



# COGSnews

The Newsletter of the  
Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury  
May 2014



## ☺ NEW CYCLE PARKING FOR SALISBURY ...

In the Market Square .....

in New Canal .....



### .... and at the Railway Station

COGS were pleased to see cycle stands have now been put in place in both the Market Square and New Canal, and our regular cycle counts show that these are attracting increasing numbers of bicycles as people become aware of them.

Less satisfactory is the new cycle parking at the railway station, where an increased number of stands have been put on Platform 4 in a secure compound accessible from the booking hall. Apparently swipe card access will be available on payment of a deposit ... but as we go to press the stands are still unused, some weeks after installation, as they are not yet 'signed off'.



## PROMOTING CYCLING IN SALISBURY

COGS of course want to see more people cycling, but is the latest 'Cycling in Wiltshire' advertising campaign the best use of funding for cyclists?

The 'Get Cycling' advertisement in the photograph on the left has appeared on a bus stop in Wilton Road, immediately opposite the Police station which is shortly to begin its transformation into a University Technical College (UTC). This will be attracting pupils aged 14 – 18, so potentially cycling should be a preferred mode of transport.

However the Transport Assessment submitted with the planning application for the UTC noted that there were 25 recorded road traffic accidents on the Wilton Road between Australian Avenue and St Pauls roundabout between 2008 and 2013, resulting in injury to 13 cyclists. The Transport Assessment noted that "*It appears that cyclists are vulnerable at certain locations on the A36 (T) Wilton Road*" and recommended that a review of the route be undertaken by Wiltshire Council and the Highways Agency, looking for options to improve the standard of the route.



Rather than spend money on an advert promoting cycling at what has been identified as an accident black spot for cyclists would it not have been better to invest time and money in serious consideration of how this route could be made safer for cyclists?

# COGSnews

🚲 Wiltshire Council has finally adopted the Cycling Strategy component of their Local Transport Plan in March 2014. While this contains a wealth of information on the benefits of cycling it is somewhat short on specific commitments to improvements and there are no targets set to increase cycling levels.

🚲 Wiltshire have secured funding from the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to improve its rail offer. This is linked to an improved rail service on the Trans Wilts line (linking Westbury to Swindon) which started in December 2013. The funding also covers a review of walking and cycling routes to railway stations, including Salisbury, as well as promotion of 'Smarter Travel' options such as cycling and the development of a new travel planning website – see <http://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/>.

🚲 Salisbury Area Board held an event called 'What Matters to You' on March 27<sup>th</sup> to give the community the opportunity to decide their priorities for Salisbury. The top priorities, one from each of 10 theme groups, as voted on by all the attendees, included a number which related to cycling, including:

- *Joined up cycleways to increase the attraction and safety of cycling in the City*
- *Tackle poor air quality making sure the new plan targets short journeys making it more attractive to walk and cycle*
- *Promote more outdoor and cultural opportunities that support health and wellbeing.*

It is very helpful to know that there is community support for cycling and walking, we must now work to ensure that the Area Board does indeed take steps to prioritise these healthy and environmentally friendly transport modes across the City.

## CYCLE RIDES & MEETINGS

The COGS Summer Rides programme for 2014 is being sent out with this newsletter, and rides are on the Diary page of the COGS website. Keep an eye on that, and the email updates, as further rides may get added as we go through the summer.

Sky Ride Local – guided bike rides organised and supported by British Cycling Rides leaders – will also be running in Wiltshire and will be added to the website at [www.goskyride.com](http://www.goskyride.com). Plus there are now Breeze Cycle rides for women taking place in Salisbury - find out what is happening at [www.goskyride.com/breeze](http://www.goskyride.com/breeze).

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).



## COGS AGM



COGS were delighted to welcome Gordon Seabright, Chief Executive of the CTC, as the guest speaker at our AGM in October. Gordon (above) was an informal and entertaining speaker and he shared with us some up to the minute ideas about the CTC re-branding exercise which was underway as well as providing an update on what CTC are doing both at the national level and more locally.

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.

The AGM agreed to increase the adult subscription rate from £2 to £3 p.a. This rate has been unchanged since the inception of COGS in 1994, and we hope members will recognise that this still represents excellent value for money. As always, we welcome any additional donations which members give us, and these are used to support cycling projects, such as signage, in and around Salisbury.

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.