

## **Bricycles News - September 2023**

Dear Bricycles Member,

It's another jam-packed newsletter as we keep up the pressure to campaign for the accessible, high-quality cycling infrastructure Brighton & Hove really deserves. Bricycles members really do make a difference, responding to consultations and volunteering in whatever ways you can. Read on for this month's '**Call to Action**':

- 📢 Join us for Kidical Mass Saturday 23rd September
- 📢 Tell us where modal filters would make all the difference
- 📢 Support a safer junction in Whitehawk
- 📢 Respond to consultations for red routes
- 📢 Act to remove trade bins from the kerbside

Keep up-to-date with all the **news** including:

- 🚲 Meetings with members and Cllr Trevor Muten
- 🚲 Site visit to Providence Place
- 🚲 Beryl Bike update
- 🚲 Updates on current and future active travel schemes

Scroll down for **comment** articles:

- ★ We are traffic too - reclaiming the T-word for people on bikes
- ★ Drum & Bass and the politics of cycling
- ★ "What about the disabled?"

And don't forget to tell friends, family and anyone wanting to make Brighton & Hove a better place for people on bikes to [become a Bricycles member](#).

[Click here to email Bricycles](#)

## **Call to Action**

### **Volunteer for kids' sake**



[Kidical Mass](#) takes place on the afternoon of Saturday 23rd September. The ride is marshalled, free to join, and open to children, families, friends and adults without children. Bricycles is organising it with Brighton Bike Hub and supported by Old Shoreham Road (OSR) Bike Train, with funding from The Big Bike Revival.

Kidical Mass happens [around the world](#). This one is for Brighton & Hove and we want it to be a big success because little legs on bikes can make a big change. Contact us [here](#) if you would like to get involved. You can:

- 📢 Volunteer to be a marshal. Join a short training session 2pm on Saturday 9th September at The Level. Tell everyone about Kidical Mass by sending them this [link](#).
- Distribute flyers and posters
- Take photographs on the day
- Let us know if you have a bubble blaster you can fix securely to your bike
- 📢 Download and share the poster and flyer [here](#)



## Modal filters



Modal filters are small things that can make specific streets and junctions easier and safer for walking, cycling and scooting. They come in all shapes and sizes to stop rat-running by motor vehicles. It can be bollards, a pedestrian island, a planter or a tree.

Bicycles, tricycles and adapted cycles have free passage and, incidentally, they make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road. There are hundreds

of them all over the city but they are so small and so familiar they go unnoticed.

An example is currently proposed at [Whitehawk](#) [see below], and we need more of these! So we need your help so that the Council simplifies the request process.

1. Identify good locations for new modal filters in your area - places which will make it safer and easier to ride bicycles with minimal impact on the flow for motor traffic.
2. Email your local councillors asking for the modal filters to be installed and explaining why (to find their address, go [here](#))
3. Copy (cc or bcc) your email to [info@bricycles.org.uk](mailto:info@bricycles.org.uk) and forward us their reply

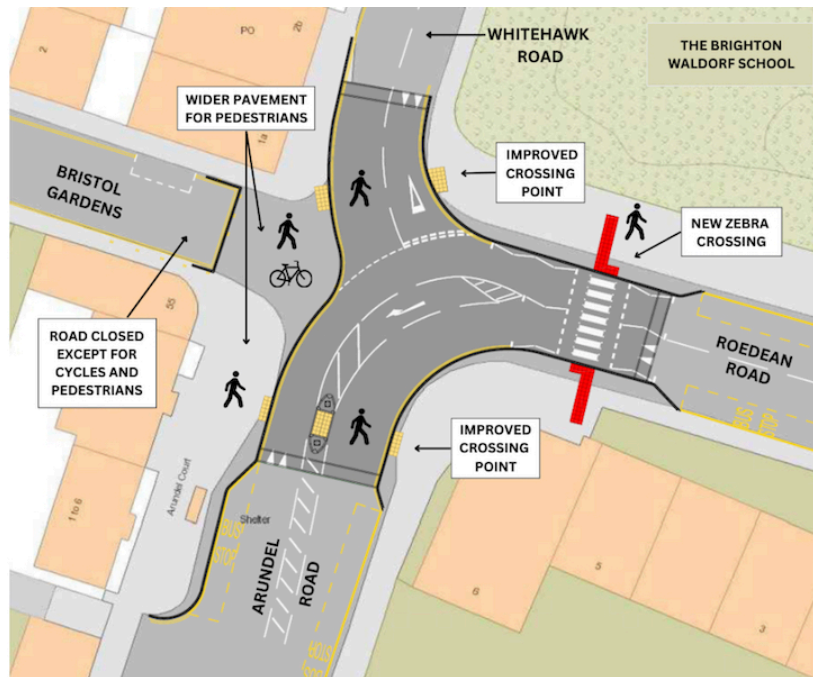
The Bricycles team will collate the information, support requests for modal filters and, most importantly, have evidence to demonstrate to the Council Leader the failings of the current system for requesting modal filters.

