



Covid-19
For up-to-date advice
on cycling during
the pandemic, visit
[cyclinguk.org/
coronavirus](https://cyclinguk.org/coronavirus)



Flo (10) liked riding
to school safely

Left: Shoreham-By-Cycle. Right: Alamy

Cyclists' Defence Fund

BIKE LANE COURT BATTLE

A popular cycle lane in Shoreham was axed just five weeks after it was installed. **Duncan Dollimore** explains why Cycling UK is taking the local council to court

For many children in England, 8 March was an exciting day. After months of lockdown and missing their friends, it was back to school – but not by bike in Shoreham, West Sussex.

That's because the cycle lane running along Upper Shoreham Road was arbitrarily removed by the local council. They had the data to prove the lane was really popular with school children accessing five schools along that road. Many other people used the lane as well; the number of cycle trips nearly tripled. Yet they still dismantled it.

Naysayers said that the cycle lane would cause congestion and worsen pollution. Alas, the council's own evidence didn't support that contention, leaving them in a tricky position. What to do when all the facts supported keeping the lane in place but a minority of people thought it was a bad thing?

Here's what happened: the council took the government's money, installed a temporary cycle lane, ignored the evidence that it was working and popular, and took a decision to remove it five weeks later to appease a few who complained. We don't have the resources at Cycling UK to rush to court

every time we disagree with a decision, and if we did we'd never leave the courtroom. We only tend to do it when something is so outrageous that there doesn't seem to be an alternative.

We did this five years ago through the Cyclists' Defence Fund, following the tragic death of Michael Mason. We issued a private prosecution for causing death by careless driving against the driver who failed to see him on a well-lit, straight road. But it wasn't just us. Members and supporters were outraged too, donating to a crowd-funding campaign to help us bring the case to trial.

Five years on, we're outraged again. Decisions to remove safe infrastructure that enables children to cycle to school shouldn't be made arbitrarily, with obstinate facts disregarded in favour of assumption. Therein lies a path to greater car dependency and fewer children cycling to school, rather than millions more people cycling. I'm hoping you feel the same. If you do, please support our application for a judicial review of West Sussex County Council's decision to remove the cycle lane by donating to Cycling UK's legal fund: cyclinguk.org/cdf.

Infrastructure

NO DELAYS FROM BIKE LANES

Some parts of the British media would have you believe that the pandemic's pop-up bike lanes delayed ambulances. Cycling UK's freedom of information request revealed that none of the ambulance trusts in England, Scotland and Wales are against the new lanes, while a third of them strongly support the lanes because of their public health and road safety benefits. cyclinguk.org/ambulance-foi-2021



No ambulance trusts are against bike lanes

AGM notice

CYCLING UK AGM 2021

The 2021 Cycling UK AGM will take place on Friday 10 September. Like last year's event, it will be a virtual meeting. We are now launching the call for motions. For details on the process for proposing motions, as well as the criteria against which motions will be reviewed, visit cyclinguk.org/agm-2021. The deadline for motions is 7 May 2021. Voting papers will be released in the August/September issue of Cycle. ▶



Will be virtual this March and April: cyclinguk.org/local-groups/cycling-uk-member-group-agms-2021

Scotland

CYCLE REPAIR SCHEME

The Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme is getting people onto bikes across Scotland – 20,000 and counting so far! The scheme provides help to those who need it most, with £50 of free cycle repairs and servicing at 330 Scottish bike shops. Cycling UK is administering the scheme, which runs until the end of May, on behalf of the Scottish government. For more information, visit cyclinguk.org/ScotCycleRepair.



1980s' racer renovated by the repair scheme

Governance

TRUSTEE ELECTIONS 2021

This year the Cycling UK 2021 Trustee application process will be launched in the June/July edition of Cycle magazine. For information on the role of Trustees at Cycling UK, visit cyclinguk.org/about/cycling-uk-board/how-to-become-a-trustee. Voting for prospective Cycling UK Trustees will be launched in the October/November magazine.

Bike Week

THINK BIG

Last September, the World's Biggest Bike Ride got thousands of people in the saddle all across the nation – young and old, beginners and veterans, from all walks of life. They logged more than 100,000 miles, which is four times round the equator. Now the event is back, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever.

This year's ride takes place on Sunday 30 May, launching Bike Week 2021.

At the time of going to press it's still uncertain to what extent group cycling will be permitted. Yet it doesn't matter whether you ride solo, in a bubble, or in a socially-distanced group: the important thing is that you get out and ride.

One in three people in the UK – more than 20 million of us – either own or have access to a bike, and we want as many of them as possible to get pedalling, however long or short the

distance, to showcase the benefits of cycling. Bike Week this year is focusing on wellness, and the World's Biggest Bike Ride is a fantastic opportunity to experience how cycling can boost our wellbeing – not just physical but mental and emotional as well. Please help spread the word.

Find out more about the World's Biggest Bike Ride and register your ride at worldsbiggestbikeride.uk.

Events

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL OF CYCLING

Cycling UK is celebrating the fifth Women's Festival of Cycling from 17 July to 1 August, and this is your opportunity to help and empower more women to cycle. Far fewer women in the UK ride a bike than men, but with encouragement from their friends and families we know we can redress the balance. We'll be asking you to pitch in this July by taking a female friend out riding, sharing your cycling inspiration online, and taking part in our festival activities. cyclinguk.org/womensfestival



For more on the Women's Festival, see the website and Twitter (#BeYouByBike)

Photo: Andy Catlin



Lockdown heroes CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Where possible over the last year, our volunteers have continued to help thousands more people enjoy the many benefits of cycling. We'd love to shine a spotlight on them during Volunteers' Week, from 1 to 7 June, and at our virtual Volunteer Celebration in October. If you know a group or individual who has been spreading 'lockdown love' in their community through cycling, email: volunteering@cyclinguk.org.

