. Like the Drayton Path, this is a disused railway line, flat and traffic-free, leading right into the city centre. It could be a busy cycle route, and would be now if it weren't for the difficult access onto it down cuttings and embankments. A well-attended public meeting and a walk have helped to build the pressure to unlock the potential of the route as a cycle route and linear park. Something infinitely better than building a road, which is still on the County Council's list!

### VELO-CITY CONFERENCE

Nigel Howard was our delegate at this prestigious international cycling conference, held last month in Nottingham. Good to see a Norwich City Council member and officer also attending (aware of our city's bad cycling image?). Report in next newsletter.

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bicycle (Ger. Fahrrad, Du. fiets, Fr. vélo). Two-wheeled, pedal-driven vehicle. The most widely used form of transport on earth. Thought to cause addiction, even delirium, amongst regular riders. Its near perfect traditional design now being challenged by a fascinating variety of mutant machines, but with a strong possibility of peaceful co-existence.





# CATI Rides - a Success?

Since Easter, the Come and Try It: Norfolk Countryside Cycling Group, or CATI Group for short, has met fortnightly on Saturday afternoons for relatively short forays into the countryside starting from various points around the city periphery. The Group was started as a response to our own enjoyment of cycling in the Norfolk countryside and wondering why there weren't dozens of other cyclists doing likewise.

Over the months the CATI Group has indeed had some really lovely rides, and we've visited places and seen many things new to us. The rides have been supported by between 6 and 15 people, with 24 being involved overall, with ages ranging from 12 to over 70. Distances have increased from 15 to 22 miles, and our average speed from 8 to 10mph. The Group has tried to encourage novice cyclists and others who felt they couldn't cope with the distances and speeds undertaken by most other cycling clubs.

Success is, we feel, only partial. The idea of varying the starting point was to get participants from different parts of the city. In practice it has turned out that an interested nucleus has made the effort to get to each ride regardless of the starting point. The Group has now produced some committed cyclists, but not nearly as many as was hoped. People, it seems, are so addicted to their cars that the thought of trying a countryside cycle ride never occurs to them. Even city cyclists don't realise what they're missing!

The CATI Group will not meet during the winter - too dark and cold! - but will reconvene after Easter '94.

Phyll & Bob Hardie

## CHARITY DASH FOR CYCLING CHEF



**Kitchen worker Desmond Jeckell has been at the Friendly Hotel in Norwich since the Hotel's opening in 1989, and this summer he'll be making a monumental effort to raise money for charity.**

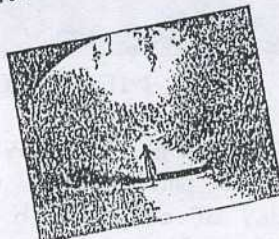
"Having seen the expansion of Friendly Hotels over the past four years, I realised that with Hotels opening in Loughborough and Cardiff later this year, it would be my last opportunity to cycle to each and every one of the UK Friendly Hotels during my holiday" says Desmond. Desmond's journey will commence on the 8th August from Eastbourne. He will be passing through and often staying overnight in Friendly Hotels until 21 days later when he returns to the Friendly Hotel in Norwich. Desmond has £600 sponsorship but still wants to raise more for Burlington House, a home for mentally handicapped adults at South Walsham, Norfolk. For further details, please contact Desmond himself or Janet Mylchreest at the Friendly Hotel. Tel: 0603 741161.

He did it - well done our Des!

### NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Paving the way

The case for immediate completion of the Drayton Path



October 1993

## DRAYTON PATH REPORT

One reason for the slight delay in issuing this newsletter (excuses!) is the amount of special lobbying work we have had to do in advance of the November meeting of the County Council's Highways Sub-committee, which decides on the Cycling Schemes budget for the year ahead. Although there has been a significant increase in projected expenditure on various cycle schemes designed to improve safety, we decided to press for one showpiece facility which would actually encourage more cycling. This is the Drayton Railway Path, otherwise known as the M & GN or Wensum Valley route, which is badly in need of surfacing and improved access from Hellesdon, Costessey, Drayton, Taverham and Thorpe Marriott. It was top of the shopping list in the Sustrans Report (see earlier newsletters), and represents a great opportunity to demonstrate once and for all the 'suppressed demand' we keep going on about. We've met a number of councillors and officers about this, and now produced a report to argue the case for early action.

• If you are a potential user of this route, please mention it to your county councillor as soon as possible.

