



Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum

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Maidstone Cyclists positive about the benefit of new pandemic cycle measures.

Measures to encourage residents safely get on their bikes are being welcomed by Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum.

The Government has given Kent County Council £8m to spend on quick to deliver new cycle and walking schemes across the County.

In Maidstone Town Centre, two schemes are proposed, a pedestrianisation of Earl Street between Pudding Lane and Week Street and to implement two pop up cycle lanes along each side of King Street. The King Street scheme will link a cycle route from the town centre to Maidstone East Station and the Medway Towpath in one direction and Mote Park and routes to Downswood and Bearsted in the other direction. Both schemes are due to be operational from mid-September 2020.

Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum is supportive of both schemes and is willing to work with both Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to ensure that the schemes are of the highest order and are exemplars of best practice and show the way forward in promoting cycling and walking.

We have also been informed by sources in both Kent County Council and Maidstone Borough Council, that as part of phase 2 there is a plan to install a cycle path along the A20 from Lenham to Maidstone (Willington Street) which via Mote Park will link to the new King Street Cycle Lanes.

Paul Harper, Chair of Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum said “we welcome these proposals, we expect Kent County Council will design and deliver them to the best exemplar standards of best practice. However next week our schools go back, and typically 60/70% of secondary school pupils travel by bus, however the indications are that only 5/10% will go by bus and around 90% will be driven increasing car journeys across Maidstone Borough by up to 20/30,000 car journeys twice a day. Urgent attention is needed to provide support for pupils to walk and cycle to school and college. In the longer term Maidstone Borough needs a comprehensive investment in walking routes and also a cycling infrastructure where people can cycle on dedicated cycle paths around and cross town.”

Duncan Edwards, Vice Chair of Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum said “the early part of lockdown in April 2020 showed the desire and willingness of people of all generations and backgrounds to get on their bicycles, it demonstrated that when you can cycle away from busy and congested roads, people will cycle. There was an acknowledged 300% increase in cycling across Maidstone and Kent. Now the traffic is back the bikes are going back into storage. We need to get a decent infrastructure as in other towns in the UK and also Denmark and the Netherlands, to get people on their bikes for the long term.”

Paul Harper said “during lockdown when people took to their bikes and walking leather air quality across our town was the best it’s been for decades, you could feel the freshness, we need to get that back and reduce our dependency on the car again.

Duncan Edwards said “As part of our plan we call on Kent County Council to repair the Medway Towpath/ Cycle Route at Aylesford, which has been closed since the February 2020 River Medway Floods., also we are

continuing to campaign to improve the heavily polluted Medway bridges Gyrary and to enable safe cycling and we and sustrans have submitted plans to KCC for urgent funding.

Members of Maidstone Cycle Campaign Forum at their February 2020 meeting



Maidstone Cyclefest



Note for editors

- Maidstone cycle campaign forum

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.

<https://maidstonecycling.uk/>

- First lot of finding one finding of a government scheme across Kent (King Street / Earl street in Maidstone)

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-projects/in-progress-road-projects/active-travel-fund-projects#tab-9>

- A20 scheme maidstone local plan (walking and cycling schemes) page 41

http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/131849/Walking-and-Cycling-Strategy-2011-31-September-2016.pdf

- Initiative to find cyclist a safe way through Maidstone dangerous gyratory.

<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/6a4450b4-b72f-492f-bffa-4e1989f9c856/downloads/MCCF%20Proposal%20for%20a%20Cycle%20Gyratory%20in%20Central%20.pdf?ver=1597486261939>