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Bike to the Future II

Cycling England bids for £250million from the Government to raise cycle use and combat obesity and climate change

Cycling England has put in a bid for £250 million in funding from the Government to boost cycling levels. The 'Bike to the Future II' proposals would see a dramatic increase in cycle training, plus a range of projects to get more people on their bikes. Since it was submitted, the signals from Government look positive, with Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly hinting at a big boost for cycling and peppering her speeches with upbeat references to the value of cycling as a healthy, environment-friendly transport option. An announcement is likely by the time you read this.

Cycling England has requested £40m in

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the first year (2008/9) and then £70m for each of the three following years. The bid aims to promote cycle use among children and expand the Cycle Demonstration Towns programme, including the establishment of a

Cycling Demonstration City. If fully funded, Cycling England's target is to increase cycle use by 20% by 2012.

THE CYCLING SOLUTION

Meanwhile several recent reports have bolstered the arguments for pro-cycling measures. The Government's 'Foresight' report on obesity found that over a half of all adults and a quarter of children could be obese by 2050 and that the social costs of obesity could increase seven-fold to over £50bn a year. It pointed out that a pro-car transport agenda had locked people into sedentary lifestyles, but that designing cycle-friendly towns and cities would help tackle climate change as well as reducing waistlines.

The Parliamentary Advisory Committee for Transport Safety (PACTS) called for 20mph to be the default speed limit for urban streets, again citing the benefits this would have not only for road safety but also for the global climate and our quality of life.

Yet more good news came in a Government report on the effectiveness of Personalised Travel Planning (PTP), where people are given individual advice on the ways to reduce

car use. Significantly, PTP projects in three 'Sustainable Transport Demonstration Towns' have increased cycle use by up to 65%, and reduced car journeys by around 10%, yielding benefits worth £30 for every £1 spent (for comparison, road-schemes typically yield just £2-3). The exceptional value of small projects, and 'smarter choice' measures in particular, were also highlighted in the Government's combined response to high profile policy reviews from Nicholas Stern (which looked at the economics of climate change) and Sir Rod Eddington (looking at the relationship between transport and the economy).

Despite all the good news, the Government is still proposing to spend significant funding on major road schemes, and also seems to be scaling back its proposals for road pricing. Without a commitment to tackle traffic growth, there is a risk that cycle training, PTP and other pro-cycling policies could be rowing against the tide. CTC will continue to argue that the Government must treat cycling not as a peripheral activity, but as a central element of its plans for a healthier and sustainable future.

More details at www.cyclingengland.co.uk.

Calling old phones

Fifty million mobile phones are bought in the UK each year and only 4% of the old ones are recycled. Most are left in a drawer or thrown away, which is partly why electronic waste is the fastest growing rubbish stream in the UK. If you recycle your phone instead through Fonehouse's Feelgood campaign, it will cut down electronic waste and is worth an average of £4 to CTC into the bargain.

Fonehouse is one of the UK's largest independent mobile phone retailers. Their Feelgood campaign launched in 2006 raises funds through phone recycling for ethical sustainable initiatives including community projects, local regeneration and now, through CTC, sustainable transportation: cycling. For more information see www.fonehouse.co.uk/feelgood.

There are around 90 million unused phones hiding in drawers and cupboards across the UK. To put your phone to good use for cycling and to recycle it in an environmentally-friendly way, simply use the bag inserted in this magazine and follow the instructions on the envelope. It's a freepost



service to mail it. Your old phone will either be reused or broken down, with its component parts being recycled.

Fonehouse have also put together two exclusive mobile phones offers for CTC members. See details on p78 or go to www.fonehouse.co.uk/feelgood/ctc.

FROM CTC DIRECTOR KEVIN MAYNE



Colder mornings. Getting out the bike lights. Finding gloves and hat. Mountain biking on carpets of fallen leaves.

Cresting the Chilterns to see colours that would match New England, reflecting on a summer's riding now behind me. The seasonal turn touches everyone, but cycling makes it somehow more intimate and personal.

Working for CTC you sense the organisation's pulse change with the seasons. In the summer you are out riding your bikes, and the politicians are away. With everyone actually cycling, not talking about it, it's a quieter time for the office team. Now we are heading into winter, the riding and touring arms of CTC begin to pull in. Meetings, dinners, awards and next year dominate the discussions. It's all review and forward planning, next year's events and calendars. By contrast the campaigns and professional services teams are winding up for the new political season, the battles and alliances will be joined afresh, the projects and programmes will kick off.

As you read this I'll be working with CTC Council to put the finishing touches to our annual report (which will be published in the April/May issue) and thinking of next year as the start of another cycle in CTC's history. The Highway Code campaign, cycle training booming, another 5% increase in membership, Cyclehero, and robust financial results all offset any winter blues.