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## Support this safer junction

There is an excellent plan to make a junction in Whitehawk safer and the council is holding a public consultation on it. There have been at least a dozen collisions where cyclists and pedestrians have been injured in the last couple of decades so it's a no-brainer.

It should take you less than two minutes to support the plan. The consultation is [here](#). Please do it now (deadline **Saturday 9th September**).



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## Support red routes

### Introduction of Red Routes along A23

As part of our work to tackle anti-social parking and to keep traffic in the city moving, we're going to be introducing Red Routes along parts of the A23 Preston Road and London Road between Cheapside and South Road.



If you haven't done this yet, do it now! The Council wants to know if you think Lewes Road and London Road/Preston Road should become Red Routes. This would give them greater powers to enforce parking restrictions.

They would be brilliant. As the Council itself says about the Red Routes, "cyclists will no longer need to manoeuvre around vehicles parked in cycle lanes or on double lines".

For years, the painted cycle lanes in Lewes Road have been obstructed by drivers parking their vehicles in it, totally ignoring double yellow lines, zig zag lines, no loading signs

and even kerbs! More recently, the same hazard has been getting worse on sections of the London Road and Preston Road.

We're asking you to respond positively to the consultations for both routes, saying how much they are needed. It's a simple process, with full explanatory leaflets downloadable. Click [here](#) to start.

So many drivers ignore the current parking restrictions and we expect they'll object to the plans so it's really important to support the proposals. [Do it now!](#)

Consultation ends **17th September**.



## Bins in the way

The Council has launched a consultation about reducing the times that commercial waste bins can be left on public highways. We're aware some commercial bins live on the road by the kerb 24/7. They are obstructions that force people on bicycles to move further out into the flow of motor traffic so we think that, in general, the commercial bins should only be allowed there for a few hours on the day they are due to be emptied.



Restrictions like this are already in place on some roads (the green ones on the map) and the consultation is about expanding it to many more (the purple ones). The bins affected aren't the communal domestic waste bins. Instead, they're the ones used by businesses of all kinds. Of course, restrictions are only as good as their enforcement.

Please respond to the [consultation](#) now. If you think it will make it safer and easier for people to ride bicycles, do say so (deadline **15th October**).

## News

### Meetings

🚲 The team had a small public meeting in July and was pleased to be able to share news and get feedback face-to-face with members. The feeling was that Bricycles is moving in the right direction, thanks to the energy of the members and the team. The next opportunity to meet in real time will be the AGM on **Sunday 3rd December** but everyone can drop the team an [email](#) to ask questions and raise issues at any time.

🚲 We also spent a couple of hours cycling through the city with Cllr Trevor Muten, the chair of the Transport & Sustainability Committee. It was an opportunity to understand better the new Council's intentions and for Bricycles to share its knowledge about how to make Brighton & Hove better for people who'd like to ride bicycles. A meeting with the Leader of the Council, Cllr Bella Sankey, is planned to happen soon.



*North end of Elder Place*

## Providence Place site visit

If you cycle through the city on NCN route 20 you will know how unappealing the route is to the south of Preston Circus, through Elder Place and Providence Place. The road is used as a busy cut-through, there is no protection for cyclists and much of the very wide road space is taken by perpendicular parking, where drivers can pull out without warning,

making matters even worse for cyclists. However, many of the buildings in this area are undergoing redevelopment and the council has plans to improve the public spaces, including the cycling facilities.

In August the council held a site visit which included community groups and Bricycles. Ideas that were discussed included modal filters, improved public spaces, one-way restrictions to motor vehicles and a protected two-way cycle route along much of this section.

When we hear the council's feedback from the meeting and their proposed next steps, we'll let you know. But in the meantime, if you have any suggestions or issues to raise, please [let us know](#) and we'll pass these on to the officers in charge.

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## Beryl Bike update



You may have noticed that more of the Beryl bike docking stations have come into use in the last month with docking stations to secure the bikes. This is phase 2 of the rollout with an additional 150 bikes. [Phase 3](#) is due at the end of September, taking the area covered back up to the full size of the original scheme and with 780 bikes available. There will also be new pricing options with bundles that significantly reduce the cost per minute and the return of the popular reward scheme for riders that bring 'lost' bikes back to their hubs. There

are even more improvements planned for next year, with the introduction of charging hubs and e-cargo bikes becoming available.