## The Standard Cyclist-space

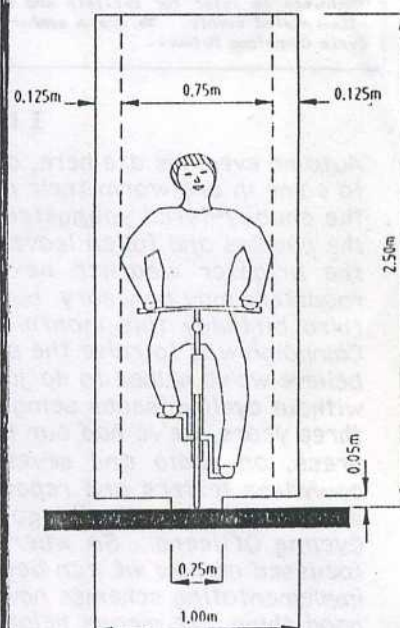


Illustration from Dutch Cycl Design Manual

## MEDIA MEGASTARS

Les Hopkins' natural flair for TV appearances has again got him involved, this time helping to make a feature on cycling in the prime-time 'Help' consumer series on Anglia TV on Wednesdays (repeated Sundays). Les is also a familiar voice on Radio Norfolk whenever anything cycling crops up. Not to be outdone, Matthew managed to get onto Radio 4's 'You and Yours' earlier this month when they recorded a program on Transport in the city.



Each town of Groningen has achieved a level of civilised life that most places in Britain have not even thou

## DEREHAM ROAD ROUNDABOUT

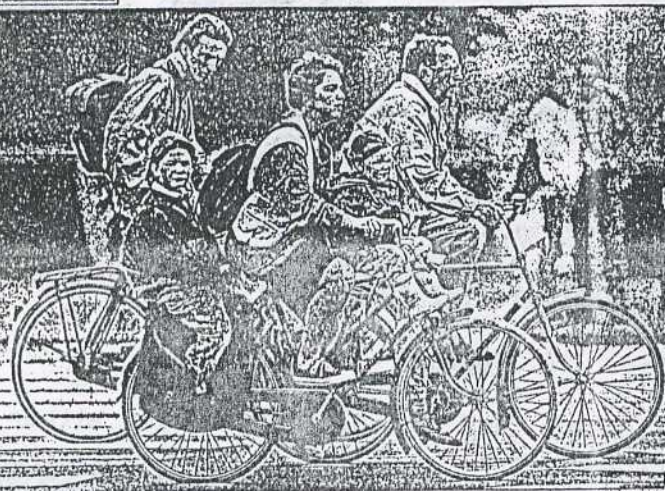
Any cyclist or pedestrian using this roundabout will tell you that the recent alterations have made things considerably harder. We have spoken with the designer of the 'facilities' at County Hall who claims his hands were tied by those who insisted the capacity of the junction should be increased for motor vehicles. There have been a number of letters in the local press about it, and we will be compiling a report in the near future.

• Can we repeat our request for comments from regular users to pass on - particularly if you can think of any practical modifications which would improve things.

