

News, views, & events

CYCLE SHORTS

THIS MONTH INVESTMENT FOR SPACE FOR CYCLING OUTSIDE LONDON. REFUSING TO MAKE LIGHT OF MOTORING OFFENCES. BIG BIKE REVIVAL'S RETURN

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Right: by Steve, Flickr Creative Commons

Government spending on cycling since the last administration. However, the fact that it was published at all gives some cause for optimism, and the strategy's aspirations were unambiguous. It declared: 'We want to create a nation where cycling and walking are the norm for all people, whatever their background or characteristics.'

Last year's biggest win came when the new Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, announced a £770million funding package for cycling over the next four years. That matches Danish levels of spending on cycling and dwarfs the £55million allocated by previous Mayor Boris Johnson in 2008. Hopefully the CWIS will follow a similar trajectory, with spending growth sufficient to turn its baby steps forward into bold strides.

The coming year has opportunities for Cycling UK – along with our members, supporters and allies – to press politicians to follow London's lead in committing to make Space for Cycling. In May, there will be elections for six new 'metro mayors', who will have authority over: Greater Manchester; the West Midlands; the Liverpool City Region; the Sheffield City Region; the West of England; and the Tees Valley. These new mayors will have powers like London's Sadiq Khan. I had the chance to grill prospective Manchester mayoral candidate Andy Burnham MP on what he would do for cycling; you can watch the video podcast at cyclinguk.org/spaceforcycling.

The coming year's elections aren't confined to conurbations: full council elections will be taking place across Wales and Scotland and in the English shire counties. Cycling UK will be contacting these newly elected politicians too, in order to get them to commit their support for Space for Cycling.

Space for Cycling

STREETS AHEAD

It's time the rest of the country followed London's lead in providing proper investment for Space for Cycling. Cycling UK President **Jon Snow** explains how you can help



JON SNOW
Cycling UK
President

CYCLING STRUGGLED to make headlines in 2016. Political upheavals at home and abroad meant that coverage was largely limited to the sporting success of our athletes in Rio. Yet there were some big wins for everyday cycling.

In May, the Government published its draft Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS), which marked the first time a UK Government has ever devised a national strategy for cycling. It was met with limited enthusiasm. The level of investment in this 'investment strategy' was woeful, equating to just 72p per head by 2020. That represents a fall in

TAKE ACTION

Join Cycling UK and me in getting politicians to take notice of Space for Cycling: in the lead-up to the May elections, we will be working with Democracy Club to crowdsource data on electoral candidates. To be successful in this, we need people all over the country to help. To find out what you can do to improve cycling provision where you live, please email Space for Cycling Campaigner Tom Guha: tom.guha@cyclinguk.org



Car dooring isn't a joke and it can incur a fine of up to £1,000

Road Justice

INJUSTICE AT THE DOOR

The Government review of motoring offences and penalties omits key issues, while a crackdown on 'whiplash' claims will hurt cyclists. **Duncan Dollimore** reports

CAR DOORING. The distinction between careless and dangerous driving offences. Greater use of driving disqualifications. None of these is mentioned in the Government's long-awaited review of motoring offences and penalties, which was announced back in May 2014 after lobbying by Cycling UK. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) wants to limit the remit of the review to 'the most serious offences which lead to death or serious injury'. But Cycling UK will be responding on these issues – and you can too (see below).

The limitations of the MoJ review were demonstrated in December, when two-month-old video footage emerged of Secretary of State for Transport Christopher Grayling opening the passenger door of a ministerial car and dooring cyclist Jaiqi Liu. Grayling, it's worth noting, was Justice Secretary when Cycling UK first lobbied the MoJ to include car dooring in their review.

Grayling-gate sparked a media debate about whether opening a car door and causing injury to a cyclist was 'merely an accident' or a criminal offence and a predictable consequence of failing to look properly. Sunday Times columnist Rod Little waded into this, congratulating Grayling on 'a beautifully timed manoeuvre', and boasting that he repeatedly opens and closes taxi doors to try to 'catch' cyclists.

Following complaints to the

Sunday Times by Cycling UK and May Hamilton, the widow of Robert Hamilton, who was killed in a car door incident in 2014, the paper's Executive Editor declined to apologise, maintaining that Little's comments were just 'heavy irony'. May Hamilton is pursuing a complaint to the Independent Press Standards Organisation.

LITTLE COMPENSATION

When the criminal justice system fails cyclists, at least innocent victims have been able to use the civil justice route to claim full compensation for their injuries – until now. In November, the MoJ announced plans to prevent people in England and Wales from recovering their legal costs in claims worth less than £5,000 (which accounts for 70% of cyclists' compensation claims), meaning cyclists would have to pay their lawyers' fees out of their own compensation.

Cycling UK teamed up with charities RoadPeace and Living Streets, and over 6,000 people emailed the MoJ in support of our joint demand that they treat road victims as real victims. A decision is expected in April.

