



COGSnews

The Newsletter of the
Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury
May 2013

Let's get
Salisbury
cycling!

AN EMERGING NATIONAL CYCLING VISION...?

"Our vision is for a dramatic increase in the number and diversity of people who cycle, because they see it as a safe and normal activity"
[APPCG Get Britain Cycling Report, April 2013]

These are exciting times for cyclists as, at the national level, the political will to achieve a long overdue step change in provision for cyclists seems to be growing.

2012 saw public interest in cycling rise, helped by a British win in the Tour de France and a host of cycling medals in the Olympics. A high profile campaign by The Times helped to raise awareness of the difficulties and dangers which cyclists face on busy roads. Mayor Boris Johnson has responded to the challenge in London with radical ideas to give more road space to cyclists, building on major projects already implemented, including the 'Boris Bikes'. During the rush hour there are now more bikes than cars crossing the Thames over bridges such as Blackfriars, Southwark & Waterloo.

The All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (APPCG) published its 'Get Britain Cycling' report on April 24th. **Recommendations include a cycling budget of at least £10 per person per year, increasing to £20, for a sustained period, and a target to have 10% of all journeys in Britain made by bike by 2025.** Currently expenditure on cyclists outside London averages less than £2 per head, and less than 2% of journeys are made by bike (compare with 27% in the Netherlands, 19% in Denmark and 10% in Germany).

There is evidence both from this country and abroad that sustained investment in cycling will lead to higher levels of cyclists. But how can we make this happen in Wiltshire? A few steps are suggested below:

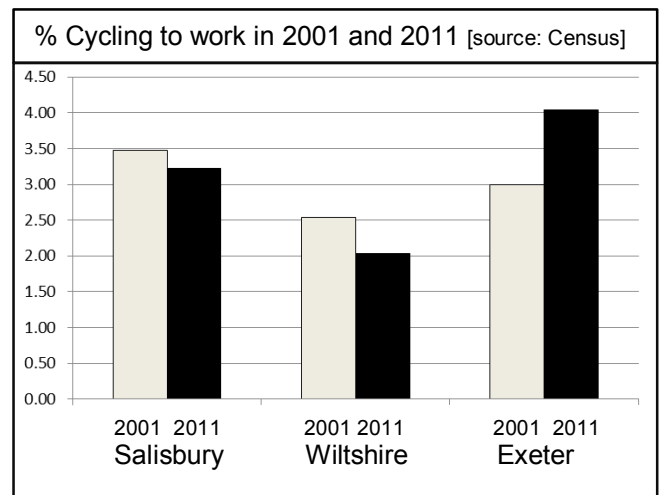
- Sign the Government e-petition which has been set up asking for the recommendations of the APPCG to be implemented. 40,000 have already signed in the first week – <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49196>
- Write/email your MP (John Glen in Salisbury) to ask for this support for the recommendations.
- Let your new unitary councillor know you would like to see Wiltshire Council promoting cycling
- Respond to the current consultation on WC's Cycling Strategy (further details overleaf) before the closing date of May 24th.

...BUT COULD IT HAPPEN HERE?

The highest levels of cycling in the UK are in cities – Oxford and Cambridge have 17% and 30% of journeys made by bicycle respectively. But cycling can play an important role in more rural areas, both for utility trips and for tourism, as Devon has demonstrated. Devon has many similarities with Wiltshire, both are largely rural and quite hilly counties. However Devon has invested much more in cycling than Wiltshire, and is working towards a vision **"To create a first class environment for cycling, where people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds have the opportunity to choose cycling for a large proportion of everyday journeys and for leisure."**

The difference in the level of support and investment is reflected in the levels of cycling. Between 2006 – 2011 there was a 15% growth in average daily cycle trips across Devon. Exeter, which had the benefit of being a 'cycling demonstration town' with increased levels of investment, saw over 40% growth over the same period. Countywide traffic levels during this time fell by 1.5% and by 5.4% in Exeter.

The national Census Travel to Work figures showed a 57% increase in those cycling to work in Exeter between 2001 and 2011 – in Salisbury there was a decrease of 4% and in Wiltshire overall a decrease of 12% of people cycling to work – see graph below.



