

Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum

(Registered Charity Number 1172691)

www.maidstonecycling.uk



Newsletter September 2018

Who we are...

We are Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum, a charity (Registered Charity Number 1172691) representing the cycling community in Maidstone. Our aim is to improve the cycling conditions in Maidstone and encourage people to take up cycling as part of a healthy lifestyle, and also as a practical and environmentally friendly alternative to cars for short journeys to shops, schools, etc....

Maidstone CycleFest Jubilee Square - Saturday 29th September 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Following the success of the 2016 and 2017 Maidstone CycleFests the Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum is holding its third Maidstone CycleFest on Saturday 29th September 2018 between 10am and 4pm at Jubilee Square, Maidstone. This year we are holding the event in association with our CycleFest18 partner & sponsor Kent County Council, who have given us a community grant which includes help towards the cost of this event. The focus of the event is to encourage cycling to promote the health benefits, make people aware of existing cycle routes as well as proposed new ones, encourage best practice when cycling and show that cycling is for everyone, is enjoyable and is carbon neutral transport. Come along and enjoy the day and see why 'getting on your bike' can be fun, healthy and a fantastic way to get out and about!

Consultations

WSP Park and Ride Alternative Survey

Have your say! How do you travel to Maidstone town centre?

Maidstone Borough Council is running a 5 week consultation from the 17th September to the 21st October to help plan how they could offer alternative modes of transport that best suit the ever-changing needs of our communities.

As part of the Integrated Transport Strategy MBC want to offer and promote better, greener and more convenient ways to travel within the borough.

Whether you use public transport, Park and Ride, car share, walk or cycle MBC would like to hear from you.

<http://maidstone-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Mote Park towards Town Centre Consultation

Have your say! Kent County Council are consulting on proposals to link up and improve the existing cycle route from the Mote Park entrance at Mote Avenue to the junction of the A249 and King Street. The closing date is 7th October.

<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/MaidstoneCycleway/consultationHome>

This is phase 1 of the scheme. Phase 2 and 3, which do not have funding yet, will bring it to Maidstone East station. An extensive joint project has begun this week at Maidstone East station to improve pedestrian and cycle access.

Queens Avenue Traffic Regulation Order Consultation

MCCF responded to the original consultation, as below, however despite this the Queens Avenue "No Entry" order is being confirmed without an exemption for cyclists.

https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/OneWay_QueensAvenue/consultationHome

The following was the official response of the Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum (MCCF) to the one-way traffic order on Queens Avenue.

The key points of our response were:

- MCCF strongly opposes this scheme in its current form
- MCCF would strongly support this scheme if cycles were exempted from the proposed restriction

The MCCF strongly supports the concept of reducing through traffic heading northbound on Queens Avenue. The reduction in through traffic supports the aims of the cycle forum. We would however support further steps to improve the environment for cycling and walking, such as a lower speed limit, and measures to reduce through traffic in a southbound direction.

However, the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) clearly states that the one-way restriction will apply for bicycles too. Therefore, MCCF strongly objects to the TRO in its current form. There is absolutely no reason why the one-way restriction should apply to bicycles. Because of this, MCCF strongly opposes the one-way restriction in its current form. For people traveling from Queens Road to Vicary Way, this represents an extra 0.3 miles, 2 minutes, an extra 6 metres of elevation gain, and having to cycle on an incredibly hostile main road. This is completely unacceptable.

Kent County Council Consultations A20 Harrietsham Highway Improvements Scheme

The consultation closed 18 March and MCCF responded to Kent County Council (KCC) proposals for highway improvements on the A20, Harrietsham to create a more pedestrian friendly environment and improve links between the new housing development sites, the existing housing and village centre.

Refurbished Bike Sale – Ashford

Saturday 20th October and 1st December - 10.00-13.00

BUY a BIKE - Pick up an affordable refurbished bike at the RecCycle next bike sale event at Goldwyn School, Ashford (TN23 3BT). Bikes are fully serviced, clean and available in a variety of sizes.

DONATE a BIKE - Bike too small or sitting unloved gathering dust? Donate it to us and ReCycle will find it a good home. If you need a replacement, they will offer you a discount on a more suitable refurbished bike.

For more information email info@CycleCircle.co.uk or go their website www.CycleCircle.co.uk

SUSTRANS Audit

SUSTRANS have been commissioned by Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to assess the current provision for walking and cycling in the town centre and along main Walking/Cycling corridors – Sutton Road and Hermitage Lane. The scope also included proposals for linking the corridors i.e. High Street - Maidstone West, East and Barracks – Medway Towpath. The report went to the Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee on Tuesday 12th June - Agenda Item 17.

Maidstone Bridges (Gyratory)

MCCF have made proposals to MBC for improvements to cycling provision on the Gyratory. We are currently trying to persuade Maidstone Borough Council to resolve the flooding and safety issues with the Medway Street underpass which they have acknowledged they have funding for.

River Medway Towpath

The River Medway Towpath runs between Aylesford and Barming (total length: 10.5km). Unfortunately, some sections of the River Medway Towpath need urgent improvements and Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum have been working hard to alert the local authorities about our concerns with some sections.

Thank you for your interest. If not already and would like to become a member of MCCF please see our website. Your active support is really needed and would be very valuable to us. Please visit our website for more information on all the above and other topics or email info@maidstonecycling.uk