Also reporting in April will be a new inquiry launched by the All-Party Parliamentary Cycling Group, titled 'Cycling and the Justice System'. Co-sponsored by the Cyclists' Defence Fund, the inquiry will deal with issues such as car dooring, compensation, and more.



DUNCAN DOLLIMORE
Senior Road Safety and Legal Campaigner

Quick releases

LONDON BIKE SHOW

The UK's largest cycling show returns to ExCeL in London from 16-19 February. It will feature a huge selection of bikes – brands confirmed include Pinarello, Giant, Cannondale, Endura, Canyon, Scott, Orange and Cervélo. There will be a wide range of features: Air to the Throne; The Riders' Lounge; The Cytech Fastest Wrench competition; Test Track; StreetVelodrome; and demonstrations from the Extreme Action Sports Tour. So whether you're a road cyclist, a mountain biker, an urban commuter, or a family cyclist, there will be something for you at this action-packed show. Cycling UK members can take advantage of a special ticket offer on advance Adult tickets – see p78 for further information. thelondonbikeshow.co.uk

CYCLING UK AGM 2017

The Cycling UK AGM will take place on Saturday 13 May 2017 at the Wesley Hotel, 81-103 Euston Street, London NW1 2EZ. More details will be published in the next issue of Cycle. The deadline for motions is 1 February 2017; see cyclinguk.org/agm2017 for further information on submitting motions.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF IN 2017

Cycling UK is delighted to announce the return of two old favourites in 2017: a Challenge Ride series from April to October and a women's festival of cycling in the summer to mark ten years since the inaugural Five Miles to Fabulous event. For more details on these, see tinyurl.com/gngwy3c for Challenge Rides and tinyurl.com/h3wcngw for the women's festival. If your group would like to be involved in either, email julie.rand@cyclinguk.org.



Right: by Andy Cattin

Big Bike Revival

WELCOME BACK

In its second year, Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival reintroduced tens of thousands more people to cycling by refurbishing their old bikes. **David Murray** reports

BIG BIKE REVIVAL had another fantastic year in 2016. We have helped tens of thousands more people get back into cycling, thanks to £500,000 funding for the campaign in England from the Department for Transport. They were so happy with our efforts that we have a further £1million to go again in 2017 for this hugely important initiative that reaches out to the would-be, could-be and should-be cyclists in some of our poorest communities.

Our network of bike recycling centres and community cycling clubs hosted over 1,000 events, attracting more than 30,000 people over a summer of cycling and bringing 14,500 more bikes back into use. Some 42% of the cycling trips now being made by our BBR participants are ones previously made by car!

It's vital for Britain to find an antidote to the obesity epidemic that our increasingly sedentary lifestyle is sending many of us

“BBR events attracted more than 30,000 people”

towards. So, to see that about a third of our Big Bike Revivalists are now doing more exercise, and have gained the confidence to feel safer cycling on roads, just shows that with a little nudge and friendly support, people can and do buck that unhealthy trend.

Take the hundreds of people that went to BBR events in Birmingham. Andi Smith from Urban Cycles helped to run some of them: 'What's great about the Big Bike Revival is that at every event we meet people like Donna,' she said. 'Donna used to love her bike but her bike soon needed more love than she knew how to show it. She heard about the Big Bike Revival and popped down to see us.

'We not only got Donna sorted but gave her the skills to stay sorted. That's the beauty of BBR – taking real value to really valuable people. Take Donna's experience and multiply it by 227 and that's the story of a summer of Big Bike Revival, Urban Cycles-style!'

We'll have more on Scotland's first foray into the Big Bike Revival to share with you later in the spring, and we'll be back with more ways in which you can get involved this year too.



DAVID MURRAY
Head of Communications
& Campaigns

Quick releases

BIKE-RAIL BACK ON TRACK

Following Great Western Railway's debacle last year, when they tried to implement a mandatory booking system for cycle carriage, Cycling UK has been working with them to produce a booking system that works for cyclists. We now need regular users of GWR intercity services to help test these out. If that sounds like you, send an email to campaigns@cyclenguk.org expressing your interest and giving a summary of your regular route(s).

CLUB SHORTS

- The East Midlands Camping Rally returns to Beaumanor, Leicestershire, from 26-29 May 2017. Visit ctceastmidlands.co.uk for details and a booking form, or contact Ian Alexander on 01332 752384.
- Pembrokeshire Freewheelers are celebrating 25 years as a group with a cycling festival based at Narberth from 26-29 May. Daily rides and a wide variety of accommodation available. Registration £15. Visit pembrokeshirefreewheelers.co.uk
- There will be a Special General Meeting to dissolve the Redditch and Bromsgrove Member Group at Webheath Village Hall, Heathfield Rd, Redditch, B97 5SQ at 7.30pm on 28 March. All Cycling UK members are welcome to attend but only full members can vote.