

Bricycles News - November 2022

It's November already so it's time for a new edition of the newsletter from your local cycling campaign group.

It has news about what we and others have been doing in the last 31 days, trying to make Brighton & Hove better for everyone who might like to cycle.

When you have an idea that'll help us achieve our goal, let us know.

The Bricycles Team

[Click here to email Bricycles](#)

P.S. We'd be delighted when you invite your cycling friends to [join Bricycles](#). You might even want to buy them membership as a seasonal gift.

The more who join us, the louder our voice and the more effective we can be.



Annual General Meeting

year.

All Bricycles members are invited to join us on Zoom for our Annual General Meeting. It will take place online on Sunday 4th December, 6-7pm. We will reflect on the past year's achievements and look ahead to campaigning goals for the coming

Please register your interest by email if you would like to attend. Nearer the date we'll send you a Zoom invite and the agenda. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any items you'd like to be considered for discussion under Any Other Business.

[Register here for the AGM](#)

[Submit an item for AOB here](#)



Cracking On

With valuable contributions from Bricycles members, we've submitted a whole lot of comments to Sussex Police about [Operation Crackdown](#), its website for reporting anti-social

driving. We learned in September the site's been under review for several months by Chief Inspector Wells, who is due to report to Chief Constable Jo Shiner in the next couple of months on how it can be improved.

Our suggestions for improvements fell into two parts. The first part is probably the most important because it will boost public confidence so that more people make more reports about anti-social driving. We said:

1. Publish the policies that underpin the decisions about how reports are progressed.
2. Data about decisions should be published in a timely fashion, regularly and to a published schedule.
3. Publish the minimum specifications of the quality of the evidence required from reports for each category of anti-social driving.
4. Officers responsible for triaging reports should be trained so that any unconscious bias of transport mode prejudice is eliminated.

The second part of our comments was about the tone and functionality of the website. It has evolved in bits and pieces over 20 years so it's not surprising it doesn't work very well. If it gets fixed, it'll be easier for everyone to make reports of anti-social driving, including those frightening close passes which put people off riding bicycles.

Third party reporting is the most cost-effective way to reduce anti-social driving so the easier it is to use Operation Crackdown, the safer the roads for everyone.

Way to Go

We've published a [short video](#) to help people who are new to cycling in Brighton find a relatively easy and safe way from St Peter's Church to the seafront. We know it's not the most direct route to the seafront, and we're looking forward to the final phase of [Valley Gardens](#) (we're hoping construction will start in 2023...)

We think providing direct routes for cycling is important to encourage cycling for all ages and abilities. This is because the bicycle is human-powered and reducing physical effort (not to mention mental effort of navigating a detour and knowing when to turn next) means enabling more people to travel by bicycle.



Which other key routes should we video to help people who are new to the city ride safely and

easily? Click below to send us your suggestions.

[My suggestion for a key route video](#)

Close Passing

Close passing by motor vehicles is frightening because it is dangerous. It puts people off from riding bicycles.



The Highway Code says drivers should give at least 1.5m clearance when overtaking a cyclist in 30mph zones - and a lot more at higher speeds. Too many don't.

A few cyclists report close passing to the police. Not many do.

Only 888 close passes were reported by cyclists from across the entire county of Sussex in the first six months of 2022. That's less than five a day, a staggeringly small number. Maybe cyclists report it so rarely because they think it won't do any good. We suspect they may be right.

The reporting process is run by Sussex Police so it's fraught with the issues we identified in our Operation Crackdown review (see above). Lack of public data is one of the problems.

So we submitted a Freedom of Information request to find out what happened to the 888 drivers reported for passing cyclists too closely between January and June this year. Here's the disappointing data we received last Thursday:

199 reports (22%) resulted in "No further action"

204 reports (23%) resulted in "Other reasons" and there's no explanation of what that means or if anything at all happened

13 reports (1.5%) triggered "Formal Warning Letters"

461 reports (52%) triggered "Advisory Letters"

11 reports (1%) led to drivers getting a Notice of Intent to Prosecute.