But this year does feel different. We are flat out recruiting the new staff for our Cycling Champions projects. Our biggest ever recruitment programme attracted nearly 300 applicants, bursting with infectious enthusiasm for the way CTC can change lives in their communities. As we burst out of winter into spring we expect to have the 15 members of our new development team on board, just as CTC is set to commemorate its 130 year anniversary. I will have been your Director for 10 years too, but I have rarely looked forward to a winter's work more. Spring should be a season of rejuvenation, and this really does have that feeling. Pedal on!

STAND FOR CTC COUNCIL

Two vacancies have appeared on CTC Council. Now's your chance to make good on all those times you've said to yourself 'If I were running CTC...'

Standing for election for CTC Council is a dangerous thing. You have to put something of yourself out into the world – and once the presses have rolled there's no going back. These days your unhappy prose stands for all time at the bar of the internet – and that photograph! Worse can follow. What happens if nobody votes for you? Not even your mum. Think on as you read the following.

Phil Benstead has left the Council after many years of service, and Karen Sutton has been forced by personal circumstance to do the same. We are therefore two elected councillors short of the full set. We seek nominations for the vacant seats in the North West of England (until December 2009) and London (until December 2008). CTC Council is the Club's Board of Directors and the body that sets policy and budgets. We are, put simply, the people in charge.

Ask yourself this: Could you represent the hopes and fears of CTC members in your area? Do you think that your knowledge and experience would give the CTC Council a better, wider, shinier vision of cycling's future? Do you think that the CTC National Office needs shaking up a bit, or that the service could be improved, or that the campaigning needs a re-think? There's a nomination form on the CTC website. Fill it out, find a dozen members who think enough of you to put their names to the sheet, and send it to Peter Jackson at CTC National Office by 4th January.

NEWSINBRIEF

CTC MEMBERSHIP UP

With 58,250 members, CTC's year end membership is the highest since 1898. It's up 3,000 since last September. Your voice through membership means more clout when CTC talks to Government or instigates campaigns. Thanks to you, CTC successfully supported Daniel Cadden's appeal case against inconsiderate cycling, successfully campaigned against proposed changes to the Highway code, and fixed thousands of potholes through our online fault reporting tool www.fillthathole.org.uk.

YOU WIN!

The winners of the 2007 CTC Summer Draw are: 1st (£2000), M Fowler from Bristol; 2nd (£1000), J L Godley, Gloucester; 3rd (£500) J Lister, London; and runners up (£100), H Nicholson of Leeds, Mr & Mrs Wickham out Southam, T Heaton of Telford, C Gaulter-Carter of Thame, and I Watson of Widnes.

FROM THE TOURING DEPT MARK WATERS



One of my favourite times of year is when the CTC tours brochure comes out, which is roughly when this magazine

hits your doorstep. Despite being a tour leader myself, I still get a thrill from reading what other leaders have planned. Some tours are to places I have dreamed of going to all my life, whilst others are to places I could feasibly get to under my own steam, if I only had enough annual leave! To receive your copy of the tours brochure call the CTC Helpline and we'll get one sent out. Or visit the website: www.cyclingholidays.org

If you prefer DIY trips, remember that one of CTC's most popular (but often unsung) member benefits is the touring information service. We have over 650 route and country information sheets, so you can learn first hand from people who have been that way before and contributed some facts about it. (You could do the same when you get back!)

The launch of ctc-maps.org.uk has revolutionised the way it's now possible to present touring information. Unlike some route sharing sites, you can record your trips/tours/rides in a variety of formats, and can also include photos. Make it your New Year resolution to check it out and provide us with details of your last tour.

NEWSINBRIEF

CYCLING UP, CASUALTIES DOWN

Cycle use is at a 10-year high while the risk of cycling is at a 10-year low, according to Government statistics. Transport Statistics Great Britain 2007 shows that there were 4.6bn km cycled in Britain in 2006, compared with figures of around 4.0bn km annually throughout the late 1990s. And there are now 374 reported cycle casualties per 100,000km cycled, down from over 600 a decade ago.

TRANSPORT PLANS ABANDONED?

The Department for Transport is looking at replacing Local Transport Plans with 10-15 year 'integrated transport strategies' and shorter term implementation plans. CTC has objected to these proposals, fearing that projects focused on cycling will be lost in longer-term planning. We have also argued for more attention to be paid in local transport plans to the issues of climate change.



Station masters

Chiltern Railways was recognised as having the best station for cyclists in the UK at the National Cycle Rail Awards in October. Haddenham and Thame Parkway station won the CTC Station of the Year award thanks to initiatives such as the Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group, while Guildford station was highly commended for its new cycle racks (pictured).

