



May 2009

COGSnews

The Newsletter of the
Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury

Include
cycling!

Wiltshire's next LTP – your chance to have your say.

Wiltshire Council have launched a consultation on their next Local Transport Plan and COGS members may wish to use this opportunity to make their views known on some of the issues which are raised.

The document – Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011 Consultation Issues Paper – is available on WC's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/transport/transport-policy-service/transport-publications.htm, and responses need to be submitted by **May 29th**.

This document is looking at overall vision and strategy and approaches to be taken rather than specifics. However there are some points which cyclists may wish to comment on:

- There was a 'County Cycle Action Plan' developed for WCC's first LTP. But it is now suggested (Section 6.10 of the document) that the County prepares a two-wheeler strategy to cover policies for motorcycles, mopeds and scooters as well as cycles rather than preparing separate strategies for bicycles and 'powered two-wheelers'.

*COGS feel that cycling should have a strategy in its own right – it is a healthy and entirely green mode of transport and should **not** be covered in the same strategy as powered two-wheelers.*

- The questionnaire asks whether the long-term strategy should follow an 'established', 'balanced' or 'radical' approach.

*COGS believe that the **radical** approach (which Wiltshire Council define as 'prioritise sustainable transport services and measures and discourage the use of the private car in urban areas' is the right way forward for the first quarter of the 21st century which this plan will cover..*

What's an LTP? Why does it matter?

Local Transport Plans (LTPs) have been a statutory requirement since the Transport Act 2000. They are the means by which local transport authorities bid for government funding and report progress on their transport plans. Here in Salisbury LTPs were produced by Wiltshire County Council & now by the new unitary Wiltshire Council (WC).

Previously LTPs ran for a 5 year periods, but the rules are being revised for this 3rd round of LTPs (LTP3) and local authorities can now choose how long they want their LTP to run, and the 'long term strategy' can be a separate document from the shorter term 'implementation plan'.

WC have proposed that their LTP3 'strategy' document will cover the period 2011 to 2026, with implementation plans covering 3 year periods. So this may be your last chance to have a say on Wiltshire's transport strategy for 17 years – make the most of it!



Saturday July 4th 2009

Connect2 ride – Alderbury to Wilton

Join with COGS members and local residents to celebrate the progress of the 'Connect2' project which will see a safer route for walkers and cyclists from Alderbury to Wilton by 2013 (see update on Connect2 overleaf)

Programme:

Meet on the green outside the Green Dragon, Alderbury from	10:15, for 10:30 departure
Stop on A36 for photographs at site of proposed crossing	10:45 – 10:50
Or join us in the Cathedral Close – on Choristers Green	11:00 – 11:10
Cycle to Wilton, to join the Wilton Carnival procession, gathering from	11:30, for 12:30 departure
Join in the Wilton Carnival fun on Castle Meadow Playing Fields Wilton	13:00 – 17:00

This year Wilton Carnival has an American theme – it's July 4th, Independence Day, after all – so why not get into the spirit of the occasion with appropriate gear for yourself, and your bike. Connect2 balloons will be provided!



**And there's moreCOGS 2009 Summer Thursday evening bike rides start May 21st 18:30 Leisure Centre!
See Summer Rides leaflet enclosed for details**



Connect2

Many people are asking us what progress is being made on Connect2, and we are aware that developments can seem painfully slow. However, there has been a lot happening behind the scenes, and we were pleased to welcome Alistair Millington, the Sustrans Area Manager for Wiltshire, to our April COGS meeting for an update.

The Memorandum of Understanding which sets the framework for the project has now been signed, and there have been constructive meetings with the Highways Agency regarding those sectors of the route on the A36.

To celebrate the progress which is being made why not get your cowboy hats out and join us in our Connect2 ride from Alderbury (or join us en route) to the wild west of Wilton on July 4th? Join in the fun of the American-themed Wilton parade and carnival when we reach Wilton, this promises to be a great day out for all the family!

Watch Out – potholes

A COGS member has informed us of a nasty accident when a cyclist hit a pothole near Porton railway bridge and has sustained broken bones as a result. Do take care on the roads in and around Salisbury – recently reported as being among the worst in the country. And keep reporting those potholes (& sign defects, overhanging vegetation, etc) via Clarence

The web address has changed (& inevitably got longer!) for the new unitary authority and is now:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwayspavements/reportahighwayproblem.htm>

or Email: clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk

or Telephone: 0800 23 23 23

...and bike thieves

Another COGS member has reported their trusty old bike has been stolen – it was only left for a short while and was locked, but only to itself. Please make sure you lock your bike to something even when only leaving it for a short time, or you might be the next victim.

COGS Summer Rides & Events

This year we are not holding our usual Bike Week events, but instead we will be concentrating our efforts on the Connect2 ride and Wilton Carnival event on July 4th and hope to see as many COGS supporters as possible there.

The popular **Thursday** evening rides will run from **May 21st** through to **20th August**, starting at **6:30pm** from Salisbury Five Rivers Leisure Centre. In addition there will be longer Sunday rides leaving the Leisure Centre as follows

May 24th Two Valleys Ride, leaves at 10:00

June 21st Ride to Mottisfont with free entry to grounds, leaves at 11:00

July 19th Leaves at 10:00) destination t.b.a.

August 23rd Leaves at 10:00)

FROM OUR U.S. CORRESPONDENT



While most COGS members are quite content with the gentle rides in the summer rides programme, Jeff Scholefield – who entertained us at our last AGM with the story of his Trans-Am ride last year – has headed across the pond again.

This time Jeff is cycling the Lewis and Clark trail, which takes its name from two pioneers who followed this route to the west in 1804. Their journey lasted three years and took them through what are now 11 of the American states. Jeff will be following their footsteps – but taking somewhat less time we trust – his journey leads from St Charles Missouri to the west coast, and his first week's diary reports from the Katy Trail, a 225 mile (365 km) bike path stretching across most of the state of Missouri.

“The Katy Trail outside of towns is generally enclosed by trees and often has steep cliffs bordering on the right and the Missouri River on the left. Everywhere was lush; flowers in bloom and wild life, birds, frogs, turtles, squirrels of two types, were seen easily and often. The surface of the Trail is hard packed crushed limestone which proved to be harder to cycle on than I had expected. It was because of the rain the top surface was slightly soft so as well as slowing me down, it also gradually covered my bicycle, trailer and RAF Ensign in a light beige coloured mucky layer.”

At the end of his first week Jeff had covered 241 miles and reported: *“The first week is done: Hard pedalling in not very nice weather for everyday since Monday. Yet again I am amazed at the generosity, warmth and friendliness of the American people. I have enjoyed my first few days on the bike but hope that the coming days will become easier, as my experience tells me it will. The Katy Trail is behind me and Kansas, and then Nebraska beckons me in the next week.”*

Jeff plans to complete the trip and return to the UK in July – in time to join some of the COGS summer evening rides. We don't anticipate he'll have any problem keeping up!

Thanks to Nick Cowan & his team in Wiltshire Council's rights of way service who have responded to comments from COGS and done some very useful work to get the surface of Green Lane (from Bishopdown to Ford) into a better state for cyclists. Give it a try sometime!