We don't know if any of those 11 (eleven, count them) prosecutions have gone ahead.

This isn't good enough to make cycling feel safe.

If the Council and the Government are to achieve their goals and significantly increase the numbers of journeys that people make by bicycles, they must make it safer.

They must support and encourage the police to make it easier for people riding bicycles to report close passing.

Graphic grabbed from the [leaflet](#) published in 2018 by Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and Sussex Police. Since then, the Highway Code has been revised and provides much clearer guidance.

Street - Life!

SchoolStreets make it even safer for children, families and staff to ride bicycles to and from the school gates at the beginning and end of each day. If it's well-designed, a SchoolStreet can substantially reduce the volume of motor traffic at the times most people are arriving and leaving.

So we're heartened the Council has launched consultations about plans for six more SchoolStreets across the city- St Nicolas CE Primary School, Hertford Infant and Nursery School, Hangleton Primary School, Balfour Primary School, Aldrington CE Primary School and Stanford Junior School.

You can send them your views by 27th November. Do show your support for these schemes and, as ever, our advice is to be as constructive as possible with your comments for them to stand the best chance of being taken on board.

Order, Order



One SchoolStreet for which the consultation has already been completed is Westdene Primary. Now the first legal steps have been taken with the publication of the Traffic Regulation Order, TRO-30-2022, which is almost at the bottom of [this page](#).

To help the SchoolStreet over this hurdle, send your constructive comments by clicking the Comments link at the bottom of the list on the right hand side.

TRO-30-2022 Brighton & Hove (Prohibition of Motor Vehicles) (Westdene) Experimental Order 2022	Introduces a prohibition of motor vehicles (Mon-Fri 8.15-9.15 and 2.45-3.45pm term time) in Barn Rise. It also introduces One Ways in Bankside & Barn Rise, road closure of slip on Barn Rise leading to Bankside and double yellow lines in Bankside and Barn Rise.	Sunday 14 May 2023	open for comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notice [PDF 129KB]• Order [PDF 2MB]• Statement of Reasons [PDF 129KB]• Plan [PDF 1.1MB]
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Click down here to comment

Monday 14
November
2022

[Comment](#)

Remember, remember

Join the [Bonfire Bike Train to Lewes](#) on Saturday 5th November. Run by Brighton Bike Hub, the seven mile ride is taken at a leisurely pace and escorted by experienced marshals. Meet at the Level at 5.30pm or join from Moulsecomb Library at 6.15pm, arriving in Lewes just after 7pm ready to enjoy the famous spectacle. Check out this [website](#) for some hints and tips to plan your night. After all the whiz bangs have whizzed and banged, meet outside Lewes Prison at midnight for the ride home.

Faulty Second Avenue

We're still waiting for the addition of a dropped kerb to the cycling parking on the island at the junction of Second Avenue & Wilbury Road. The council's transport team have assured us their contractors are currently out and about



implementing drop kerbs and this high one, which defeats people with heavy and/or bulky cycles, is on their priority list. Fingers crossed for a cheesy thumbs up photo next month.

County Lines



We've been contacted by East Sussex County Council, which asked Bricycles to join their stakeholders group as they develop a new Local Transport Plan. No doubt many of our members venture out to our neighbours in the east, so please keep us informed of any issues that may be useful for us to feed back to ESCC, once the process gets underway.