CTC supports the National Cycle Rail Awards, which are sponsored by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), because we believe having awards means we can use the examples to tell others that good practice is not impossible. Several of the other Cycle Rail winners came from CTC members nominations. CTC was represented at the awards by CTC Council's Barry Jordan and Richard Bates who were delighted that both Station of the Year winners were in the South

East region that they represent.

CTC sponsors Station of the Year because it represents the place where the largest number of cyclists interface with the network. We ran the DfT station survey a few years ago and are able to get our volunteers to assess and recommend the possible winners each year.

We are pleased that ONE Railway's extra trains to support a charity bike ride won the Customer Service Award. We would love to see more rail operators having the will to provide special services for events such as the London to Brighton bike ride.

Tom Harris MP, the Minister who opened CTC's new offices last year, presented the awards and expressed his further supportive for cycle-rail initiatives. CTC is particularly pleased that the Government has agreed with our proposal to set up a national cycle rail forum, now to be known as Cycle & Rail Integration Transport (CRIT).

CHANGES IN THE AIR

British Airways have revised their rules on what you can take on their 'planes as 'sporting equipment', which includes cycles. Large items like surfboards will now have to go as cargo, and the industry 'standard' of 158cm as the sum of length, height and width will generally apply. BA has confirmed that they have some tolerance on '158cm' and most bike bags and cases that contain dismantled bikes (including the CTC polythene sack, formerly supplied by BA) will still be accepted if they are close to this figure. For more, see www.britishairways.com/travel/bagsport/public/en_gb.

BA advise us that existing bookings for bikes that do not comply with the new rulings will be honoured, and that the baggage handling service larger items should be in place soon. This will – for a fee – collect your bike and deliver it to an agreed schedule. We expect to know details by the end of 2007. CTC has called for it to be available for those arriving at the airport on their own wheels and without an unreasonable period to process the bike and travel on the same flight.

Meanwhile, whoever you're flying with, it pays to be prepared. A Norfolk CTC member had bagged bikes refused by ground staff at Glasgow until he showed the printout of the Easyjet website to prove what was allowed!



Cycle heroes honoured

CTC's Volunteer and Group of the Year Awards are open for nominations again. Chair of CTC Council Jill Kieran said: 'This is a unique opportunity for CTC as an organisation to give thanks and recognition to the people and groups that give so much to cycling. I want to encourage all members to think about nominating someone. Just sharing the stories reminds us all of the passion and energy for cycling that motivates our organisation.'

Regional and national award winners are invited to CTC's annual dinner and featured on the CTC website.

South Bucks Midweek Group, Winner of Voluntary Group of the Year in 2007, celebrated the end of another summer of booming attendances at their midweek rides with a special gathering of over 70 members on 12th September at Wendover Woods. CTC Director

NATIONAL



Kevin Mayne was invited to join the rides and re-presented the winner's trophy to John David (pictured), one of the driving forces behind the group's success.

Entry forms and the stories of past winners can be found on the CTC website www.ctc.org.uk/volunteerawards or by calling national office. Closing date is 1st February 2008.

NEWSINBRIEF

YORK CYCLE SHOW

York Cycle Show Committee is seeking a volunteer site manager for the event on 21st and 22nd June next year. The site manager is needed on site in York the week before the event, to oversee site marking out, and to liaise with contractors who deliver marquees, skips, furniture, and fencing. During the show, the site manager needs to liaise with colleagues. Anyone who would like to 'learn the ropes' is invited to contact the event Secretary John Taylorson at yorkcycleshow@ctc.org.uk or tel: 07765 070120. Volunteers with plumbing and electrical certificates are also sought.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Graham Mills, who died unexpectedly earlier this year, was an outstanding touring cyclist who made a huge contribution to CTC, both within Chester and North Wales DA and as a national councillor. He was deeply involved in the formation of CTC Cymru and in the promotion of cycling throughout Wales, not least through the annual Welsh Festival of Cycling. He had already begun work on the 2008 Birthday Rides at the time of his death. A keen touring and audax cyclist, he will be remembered not just for his cycling and planning skills, but for the Collins guide, *Cycling in Snowdonia and North Wales*.

Kathleen McCallum joined South Bucks CTC in 1993, when she was in her sixties. She rapidly became part of the new Midweek section, leading rides and taking part in the section's holidays in the Cotswolds, Essex and Ireland. She has also helped out on randonnées and at the revived Golden Beeches weekend. In the last 14 years she has been a frequent and witty contributor to the DA magazine, *The Beech Leaf*, and she is now in her fifth year as its editor. She has also been DA Registrar for the last nine years.

