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Chris Boardman with APPCG MPs Julian Huppert, Dr Sarah Wollaston and Ian Austin

“The report calls for 10% of journeys in Britain to be made by cycle by 2025. It’s under 2% now”

safety and motoring groups backing the report’s proposal to make Bikeability training available in all primary and secondary schools, arguing that it is just as important to provide children with the skills to cycle safely on roads as it is to teach them to swim.

A copy of the report is available here: tinyurl.com/c3ws848.

Taking action

Within days of the report’s publication, CTC held several high-level meetings, including one with Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin. CTC’s Chief Executive Gordon Seabright and Campaigns Director Roger Geffen reinforced the economic and other arguments for substantial investment in cycling – bearing in mind the ongoing inter-departmental negotiations over George Osborne’s forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

CTC also pressed the case with McLoughlin for some relatively low-cost ‘quick wins’. In other meetings, we also pushed for stronger action on traffic law and enforcement, and for the Government’s forthcoming Roads Strategy to support improvements to cycle access, rather than undermining it.

The Times posted a petition on the Government website, calling for action and funding to implement the report’s recommendations. It has had a great response, with Jon Snow and Chris Boardman leading the calls for cyclists to sign it, and with Alan Sugar, Richard Branson and AA President Edmund King all adding high-profile support.

At the time of writing, it was past half-way to the target of 100,000 signatures, which would help trigger a parliamentary debate. However, this really needs to happen in time to influence George Osborne’s Comprehensive Spending Review in late June, if we are to secure the funding cycling so needs and deserves.

Please sign the petition and encourage friends and colleagues to do likewise! Go online to: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/49196>

For reports of the inquiry, including CTC’s evidence, see ctc.org.uk/get-britain-cycling

GET BRITAIN CYCLING

After weeks of oral evidence and hundreds of written pages, the report is out. What next? **Chris Peck** outlines CTC’s response

CTC WELCOMED the publication in April of the Get Britain Cycling report, and has urged the Government to implement its 18 recommendations. The report calls for 10% of journeys in Britain to be made by cycle by 2025; the current figure is less than 2%.

The report has also called for central government spending of at least £10 per head of population per year to boost cycle use, increasing as cycle use rises. London has recently announced plans to spend £12.50 per person per year over the next 10 years, whilst the Dutch are spending around £24 per person per year.

The recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group’s Get Britain Cycling inquiry echo calls made by CTC in its written and oral evidence to the inquiry earlier this year. CTC President Jon Snow and Olympic cyclist Chris Boardman were among the inquiry witnesses, with other

cycling and road safety pressure groups, local authorities, health professionals, police forces and academic experts.

Roger Geffen, CTC Campaigns Director, said: ‘Some of the report’s recommendations are inexpensive quick wins, such as getting cycling on the curriculum for secondary as well as primary schools, and making 20mph the normal speed limit in towns and cities. Others, like redesigning our roads and junctions to be cycle-friendly, will require sustained investment over many years.’

MPs and Peers backed calls from CTC and others for 20mph speed limits in urban areas and lower speed limits on country roads, and a transformation of our towns, streets and communities to ensure that cycling is and feels safe for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

CTC is one of several cycling, road