Awards

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Outgoing Secretary of Highland CTC Steve Carroll has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Cycling UK. He was one of the founder members of the group over 25 years ago and led it ever since. He was presented with the award virtually at the group's AGM in March and received a letter of thanks from Cycling UK Chief Executive Sarah Mitchell. If you know anyone who deserves recognition for their volunteering, please email volunteering@cyclinguk.org.



There are elections across Britain on 6 May. Do your candidates support cycling?

Advocacy

ELECTING TO CYCLE

On 6 May there will be elections for the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru, and over 150 English local authorities, city region mayors, and Police and Crime Commissioners. Across our election campaigns, we are setting out a vision where cycling is for everyone; where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are enabled to enjoy the benefits of cycling.

During the first Covid-19 lockdown, we saw cycling booming throughout the UK, with old bikes pulled out of sheds and families enjoying rides together on quiet roads, often for the first time. We know that there is huge latent demand to create towns, cities, and rural communities where everyone can cycle as a normal part of life, whether that's a weekend road ride without fear of dangerous overtaking, a mid-week potter to the shops on protected cycle lanes, or a trip to school through safe, low-speed, liveable neighbourhoods.

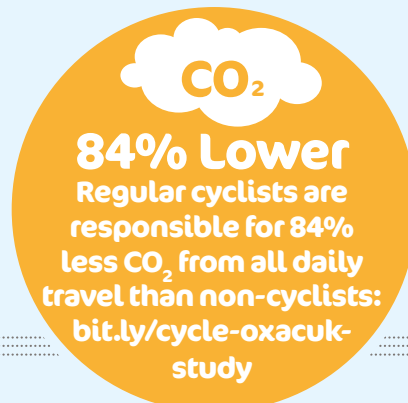
The outcomes of these elections will have a huge impact on whether that vision can become a reality – not in terms of which parties take control of the respective governments and councils, but in terms of whether your elected representatives from across the political spectrum recognise the role cycling can play in tackling many of the problems facing local communities and our country as a whole.

Through our election campaigns in

Scotland, Wales and England, we are calling on candidates to:

- support increased investment in high quality networks of cycle lanes;
- deliver liveable neighbourhoods with safe space for cycling, walking, and wheeling;
- take steps to ensure rural communities are connected by bike.

We are working closely with our local representatives in the Cycling Advocacy Network and supporting local campaign groups to put pressure on politicians, but we need your help too. To ensure that your candidates listen to these calls, they need to know that their constituents, like you, also support cycling measures. You can make this happen by visiting cyclinguk.org/elections2021 to add your voice to the campaign where you live.



Membership

CYCLING UK FOR YOUR FRIENDS

Spring is the ideal time to spread the joy of being a Cycling UK member. Do you know someone who might want to join? Visit cyclinguk.org/mgm and enter your name, membership number, and email. You'll receive a 'join Cycling UK' notice to pass on to your friend, and can also enter a prize draw to win your next year of membership for free.



Photo: Robby Spanning

Economy

WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET?

March is the season for national budgets across the UK. At time of writing, the governments of England, Scotland and Wales had unveiled their plans. Post-pandemic recovery is at the heart of them all. Wales's budget includes £50m more for active travel, Scotland's £15m, and England's... nothing! Find out Cycling UK's take on this at cyclinguk.org/budgets-2021.



Over 50lb
Weight of member
Amos Sugden's 1890s'
pass-storming bike:
[cyclinguk.org/article/
british-history-road-
cycling](https://cyclinguk.org/article/british-history-road-cycling)



Postcard of Belfast's docks in their heyday – heritage the new route celebrates

Northern Ireland

PEDAL INTO THE PAST

Cycling UK is teaming up with community organisations across Belfast to develop a cycling and walking trail that celebrates the heritage of the industries which have shaped the city.

Powered by a £10,000 grant from the Community Heritage Fund, the project will be community-led, connecting residents with the heritage of their area by incorporating their personal stories and suggestions of significant locations. The route will link the ship building communities of east Belfast with the Sailortown area in the north of the city.

Josh Murray, Cycling UK's engagement officer in Northern Ireland, is keen to crack on and uncover the stories: "I grew up in Belfast and worked here for several years," he said, "and so I have cycled through the marina and thought about our maritime history countless times. But what has not happened before, and what this grant from the Department for Communities and the National Lottery Heritage Fund will make possible, is to link all these locations together in a journey by bicycle or on foot, suitable for all.

"I know that the people

of Belfast are great ambassadors for our city, and so I am looking forward to speaking with local communities and working with Eastside Partnership, Sailortown Regeneration and Maritime Trust to bring this route to life and encourage those in the community to join in this journey."

The history along the route will be brought to life using interactive maps and videos and interviews with local people telling their stories of days spent working at the shipyards and factories. cyclinguk.org/routes-roots-launch

Road safety

POTHOLE WATCH

The first week of March saw pothole reports using Cycling UK's Fill That Hole tool triple, as members and supporters responded enthusiastically to our annual 'Pothole Watch' campaign. Hundreds of potentially dangerous potholes have been brought to the attention of local authorities, while Cycling UK called for more funding from governments across the UK to enable local authorities to fix the local roads we use every day. You can help by reporting potholes on fillthathole.org.uk.



Photo: Robby Spanning