

Bricycles News - July 2023

Summer is quite definitely here! Perhaps too much here for some of us, but we hope you are mostly enjoying the sunshine.

Since our last newsletter in May, a new council has been elected. You can read our initial response on our website, [here](#). Since then there have been significant decisions the council has taken which could have immediate and lasting impact on the cycling infrastructure in the city. Read about them below.

Meanwhile, if you want cycling to be accessible for everyone in Brighton & Hove, come and meet like-minded people on Sunday 16th July!

Our annual ideas-sharing and brainstorming get-together will be at 2pm in Preston Park, on the lawn behind the Rotunda café. Everybody who wants the city to be better for cycling is invited.

That's probably you, others in your family, some friends, a few neighbours and colleagues. You don't have to be a member. You'll all be welcome because we want to learn from your knowledge, experience and needs.

You know what you want, so come along and tell us. The Bricycles Team will listen because your ideas are valuable.

Last year's meet-up led Bricycles to become more focused, better organised and more effective at campaigning. We want to build on it.

Looking forward to meeting you, learning from you. More than ever, your voice is important.



[Click here to email Bricycles](#)

Council 'pauses' A259 cycle lane upgrade



You may already be aware that last week the council put a 'pause' - otherwise known as a delay - on the previous administration's design and implementation of an upgrade to the A259 cycle infrastructure. Here is the background to what has happened, and our take on it.

The A259 cycle lane extension project, covering the seafront route from Fourth Avenue to Hove

Lagoon, was approved by the Green and Labour councillors on the Environment, Transport and Sustainability committee in March 2022. The project moved the westbound cycle route into the road, replacing one of the four motor traffic lanes and allowing the eastbound route to use the full width of the existing cycle lane, away from the road. The scheme also included improvements to pedestrian crossings, additional blue badge parking and additional cycle parking. The budget was just short of £1m, which was being part-funded by government grants.

Work was scheduled to start not later than 12th June 2023 and the council was subject to pay the contractor a weekly penalty of £18,747 after that date. On 21st June the new Labour-controlled council called an emergency meeting of the new Transport & Sustainability Committee and voted on their proposal to:

1. Terminate the contract to build the previously-approved scheme and pay the additional penalties that will be incurred.
2. Redesign a new scheme for the same stretch of road. This would, where possible, “provide bi-directional cycle lanes in line with national standards (LTN 1/20) and reduce the loss of vehicle running lanes”. However, no details or drawings were provided at the meeting. The report states that the redesign will “require approximately 6 months”. The report to the committee suggested that “the design is likely to require the removal of the central reservation between Hove Street South and Wharf Road. This will result in additional scheme costs.”
3. Note that “significant additional funding will be required”, but no costs were provided in this meeting, other than £72,000 to start the redesign work.

The proposals were not in the Labour group’s manifesto and were not consulted on at any point prior to the meeting.

The committee chair and the council officers were questioned on the potential financial implications of approving the proposal but they were unable to provide definitive answers to the following:

1. The penalty for termination from the construction company is unknown.
2. The amount of government grant funding for active travel that could be lost is unknown. Funding from Active Travel England is dependent on schemes being carried out to the correct standard and within an agreed timescale. Funding that has already been allocated (over £7m) could therefore be cancelled and future funding opportunities could be removed. The proposal to pause and redesign was not discussed with Active Travel England beforehand.
3. The committee Chair was asked to confirm that the £28m of government funding to improve local bus services (BSIP) would not be put at risk by this decision, but they could not provide confirmation.

After much discussion, all the Labour councillors voted for the proposals and the Green and Conservative councillors voted against.

This week, we met with Trevor Muten, the Transport & Sustainability Committee chair, to express our concerns. Our questions and his response are as follows:

1. If ATE (Active Travel England) were to state that a delay would mean losing funding from them, can you confirm that the original scheme would be brought straight back to the committee to prevent this from happening?

The Labour administration is committed to delivering an Active Travel Scheme that works for Hove seafront. It is our view that there is scope for improvement and betterment of the scheme that was to proceed. This is, therefore, considered a 'baseline' upon which improvements are to be made. We set out, therefore, to deliver improvements to this with the existing scheme as a minimum. We will work closely with ATE to ensure their objectives are fully met within the revised scheme and deliver a high standard active travel scheme for Hove seafront – a invaluable inclusion as part of ATE's route from Dover to Devon. The inclusion of bi-directional cycle path along the whole length of the A259 Fourth Avenue to Wharf Road scheme rather than take the east bound cycle path along the pedestrian promenade south of Medina Terrace and not to have the pavement set between the two cycle lanes west of Hove Street South towards Hove Lagoon is our commitment to closer alignment to ATE standards. The proposed amendments to the scheme following review will be brought back to the Transport and Sustainability Committee and decisions made based on the funding available and steer from ATE.