## Two-wheel drive sets city on the road to freedom

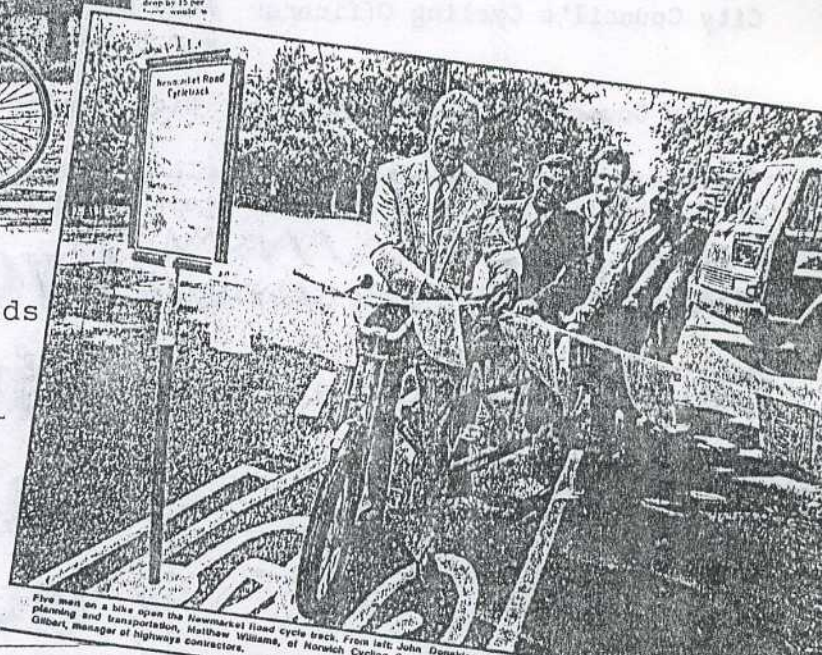


NOTEBOOK



THE VISION: Gronongen, Netherlands

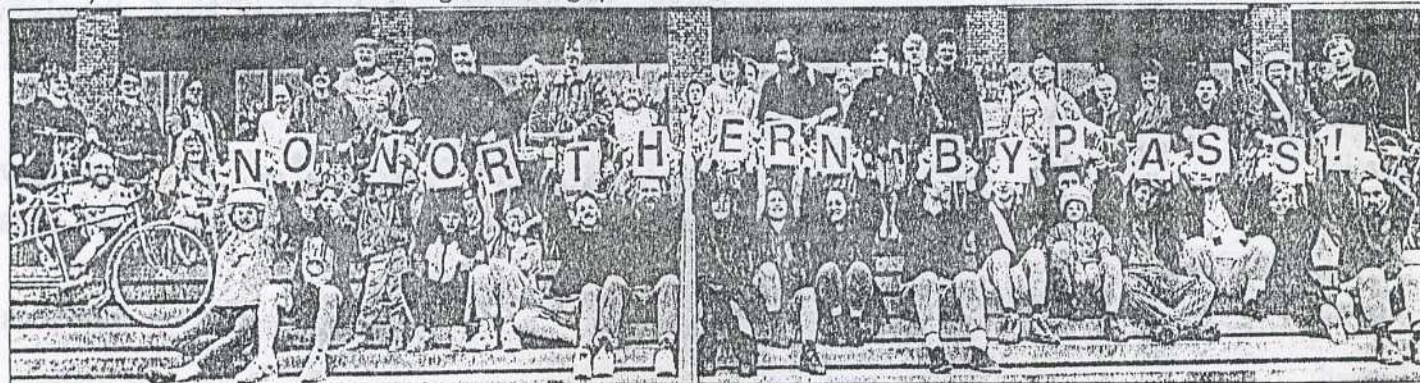
THE REALITY:  
Modest progress,  
Newmarket Road,  
Norwich, U.K.



Five men on a bike open the Newmarket lined cycle track. From left: John Donahoe, chairman of Norfolk County Council, Martin Shaw, director of planning and transportation, Matthew Williams, of Norwich Cycling Campaign, Henry Ashman, director of engineering design services, and Vince Gilbert, manager of highways contractors.

## NORTHERN BYPASS

All who came on the bike ride in June (see last newsletter, and press cutting below) would agree it was a great day. However, recent developments show that the County are still seriously planning this highly destructive road, and have resorted to the usual tactic of a quick public consultation over the Christmas/New Year period. If you can do nothing else this side of Christmas, please write a short note to your county councillor (ring County Hall if in doubt) registering your objection to the 'northern distributor road'.



Fresh from a 25-mile ride on the route of the proposed Norwich northern bypass, members of the Norwich Cycling Campaign make their message clear.

PHOTO: DANIEL KENNEDY

## Cyclists spell out message

A NEW northern bypass for Norwich would be an environmental disaster for Norwich, according to a city cycling group.

About 75 cyclists rode round what they claimed would be the route of the bypass yesterday.

The route took them along part of the Wensum Valley path and Marriott's Way and through Ringland Hills and the Tud Valley.

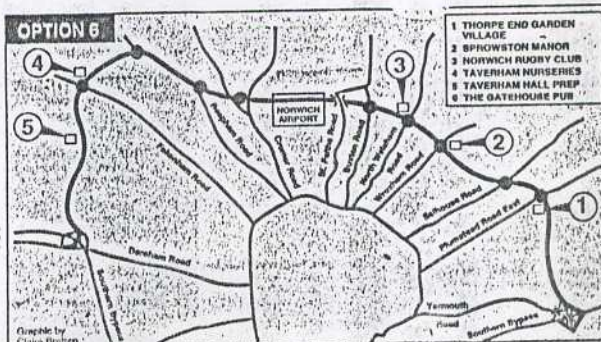
Les Hopkins, joint co-ordinator of the Norwich Cycling Campaign, said the group wanted to persuade Norfolk County Council to abandon plans for the northern bypass.

