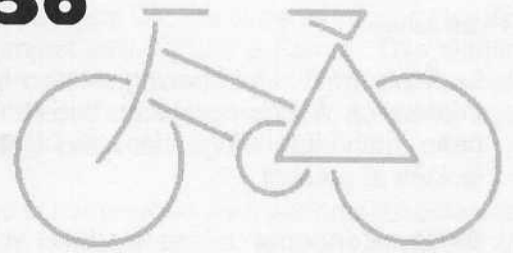


# NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

## Newsletter Number 56

March - May 2005

£1.00 where sold - free to members



This newsletter is published by NORWICH CYCLING CAMPAIGN, which was formed in 1990 to promote cycling in Norwich and to lobby for better cycle facilities. Norwich Cycling Campaign is affiliated to the National Cycle Campaign Network.

### Bicycle Outreach reaches its 1000<sup>th</sup> customer

Age Concern Norwich's Bicycle Outreach service, which started in August 2004 (after a pilot scheme in 2003), helped its 1000<sup>th</sup> customer at the end of January. The scheme, which is presently funded by Norwich PCT has been very popular as it goes out into the community & is very approachable.

Kate Platt, Advice & Information Manager said, "We are very pleased the outreach service has reached so many older people & their carers in such a short time. Our Information worker, Richard Symon, takes the bicycle & trailer of information to many different

locations on 2 ½ days a week. These include being outside local supermarkets, in Anglia Square, the Community Hospital, at Housing Offices & to Sheltered Housing schemes & luncheon clubs.

The aim is to get information out to people who do not come into the city centre & we have found many people who have not done so for over 10 or 15 years. We not only carry information about our services but about other voluntary & statutory organisations as well, such as Carlink, HAND & social services".

If you want the bicycle & trailer to come to a venue near you, in Norwich, contact Kate Platt or Richard Symon on 01603 496333.

### CYCLE PARKING - THE PERFECT ANSWER?

Mike Savage

With theft and vandalism on the increase and the cost of a decent bicycle up in the hundreds, it's hardly surprising that many serious cyclists will not leave their bikes anywhere in the city. The ideal cycle storage would be a locker, but banks of lockers would hardly enhance the city scape!

The perfect solution must be this "Biciberg" photographed in a Spanish city. Bici is the Spanish word for bicycle. Berg as in iceberg, most of which is out of sight. Here a locker is provided big enough for a bike and some luggage. Simply press a few buttons, put in a coin or two, put your bike in the box

which then disappears underground out of sight and out of mind! When bicycles eventually replace cars as the main form of urban transport, perhaps we shall see these machines lowering bicycles into the big empty spaces in former underground car parks.



"Bici is the Spanish word for bicycle. Berg as in iceberg, most of which is out of sight"



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# Campaign News

## County Hall B.A.G

Jeff Jordan

**Lockers** are due for opening shortly - hopefully more information will be posted on this shortly. NCS has been gathering information about who uses the lockers at present.

**Safety Concerns** raised by BAG members have been passed to Antony Jackson of Mott MacDonalds (P+T partners). He is working on a feasibility study looking at changes to the County Hall driveway and mini-roundabout, with a view to making the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists. He has taken our comments on board and plans to incorporate these into his report.

**The underground storage area** is looking much better with an attractive paint job, better lighting and more Sheffield stands being installed today. This is something that we have actively been campaigning for.

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## Pool bikes for County Council Staff

Norfolk County Council has invested in ten bicycles for staff to use for work related travel; four of which are electric assist models.

The Pool Bike scheme was launched at the end of January. The aim of the scheme is to encourage staff to reduce business mileage in cars, thereby reducing car-leasing costs as well as congestion and exhaust emissions.

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## No sheltered bicycle stands for rail station just yet

NCC member, Mr D Davies wrote to 'one', the local train operating company, regarding the lack of sheltered cycle stands, for at the moment he uses the cycle stands in the Marks & Spencer car park. The reply that he received was disappointing.

*"I am sorry that we haven't been able to offer sheltered cycle lockers at Norwich station. All of the stations now operated by 'one' Railway are going to be updated, so this will be something that will be considered. Unfortunately, I am unable to tell you when this will happen, as I am sure you can appreciate, there are many stations that need attending to. As Norwich is also much more up to date than others, this station is not a priority."*

## County Council reject Park & Bike idea

Katy

The University of East Anglia (UEA) recently made a request to the County Council for space to be given over to cyclists at the new Park and Ride site at Thickthorn. This would allow A47 and A11 commuters to park (preferably for free but at least at a reduced parking-only rate, as at Costessey) and then take advantage of the cycle routes being put in to the new development, or Colney Lane itself, to reach the Hospital, Research Park and UEA. The existence of cycle paths/ lanes on Newmarket Road also makes it reasonably feasible to park and cycle to the city. Ideally the facility would include secure lockers for overnight storage.