Barrier grief



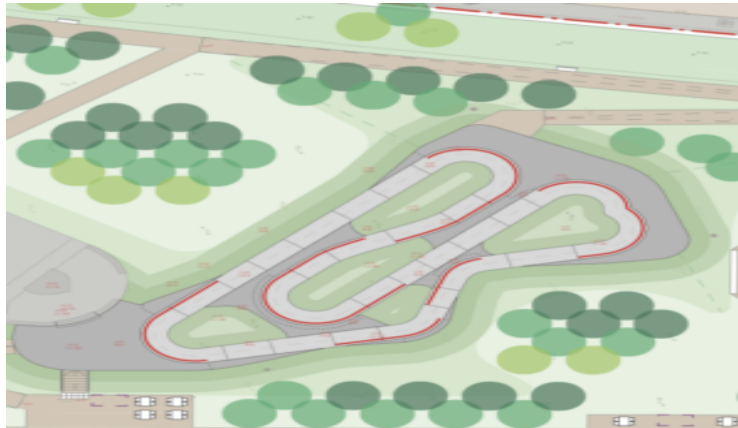
Last month we reported that a barrier had been erected at Waterhall, blocking the bridleway. After contacting the council and local councillors, we received a response from the council's transport projects team to say it was an error and the matter has been passed to the Rights of Way Officer who works under the City Environment department. They have advised that the barrier will have to be left open until a fix can be made. This is likely to be all-weather surfacing of an area around the barrier to allow access for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders. However, we have since found the gate is still being locked and have raised this once again with the council.

If you happen to be passing and find the same problem, please let us know!

On the rack

Despite a September site meeting with council officers outside the London Road Co-op about the promised 10 bike racks, there's been little progress. So we prompted officers last week and they eventually chased the developer, who now claims the "process is in hand" and they "will provide a further update". The previous racks vanished in 2019. We'll persist.

Pump and Circumstances



The planned pump track for Hove Western Lawns

The deadline for the consultation on the redevelopment of Hove Western Lawns is the 9th November. While the project doesn't include any cycle lanes, it does include a bicycle pump track, which may be of interest to our younger and/or cooler members!

[Click here to see the Planning Application, BH2022/02830](#)

Future Forum

Once a quarter, Cllr Jamie Lloyd chairs a stakeholder forum discussing all things active and inclusive travel. Bricycles is just one of the many groups that are invited to attend and participate. On Wednesday 28th Sept, the latest iteration of this group met virtually. It was a packed agenda with lots of interesting debates from different perspectives. Here are the highlights.

- £155,000 funding secured from Highways England for a feasibility study, including cycling improvements around Stanmer Park and up to Ditchling Beacon, with a safer crossing over Coldean Lane at Old Boat Corner.
- A bid for £1.2M submitted to Active Travel England to improve cycling and walking along Marine Parade.
- All 150 bike hangars are expected to be in place by end of March 2023. The hangars have proven to be such a success that Oxford City Council are looking to replicate. The Dutch Institute of Cycling are also looking to leverage the BHCC scheme.
- The Council will soon have [powers to enforce moving traffic offences](#) like stopping in a yellow box junction, banned right or left turns and contravening Traffic Regulation Orders like School Streets.
- Construction on the A259 westbound improvements (see previous newsletters) will be delayed slightly until Jan 2023, due to a change in engineering contractors.
- State-of-the-art [monitoring cameras](#) are coming to the city. These smart sensors can count all kinds of street movement so will lead to more reliable evidence in which to support improvement schemes.

Dates for the diary

See our new [Calendar](#) online for events and dates as they are added.

Your city needs you!

Bricycles has a core team of a dozen, each of whom plays a small but important role in running Bricycles and we always like members and supporters to get more involved.

Our small team covers a lot of bases already but if you have a particular skill, talent or just bags of enthusiasm, you will be welcomed with open arms. It only requires a couple of hours each month. We particularly need people with these skills:

- writing articles for press and for our blog
- giving interviews and statements to press, radio and TV

We'd particularly encourage women to get involved, as we already have a 50:50 gender split. We are always looking to broaden our team to better represent the diversity of our city.

You'll get loads of support and encouragement from the rest of the team. Check out our website for further details, or [email us](#).

C'mon, you know you're exactly the right person and will enjoy it almost as much as you enjoy cycling!

We hope you have a great month and that we'll see you at 6pm on Sunday 4th December for the Annual General Meeting. Until then, have a great November, send us your news and [tell us](#) what you want to see in your newsletter.



Riding to the AGM

P.S. Ask your friends and family who ride bicycles in Brighton & Hove to join and make our campaign even stronger. Send them this link <https://bricycles.org.uk/membership/join-bricycles/>. You could even give them a surprise seasonal gift by signing them up yourself.