

Bricycles News - 1st May 2023

[Show this email in your browser](#)

Dear Bricycles Member,

Spring has sprung! Well, some days the sun has shone. As the days get longer, what better time to get back to cycling if you've taken a break. Perhaps there's one more car journey you could switch to cycling. If you'd like to give an e-bike a go why not head down to the seafront to try out the new Beryl hire bikes. Even better, join Bricycles on Saturday for our first [ride of the year](#).

When: Saturday 29th April, 2pm

Where: meet at the Peace Statue

What: a fun ride for all ages and abilities lasting 60-90 minutes, fully marshalled so everyone can enjoy cycling safely through

Who: everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a Bricycles member

Cost: FREE!!

We look forward to seeing lots of you there. In the meantime, enjoy our roundup of all this month's news.



[Click here to email Bricycles](#)

Call to action

Two Successes and One Action

1. Thanks to everyone who took the easy step of responding to the Council's consultation about improving the paths in Happy Valley, Woodingdean. It was highlighted in our December 2022 newsletter. We're delighted that it's got the go-ahead, so cycling from Warren Way to the coast should get just that little bit easier and safer.

2. Likewise, our January Call to Action bulletin asked you to support the changes planned for Trafalgar Street because they'd make junctions and roads safer for cyclists. The Council got 32 supportive comments in total and just three objections to the two Traffic Regulation Orders. It'd be nice to think Bricycles members were the ones who have helped the TROs become law.

3. Action needed now.

Please give your feedback on the Council's draft Active for Life strategy.

Last year there was a public consultation about the strategy and so many of the 884 people who responded said the city should be made safer for cycling that it is likely to be one of the key issues.

But we need to make sure it stays a key issue. You can help.

Please give your feedback on the draft strategy, telling them whenever and wherever possible that cycling is an excellent way to stay fit and healthy, so making the city safer for people to ride bikes must be central to the Active for Life strategy.

Do it now! (deadline 30th April)

Hustings put politicians on the spot



With elections in Brighton and Hove fast approaching, the hustings event organised by Bricycles, Sustrans (England South), Brighton & Hove Friends Of The Earth, Cycling UK Brighton and Hove, Living Streets and Brighton Active Travel on Wednesday 5 April provided a great opportunity for the public to ask political party candidates about a range of issues related to transport and travel.

Over 50 people came along to the Brighthelm Centre on Wednesday evening, and more participated online.

The event was chaired by Abigail Dombey, Energy & Sustainability Engineer, and the panel consisted of candidates Paul Chandler (Liberal Democrat), Birgit Miller (Labour), Hannah Allbrooke (Green) and Tim Hodges (Conservative)

In response to the first set of initial questions there was broad agreement around the need to reduce congestion, speeding and pollution. Encouraging and enabling people to take up active travel and to use public transport more was recognised as an important issue in order to improve our health and the local environment.

There was also general agreement around the need to take a consensual approach to encourage and enable people to travel without their cars in favour of active transport or via the bus network.

In response to questions about support for young people, the role of free travel for public transport was highlighted by all. Hannah Allbrooke (Green) also added the importance of safe bike lanes - that residents should not need a Bike Train at all. Birgit Miller (Labour) also

highlighted the need to give parents and young people better options for active transport and public transport and leaving the car behind. Paul Chandler (Liberal Democrat) and Tim Hodges (Conservative) expressed support for affordable cycle schemes.

There was recognition that the city could not cater for the volume of cars on the road and the need to improve the city for residents and visitors. There was a difference of opinion on Park and Ride schemes with Labour, Liberal Democrats and Conservative candidates in favour, whilst Greens against the idea of parking schemes in green areas outside the city.

Accessibility for all was a key theme during the event. The state of pavements, weeds and the problem of parking on pavements were all highlighted.

We'd love to hear your feedback if you attended the hustings. [Click here](#) to complete a short survey.

E-bikes come to Brighton

If you've been down to the seafront recently, you will have seen a small number of the new BerylBTNBikes. You may have even been able to try them out. If not, we've created a short guide for you. The first thing to mention is that it's a trial launch so far. Only e-bikes are available and the docking stations are all located along the seafront and around Brighton and Hove stations.



More docking stations will be activated across the whole central area from Portslade to Whitehawk and along the Lewes Rd corridor by the early summer, and across the entire city by 30 Sept 2023. Additional bikes will also be added throughout the summer including standard bikes, which will make up 40% of the fleet and will be cheaper than the current e-bike option.

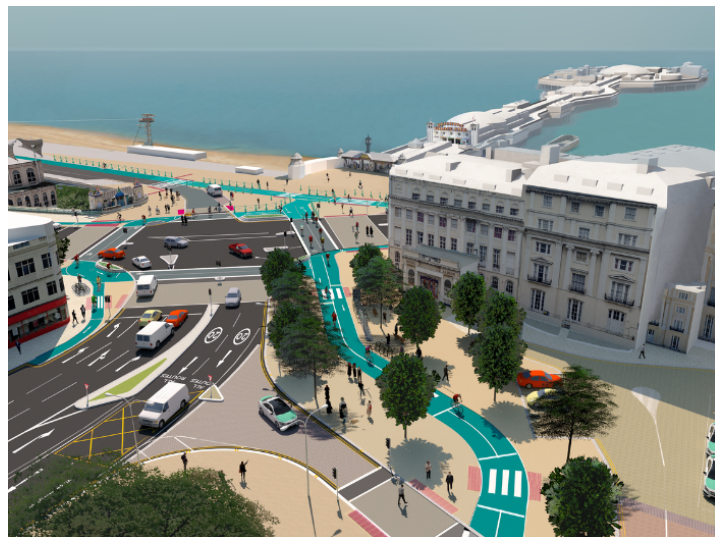
Bear in mind that you can ride the bikes outside of the current area without being charged any penalty as long as you return the bike to one of the stations within the zone at the end of your ride.