Jim Deeley became a stalwart of club cycling in South Hampshire when he returned to cycling in the 1980s. He held the post of DA Secretary twice, for 16 years in total, and in the interim took on the even more onerous task of Events Secretary. He organised the 1998 Tri Vets event locally, and coped amicably and efficiently with the changing nature of organised club cycling. When he stood down as DA Secretary in 2005 he was unanimously elected DA Honorary Life President.

CAMPAIGNERS DO NEW YORK

WARRINGTON

Warrington Cycle Campaign were invited to present their thoughts on cycling as part of the annual New Yorker Festival in October. The event was put together by musician and artist David Byrne, co-founder of Talking Heads, who has cycled in New York for 25 years and is a frequent viewer of Warrington Cycle Campaign's website. He felt that the site's Facility of the Month section, which satirises ridiculous cycle facilities, would be an ideal part of the event.

The New Yorker Magazine, which sponsored the festival, flew the campaign's Deputy Chairman, Jonathan Wood, out to New York for the weekend. Jonathan showing a selection of examples from the website and also reported on how Warrington Borough Council is relying less on cycle facilities and is now considering a wide range of measures to encourage cycling – many of which have been suggested by Warrington Cycle Campaign.

The book of the website, 'Crap Cycle Lanes', has been published by Eye Books in the UK. See p66.

Farewell to summertime

STEVENAGE

Despite the wet and windy weather (and an even more dire forecast) 300 cyclists enjoyed 'Emitremmus', the annual 100 kilometre CTC cycle challenge from Stevenage to Saffron Walden and back, which always take place on the day the clocks change. The event was diverted to avoid a landslide!

Participants were started from Fairlands Valley Park by the Councillor Graham Clark, the Mayor of Stevenage. They left in six groups of about 50 riders. For more on cycling from Stevenage go to the new local CTC website www.stevenagectc.org.uk.

The next big cycle challenge from Stevenage will be the Stevenage Start of Summertime Specials the next time the clocks change – Sunday 30th March 2008.





CTC & Sustrans build bridges

Ken Reed of West Dorset CTC shows how the enthusiasm of his local group got them included in a £50 million national funding bid

Suddenly I paid attention. Somebody said '£50m for cycling'. It had been a long meeting. Had I heard right? Poking about on the computer at home, I found it. Sustrans were short-listed for funding of up to £50m for their Connect2 Lottery Bid for cycling and walking schemes around the UK that make a difference. A few phone calls later and I confirmed that nothing was planned for where I live in Weymouth – typical!

LOCAL SCHEMES

It just so happens that we have this wonderful old rail track route. It goes by the sea and local kids use it to go to school. There is one problem – it has this great big hole in it (pictured, above). Some long-gone bureaucrat with no vision had knocked down a bridge. My idea had long been to get it replaced and here was an opportunity not to be missed. I put it to my CTC committee, the West Dorset Section of the Wessex District Association. They took it on with enthusiasm.

Great, but now the hard work needed doing. The application itself was not difficult. The hard bit was to get all 'stakeholders' to sign up. As you see I had to learn to 'talk the talk'. Next I would need to 'walk the walk' – in other words, get it

done! Luckily for me Peter Robinson, the boss at award-winning Dorchester Cycles, who himself has Multiple Sclerosis (MS), got the Weymouth MS Society on board, and then the local access group. After that everybody I asked said 'yes'. Suddenly, from a high-tech pipe dream I had a real project. John Grimshaw Chief Executive of Sustrans came down on his bike and set the planning process going. Council officials expressed support. One even took up cycling!

FINDING FUNDING

People started mentioning 'matched funding'. Our CTC Section has a few quid but there's no way even the whole District Association could raise £350,000! I thought that would be it – but the opposite was the case. My bridge became a cycle route to the Sailing Olympics. They would throw in £350,000 worth of work. Matched funding got! So now we have a whole route instead of just a bridge – £700,000 could be spent on pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users, and Weymouth is part of a UK-wide Lottery bid. Next step and I am off to a Connect2 conference. Now it is not just about our scheme in Weymouth but all 79 in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – see 'Vote Now!'.

VOTE NOW!

Like CTC's Cycle Champions Project or Cycling England's submission to DfT, submitting bids as part of large national consortia is one of the most effective ways for local cycling schemes to attract funding.

Sustrans' Connect2 is one of just four projects still in the running to win £50m from the Big Lottery Fund's 'Living Landmark's: The People's Millions' competition. Online voting will have begun as you read this. Sustrans' proposals are featured on ITV1 on Tuesday 4th December, and a live telephone vote takes place on Friday 7th to decide the winner. If Connect2 wins, all the schemes around the UK to create cycling routes will win. It is all or nothing, one for all and all for one. So pick up your phones and vote. If we don't vote, £50m will be lost to cycling!

Visit www.sustransconnect2.org.uk or text Connect2 to 80010 to find out more and register your support.