2. If the full Labour vision for the A259 involves significant additional costs and the additional funding can not be sourced, can you confirm that the default would be to revert to the original scheme or a variation of it which incorporated more minor changes, for which funding was available?

Yes – this is our intent. As set out above, the proposed review is to use the space available to deliver a better active travel scheme that is to keep two lane road traffic in both directions, to include bi-directional cycle route along the whole section of the A259 and make pedestrian walkways and access safer. For these reasons, we consider the review to be a win-win-win for the many and not the few who chose to travel along Hove seafront.

3. While this is not a commitment, can you confirm that your expectation is to take the updated scheme back to the committee in September and begin construction before the end of 2023.

A commitment to undertake the review within a 6 month period includes consultation on proposed changes and to bring back to the Transport and Sustainability Committee within this stated timeframe.

Valley Gardens phase 3



Illustration of VG3 design.

Valley Gardens phase 3 also 'paused'.

On Monday (26th June), the council announced it was also 'reviewing' the design of VG3. The plans were approved by the ETS Committee in January 2022, with Labour councillors supporting the scheme. Reasons for the delay were not provided and will not be disclosed to us until they've been made available to the T&S Committee, next week, but we will keep you posted...

We are continuing to work on building a relationship with the new Transport & Sustainability Committee members so we can help them to understand the needs of people cycling, and what is needed to encourage and enable more people to cycle.

Call to Action

We need you to let your local councillors know what **you** think of the decisions they have made about the A259 and Valley Gardens 3. A few councillors at the Transport and Sustainability Committee meeting quoted residents' views they had heard on the doorstep when campaigning. Let them know **your** views!

You could use some of the points we have made above, but it's more effective if you write to them in your own words so it's clear that it's not a 'cut and paste' email. Perhaps tell them what you are concerned about, what you would like to see happen and how this will affect you / the city.

You can use the link below to identify your councillors and their email addresses.

[Find your councillors' email address](#)

Or you can use [Write To Them](#)

Protect the path between Falmer and Lewes - Call to Action

Thanks to Cycle Lewes and Becky Reynolds of Brighton & Hove Cycling UK, we've heard of plans to improve the bus stops on the A27 between Falmer & Lewes. On the face of it, that's good news but we don't want changes that would make it more difficult to cycle along the shared path beside the bus stops and carriageways.

So please email kate.hatton@wsp.com saying you don't want any changes that would reduce the width of the shared path for walking and cycling or to make path widening more difficult at some later date. Ms Hatton needs your email by Friday 7th July so send it now, to be sure.

Our Vision and Aims

We feel it's more important than ever to be clear about **our** vision for cycling in the city.

We campaign to make cycling accessible for everyone in the city. We are calling for:

- more protected cycle lanes
- improved junction crossings to connect cycle routes safely
- neighbourhoods which prioritise walking, wheeling and cycling

Priority areas that would benefit from these aims include:

- protected cycle lanes in Valley Gardens 3, A259, Old Shoreham Road, A23, Lewes Rd
- safer junction crossings for people on bicycles, to allow easy access to the seafront, away from pedestrian conflict
- all neighbourhoods deserve clean air and low levels of traffic. This can be achieved through traffic filters, which reduce through-traffic (rat-running) in a neighbourhood, and encourage walking, wheeling and cycling.

The Great Mobility Revolution of the Little Legs: Kidical Mass, Saturday 23rd September



This is going to be special.

Kidical Mass is a global movement: twice a year, cyclists from 0 to 99 years old take over the streets to reclaim the road space in colourful bicycle demonstrations. The format focuses on children and sustainable mobility. *“The vision of Kidical Mass is that all children and young people can safely and independently use cycles as a mode of travel. We demand child-friendly, green*

places where there are many and varied open spaces for play and social interaction between all generations”. The KM motto is ‘Space for the Next Generation.’ If you design for children you design for everyone.

Kidical Mass Action days happened in May, and will happen again 22nd-24th September. Several events happened in the UK during the May action period, in places like Portsmouth, Southampton, Eastbourne, Guildford, Redhill, Bath. However, because of the Brighton Festival in May, we are holding the first Brighton KM on Saturday September 23rd. And we want to make it big!