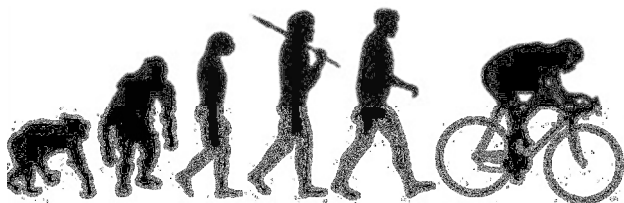
Will our newly elected County Councillors recognise the benefits which could accrue to Wiltshire from sustained investment in cycling – benefits for health, the environment, relieving traffic congestion, and increasing green tourism? We hope so – the case for investment in cycling seems to be getting stronger by the day!

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🚲 COGS contributed in March to the **Police and Crime Plan** which Wiltshire's new Police Commissioner has written. We were concerned to note that the latest road accident figures for Wiltshire (for 2011) showed an increase in accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians, especially children. We suggested that thought needed to be given both to the re-introduction of speed cameras (switched off in 2010) and the introduction of 20mph zones in residential areas.

🚲 With new **cycle parking** stands in Queen Elizabeth Gardens and near the Central Health Clinic there will soon be over 500 cycle parking places in central Salisbury (100 of these are at the railway station). The COGS team of counters are undertaking regular surveys to find how well used these are, and where bikes are parked without stands, which indicates more cycle parking is required. Prime locations where there are cycles left without stands are the Market Square, Maltings area (including Library passage) and Castle Street Tesco Metro - where stands have now been delivered but await installation). More new stands are coming to New Canal as well!

🚲 We are grateful to Alice Henry for getting us set up on **Facebook** – search for 'COGS Salisbury' or follow the link from the COGS website – if you're already on Facebook please find us and 'like' & 'share' etc. For people who are not on Facebook and would like to share information - cycling initiatives, cycling news, photos of COGS events, bike rides they have been on. Please feel free to email links, pictures, text, etc. to cogs.salisbury@gmail.com.



COGS AGM

COGS celebrated its 18th birthday at the 2012 AGM, and a Powerpoint presentation featured some of the highlights from the COGS story to date. We were pleased to welcome Tom Murray Willis from SALTMO to the meeting to talk about ideas which would 'Get Salisbury Cycling'.

Officers on the COGS committee were elected unchanged from last year: Jimmy Walker - Chair; Margaret Willmot - Minutes Secretary, Gill Anlezark - Membership Secretary; Rob Jacobs - Treasurer; Peter Durnan - Sustrans Liaison Ranger.

All COGS members are welcome to attend the monthly meetings, held (generally) on the last Tuesday of each month. To receive the agenda and minutes contact COGS (see details below).

Wiltshire Council LTP3 –Cycling Strategy Consultation

Wiltshire Council are currently consulting on the Cycling Strategy for the period to 2026, in conjunction with various other components of the 3rd Local Transport Plan [LTP3].

The documents are available at the Council's consultation portal at <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>

COGS feel that the Cycling Strategy lacks ambition with no clear vision or targets. We hope Wiltshire Council will take note of the Get Britain Cycling report, and the examples from other places such as Devon (see overleaf). We would like to see the following:

- a policy which supports 20mph limits as the default in residential areas and 40mph limits on minor rural roads
- policies to prioritise the completion of missing links in the Sustrans National Cycle Network in Wiltshire (e.g. from Wilton to Salisbury, and Petersfinger to the Alderbury crossing).
- A policy to improve the Wiltshire Cycleway and other routes with tourism potential. A safe cycle link to Stonehenge should be a high priority.
- There should be a vision for the future of cycling – see for example Devon's vision overleaf. And there should be targets to increase cycling over the LTP3 period – could Wiltshire aspire to reach the target of 10% of all journeys in Wiltshire to be by bike by 2025, in line with the APPCG's recent recommendations?

COGS membership & renewals

A renewal slip is enclosed for all members except those who have joined in the last few weeks. We hope you will decide to renew, and encourage anyone you know who is interested in cycling to do likewise – membership continues to be £2 a year (additional donations always welcome!). This is exceptional value for money, and with 140+ members your continued membership gives us a strong campaigning voice locally.

To keep down costs we try and communicate via email as much as possible – so we would be grateful if members would give us their email address (clearly printed) when renewing. Please note that COGS will **not** share your email address with others and we keep email communications to a minimum. We try and update members by email no more than once a month, and we endeavour to keep information on our website up to date.

For those without internet access, we will continue to send out a newsletter with the rides programme and renewals each spring and also to update you when we announce the AGM date and details in the autumn.