From our trial ride:

- The seat height was easy to adjust. You can do this before you unlock the bike and start the timer on the charges.
- The unlocking process was simple. The tap-and-go system isn't active yet but entering the 6-digit code for the bike unlocked it straight away.
- The electric assist was excellent. From a standstill you could really feel the assist helping you off the mark. On a reasonably steep hill you could cruise up in the lowest gear with very little effort.
- The three gears are easy to change and felt right for city use
- The brakes were excellent and included a very neat built-in bell
- The front and rear racks were not tested, but look sturdy and include securing straps and integral lights

- At the end of the ride the lock was easy to engage BUT this didn't end the ride - this can happen in areas with poor mobile signal so you may need to contact the helpline via the app to end the ride. Make a mental note of the actual ride time and as long as the lock is engaged, you can move to an area with better signal to contact the support. They will end the ride and refund any minutes between locking the bike and then ending the ride
- Overall the bike was very impressive - capable, comfortable and with the ideal level of assist to tackle the city's terrain. The issues with the lock should hopefully be limited to very small areas (we were in the well-known dead-spot by the Peace Statue). We look forward to more bikes and docking stations appearing over the summer. If you've tried the bikes and have any comments to add or additional feedback, please [let us know](#)

Funding frustrations



It's so frustrating! Four weeks ago Active Travel England told the Council how much dosh it will get to boost cycling and walking in the city, but then it slapped an embargo on the information before it could be made public.

One council in East Anglia published news about its own award just before the embargo landed but BHCC wasn't so fast and now we've got to wait until after the local elections to find out if there's enough money for several important projects, including:

- A259 west (Wharf Road to western border) – construction funding
- NCN20 (A23) southern section (Marlborough Place to A259) – construction funding
- A23 south (between Valley Gardens and Stanford Avenue / Beaconsfield Road gyratory) – feasibility / development funding
- Lewes Road south (between Valley Gardens and the Vogue gyratory) – feasibility / development funding

As Bricycles is a member of the council's Active & Inclusive Travel Forum, we've been told we'll be informed as soon as the embargo is lifted. Fingers crossed for a big lump sum.

Bricycles 3 Pledges

Ahead of Brighton & Hove City Council elections on **Thursday 4 May**, Bricycles invited the Conservatives, Greens, Labour and Liberal Democrats as well as the Brighton & Hove Independents to commit to our 3 Pledges:

1. To build well-designed, protected cycles lanes
2. Create safer junction crossings for people using bicycles
3. Create neighbourhoods that prioritise walking and cycling



You can read them in full [here](#).

The Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Brighton & Hove Independents didn't respond. Greens committed to our 3 Pledges in full. Labour provided a response which it said 'mostly aligns with but is not a full commitment' to the 3 Pledges.

New money announced



Bricycles has asked to meet Council officers to discuss how cycling between West Street and Old Shoreham Road will be made safer. Our team is co-ordinating local cycling groups so our joint experience and expertise can contribute to improving this messy route.

Known officially as the A2010, the Department for Transport's Safer Roads team has awarded £600,000 to [improve safety](#) here for all road users. The Council is adding £60,000 and another

£90,000 is coming from developer funding.

It includes Queens Road, Surrey Street, Terminus Road, Buckingham Place, Bath Street to the Seven Dials roundabout and Dyke Road to the Old Shoreham Road junction. This includes a key route between Brighton Station, Churchill Square shopping centre and the seafront.

A large part of the funding will be used to improve the junction of Queen's Road and North Road to address the safety issues for pedestrians waiting to cross. This could include redesigning the junction, installing better traffic signals and pavement widening to make it safer to cross. The fund could also consider introducing speed reduction measures at Terminus Road with other signing and lining improvements along the A2010. If plans are approved by the Environment, Transport and Sustainability committee it is hoped work would be able to start early next year.

Central government funding cut

Whilst we are making some progress locally with the projects highlighted in our newsletter, the picture nationally is looking less rosy. On 9 March the Transport Secretary announced a significant cut to Active Travel funding in England, reducing it from £308 million to £100 million. This is a frustrating backwards step when we all know the benefits of cycling infrastructure to our health and wellbeing, local environment and in tackling climate change.



The cut to funding leaves the rest of England lagging far behind the other nations of the UK and London. Anyone who has visited London recently will have seen the enormous strides made in their network of cycle lanes, making cycling accessible to huge numbers of people. There is no reason we couldn't have the same in Brighton & Hove but funding will always be key to making these changes.

[Cycling UK](#) has a handy tool which generates an email you can send to your local MP to protest these cuts.

Cycle hangars



Do you want space in a cycle hangar? The 71 already installed by the council are fully booked. Another 79 are due to be installed after councillors have considered a report by officers. The report could recommend how their locations should be chosen.

We want to support the council to put hangars in the most useful places so [let us know](#) if you asked for a hangar in the public consultations 18 months ago and are still waiting for one.

Bricycles needs you

We are looking for more members to join the Bricycles committee. Bricycles is run by a team of volunteers. All you need is a passion for what we do and a little time and energy to support one of our activities, whether that's helping with rides, taking photos for our social media channels, monitoring progress on an infrastructure project or writing items for the newsletter. We meet 4 times a year to work together on campaigning to make cycling safe & accessible for everyone in our city. [Get in touch](#) if you'd like to speak to us about getting involved.

And finally...**Don't forget to vote!**

Local elections take place on [Thursday 5th May](#). You will need to take photo ID with you for the first time.

Hope to see you Saturday, 2pm at the Peace Statue.

 The Bricycles Team 