"A bypass to the north of Norwich would destroy some of the best countryside in Norfolk," he said. "We want to show councillors that there is a considerable amount of oppo-

sition to the plan.

"It would not be just a question of the damage caused by the road itself. The bypass would be partly paid for by private developers in return for planning permission to develop land on the outskirts of Norwich.

"The bypass would also sever traditional cycling routes into the city and put a block on recreational cycling."





## CITY COUNCIL CYCLING FORUM

At long last, it's here, and we also have two Cycling Officers at City Hall, adding up to 60 per cent of a full-time post devoted to cycle facilities. The Forum is chaired by Cllr Julian Swainson, and our Matthew Williams is the Vice-Chair. It has met twice to date, and will in future meet three times a year (next meeting 11th January), and already has a full agenda. The idea is to have a formal means of referring cycling issues to the City Planning Committee and other bodies, but don't for a moment think this is any substitute for direct contact with the Cycling Campaign over any cycling matter. We will either take up an issue on your behalf, or advise the best person to contact.

While we're on the subject, it might be worth noting these key names:

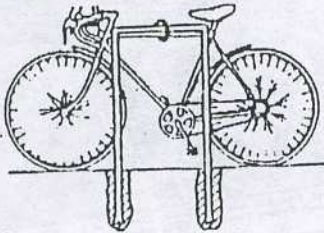
City Council's Cycling Officers: Andy Watt (Policy) (Tel. 212515)  
Tim Mellors (Design) (Tel. 622233 ext. 2538)

County Council's Cycling Officer: Nick Tompkins (Tel. 762696)

There are other contacts for potholes, lighting etc. but we suggest you ring either Les or Matthew in the first instance (tel. numbers below).

### A BIKE RACK FOR YOUR GARDEN!

- Stop your bike being stolen
- Rubberised paint coating to prevent scratching
- Prices from £35 per rack



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41A, St Mary's Works, Oak Street, Norwich, NR3 3AF Tel Norwich 630917

### MEMBERSHIP

I enclose: (Annual Membership)

Individual (waged) £9 ☐

Individual (unwaged) £4 ☐

Family £15 ☐

Donation £..... ☐

TOTAL ENCLOSED £.....

Cheques/POs to Norwich Cycling Campaign

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Norwich Cycling Campaign  
36 Stacy Road, Norwich NR3 1JN

## Cyclists in drive to make city 'civilised'

CYCLING campaigners' dreams of a "civilised city" where bicycles dominate the roads have moved a step closer to reality in Norwich. The first meeting of the Norwich Cycling Forum, set up to help city planners develop two-wheeled transport, was staged this week.

by Allison Stevens

Chairman Julian Swainson said the forum also aimed to encourage more people to take up cycling, especially as a way of commuting in and out of the city.

He said the benefits would include:

- a big reduction in car-based pollution;
- a positive effect on people's health;
- turning the city centre into a cleaner and more pleasant place.

Mr Swainson said the forum supported the idea of turning Norwich into a civilised city, an idea which was put forward at a national cycling conference he attended at Nottingham last week.

"This is where the car does not dominate to the exclusion of everything else," he said.

But the forum recognises that to get more cyclists on the roads, safer routes into the city have to be established.

"The aim of the forum is to have a complete, safe route network. Only then will we see a shift from car commuters to cyclists," he said.

The forum will also be calling for city employers to provide safe parking for bikes, and changing rooms for staff.

There are plans to approach the city council's car parking manager to develop safe bike parks in the city centre.



Julian Swainson — aiming to have a complete, safe cycle route network.

And the forum would also press for long-distance cycle paths, like the one along the old M & GN railway line, to be improved to encourage more leisure use and commuting.

The forum is purely an advisory body, made up of cycling pressure groups and anyone with an interest in cycling.



Postal address: c/o 36 Stacy Road, Norwich,  
Norfolk NR3 1JN

Co-ordinators: Les Hopkins Tel 762722  
Matthew Williams Tel 503824

Treasurer Nigel Howard Tel 502188

Membership Sec. Hans Hoffbauer Tel 664206

### STOP PRESS

Nigel Howard's CYCLE RECYCLE scheme which recovers surplus cycle parts for the refurbishment of old bikes has now contributed over £30.00 to Norwich Cycling Campaign funds. Our full accounts will appear in next issue.