How can you help us achieve a great first Kidical Mass?

First, we need to publicise the event and date to make as many children and parents in the city aware of it as possible. This could be through community groups, schools, playgroups, workplaces. We will have publicity material online soon, but you could start talking to people about it now! Save that date!

Secondly, we will need a lot of volunteers to help marshal the ride. Could you volunteer? It would require a short training session. We will need a lot of extra marshalls for this event, many more than we usually have, so please volunteer if you can. You can do this by emailing kidicalmass@bricycles.org.uk

Thirdly, we need good quality photos and video of the event to publicise further Kidical Mass rides and to campaign for the KM aims. Do you have professional photography or filming skills, or perhaps know someone who could help?

We’re excited about this event!

Want to know more? Click the link here to read more about Kidical Mass:

Kidical Mass

Legal Challenge Crowdfunder



In our last newsletter, we wrote about the massive cut to Active Travel England funding, which will have an impact on how much councils are given for Walking and Cycling initiatives. Since then, a legal challenge has been launched by the Transport Action Network (TAN),

led by Bricycles member Chris Todd. The basis of the challenge is that the move bypassed legal processes and risks scuppering commitments over the climate emergency and air pollution. Inevitably, there will be legal costs in launching this challenge, so TAN have set up a crowdfunder to cover these. Bricycles has already donated to it, but if you would like to do so too, click the link below. The deadline for the fundraiser is 5th July

[Crowdjustice](#)

Summer Cycle Challenge!



Emma Nilsson (above), another Bricycles member and volunteer pilot with Pedal People, has set up a Summer Cycle Challenge around Sussex to raise money for the charity. She hopes it will help motivate people to cycle more and to learn about the area around them. The challenge features 15 questions, dotted around Sussex, stretching from Lancing Beach to Lewes to Telscombe Cliffs. Your mission is to cycle Sussex this summer with friends and family, find the answers and send them back to her by Sunday, 24 September 2023. If you get all the right answers, you'll be entered into a grand prize draw – all the prizes have been kindly donated by local businesses like Lagoon Watersports and G-Whizz Cycles, which support active living and cycling.

More information about the prizes and challenge are on [Emma's GoFundMe page](#).

[GoFundMe](#)

Mystery Members!



Can you help us solve a mystery? Do you recognise any of these Bricycles members?

T J Earl

Geller & Morris

Gemma Wilson

Unfortunately, when the current committee took over from the previous one, the membership records didn't include any

contact details for these members. We'd love to be able to send them the newsletter, but we don't have an email or snail mail address for them. If you think you know them, please could you contact them and ask them to email membership@bricycles.org.uk! Thank you.

WISH PARK FETE

Sunday 2nd July 12pm - 5pm

WISH PARK, HOVE

ORGANISED BY THE FRIENDS OF WISH PARK

- * TOMBOLA
- * RAFFLE
- * DOG SHOW
- * LICENSED BAR
- * BOUNCY CASTLE
- * TABLETOP STALLS
- * FOOD AND COFFEE VANS
- * MUSIC WITH PA SYSTEM,
- * CLIMATE CHANGE SPEAKERS
- * CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Get in touch
 email committee@wishpark.org
 Facebook [facebook.com/friendsof-wishpark](https://www.facebook.com/friendsof-wishpark)

Wish Park Fete

Bicycles will be at the Wish Park Fete on 2nd July - Sunday! We'll be there to talk about cycling in the city, to promote sustainable transport and encourage others to cycle. If you live in the area, do come and say hello! We'd love to see you!

We'd also love to have a cargo bike to show people at the fete. If you own one and are able to join us between 2-5pm, that would be great!

Volunteer! Bricycles Needs You!



Bricycles needs your energy to accelerate progress for cycling in Brighton & Hove. You'd be joining a team of volunteers which already looks after strategy, lobbying, events, newsletters, our website, social media and membership.

We do it because it's enjoyable being part of a friendly group helping to make our city better for cycling. And none of us spends more time on it than we want.

Now that we're bigger than before, we'd like you to help us. We really need people who can do any of the following :

- Write items for the newsletter
- Help marshall rides
- Take photos for our Instagram
- Run our TikTok
- Liaise with the media
- Submit bids for funding
- Integrate new software
- Monitor progress on an infrastructure project

You possibly fit one of the above, so drop us a line and we can tell you more about our plans!

Yes, I can help!

Thank you. And happy cycling!

🚲🚲 The Bricycles Team 🚲🚲

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Brighton & Hove Cycling Campaign



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