Have you tried the new docking stations or new non-electric bikes? Do you have any other feedback on the scheme? [Let us know](#) and we'll pass on your thoughts.

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## Scheming

[Active Travel England](#), the main funders for several new schemes to improve cycling, visited the city in August. Presumably this was to discuss with officers the schemes it had already

approved but were then “paused” by the new Council. We don’t have any details to date of that meeting but here's what we do know about the schemes that have been designed and funded (not all by ATE):

🚲 Valley Gardens phase 3 - delayed, no news about when or if it will happen.

🚲 A259 Kingsway to Wharf Road - delayed because the new Council has said they want to improve the design.

🚲 A23 Argyle Rd to South Rd - delayed because the officers have been redeployed to redesign part of the A259 Kingsway to Wharf Road (above).

🚲 Western Rd, Clock Tower to Waitrose - now reopened to two-way traffic while some works continue.

🚲 Marine Parade - still no sign of any activity, no news about when or if it will happen, although officers were surveying people’s views at the location in August (a method that would not capture the views of people who currently avoid cycling there).

🚲 A2010 Old Shoreham Rd to West St (funded by Department for Transport) - no news about when or if it will happen.

🚲 Cycle hangars (funded by the Council) - the Council has said installation of the outstanding 79 hangars (to accommodate up to 474 bikes) can now progress. We expect a whole bunch of Traffic Regulation Orders will be published, one for almost every location, and we’ll be asking you to support all the sensible ones. Meanwhile, please [email](#) if you see any new hangars being installed on wide pavements (where TROs would not be required).

**In May the Department for Transport [announced](#) that Brighton & Hove had been awarded £3 million for even more new active travel schemes, probably projects that would make it better for cycling. However, the Council itself has still not said anything at all about this huge sum so we assume it might be politically sensitive.**

## Comment

### **We are traffic too - Reclaiming the T-word for people on bikes**

Longstanding Bricycles member Paul Tofts writes:

‘I see Valley Gardens phase 3 is being delayed by the council in order to plan to 'minimise traffic congestion'. This raises an interesting question: What is traffic? Did the Chair of the Transport and Sustainability Committee mean motorised traffic?

On the side of the buses it says: "Walk Cycle Bus - be the change." So these three are the desirable, important kinds of traffic which should be accommodated and encouraged - pedestrian traffic (walking/wheeling), cycle traffic (that's us) and bus traffic. Some other motorised traffic (private and commercial) also has rights of access.

In our discussions with interested parties we should talk about Cycle Traffic, being one of four kinds which should be considered.

The Oxford English Dictionary definition of ‘Traffic’ is ‘The vehicles, etc., moving to and fro along a route, considered collectively. A vehicle is: A conveyance, a form of transport. A general term for: anything by means of which people or goods may be conveyed, carried, or transported’. So this includes a cycle - a cycle is a vehicle!

Thus the meaning is clear - traffic includes cycles. We should take ownership of the phrase 'cycle traffic' and use it.’

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## Drum & Bass and the politics of cycling

Over the summer, [DJ Dom Whiting](#) has been bringing his Drum & Bass On The Bike event to city streets across the UK and Europe. Dom started DJing on his bike during lockdown, and on 16 July 2023 he came to Brighton & Hove for the third year running.



Bricycles committee member Nick writes - 'I grew up cycling in Brighton in the 1990s, during the era of free raves, drum and bass, dance music, Brighton's clubbing heyday, squatting, tribal drumming under the West Pier ruins, Critical Mass and Reclaim The Streets transport protests. I loved going to drum and bass club nights such as Meltdown, got involved with Critical Mass, and then organised Brighton Naked Bike Ride from 2006 to 2019. Dom's apolitical uniting of cyclists to the breakbeat of his music reminded me, unexpectedly, of the politics of cycling'.

Read the article in full [here](#).

### "What about the disabled?"



Anna joined the Bricycles committee in May this year. She passionately believes that more bikes and fewer cars would make Brighton an even better place to live. She decided to do some research into a question that comes up time and again when active travel schemes are discussed - "What about the disabled?". You can read her article in full [here](#).

"A common cry when anyone mentions reducing car access or improving cycling infrastructure in towns and cities seems to be "what about the disabled?". This is often used without supporting evidence to maintain the status quo. I wondered if

wanting better cycling infrastructure and my wish for a low-car Brighton and Hove was contrary to my belief in access for all."

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Thank you. And happy cycling!

 The Bricycles Team 