The County Council have unfortunately rejected the idea, with the crux being that the P+R site has to make money. At present, as far as I know, there is not even any room for a P+R service to the Research Park area, and only city services are planned. No parking-only ticket machines will be installed. Even an offer of providing funding for the cycle lockers was rejected.

Even disregarding the lack of support for Park and Cycle, the refusal of a P+R scheme to three of the biggest traffic generators in the area is disgraceful. But with a little imagination the County Council could so easily have put their support behind an innovative and useful scheme to help those who wish to go some way towards reducing their car use, but don't feel able to go over to 100% cycling. As UEA BUG co-ordinator I have spoken to people living in places like Attleborough and Loddon who would use such a facility.

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## New editor for newsletter

The new editor for the newsletter is Sean Austin from Milton Keynes. His address is:  
11 Serpentine Court, Bletchley, Milton Keynes,  
MK2 3QP

Email: some1orother@btinternet.com  
Telephone: 01908 366381

Since Sean does not live locally, please submit any printed material, (or files on discs), to Jeff Jordan, who will then forward it.

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## New work for the chain gang

Inmates of Norwich Prison are now repairing abandoned bicycles that have been collected by Broadland District Council. The refurbished bikes will be passed on to new users in this country and overseas.

# National News from the Cycle Campaign Network

## Road Safety Bill

The Road Safety Bill, currently going through Parliament includes some measures that most people will welcome. It will make it easier for the police to detect uninsured drivers, by linking automatic number plate readers to the insurance industry database. It will be possible for the police to conduct roadside breath tests for drink-driving, although the drinking limit will not be altered. Using a hand-held mobile phone whilst driving will become an endorsable offence. It will become an offence to detect or interfere with vehicle speed detectors.

There are concerns that some measures in the Bill could lead to a greater risk of injury to vulnerable road users because the penalties for "marginal" speeding offences are to become more lenient.

Eric Martlew MP intends to propose an amendment to make it mandatory for cyclists to wear a helmet. However it is possible that the government will resist this amendment in order not to delay the Bill.

The Bill is seen as a "tidying up" measure and it will do little to improve safety for vulnerable road users.

## Cycle use down in 2004

Cycle use fell by 14% in the second quarter of 2004 and a further 21% in the third quarter, compared with the same periods from 2003, according to a DFT report. These are amongst the greatest changes in recorded cycle use.

In the past, it has been claimed that DFT transport surveys under-estimated cycle use. However, the data has proved to be consistent over time, even if it has been incomplete. It is for this reason that the surveys are considered to be a reasonable barometer of changes in cycling activity.

## Pictures wanted

The Cycle Campaign Network is creating a library of cycling images that can be downloaded from its website. The pictures should be sent in high resolution jpg or tiff format and finest compression. Please mention any copyright issues when submitting the pictures. Send your images to: [webmaster@cyclenetwork.org](mailto:webmaster@cyclenetwork.org).

## B&Q appoints Travel Plan coordinators

DIY Store B&Q has appointed Travel Plan Coordinators in each of its stores, with a National Travel Plan Coordinator, John Miller at its headquarters in Chandlers Ford. Local cycle groups are being encouraged to contact the coordinators at their local branch if cycle parking is not adequate.

## Take a Stand

Since 1996 Life Cycle UK, the cycle promotion charity, has run a project called *Take a Stand*. This simple initiative provides community groups, small businesses, shops, churches, schools, surgeries and others with free cycle parking stands.

In Bristol, the scheme works as a partnership between Life Cycle UK and Bristol City Council. Hundreds of stands have been installed and in a follow up study, 86% of recipients reported a fall in bicycle theft. Another 46% said that cycle use had increased.

Now Life Cycle has gathered its experiences into a comprehensive guide that is available to help others. It explains, in detail, how to set up, fund, administer, and monitor a community cycle parking project as a voluntary sector/ local authority partnership.

The guide costs £10 and can be obtained from:  
Life Cycle UK, [www.lifecycle.org.uk](http://www.lifecycle.org.uk)  
86 Colston Street 0117 929 0440.  
Bristol  
BS1 5BB

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