



**11x more**  
Growth in cycling  
in Seville after they  
built 50 miles of  
bike lanes



Many new UK bike lanes face removal

## BIKE LANE BACKLASH

*Myths about cycle lanes are making some local authorities scrap them. In reality bike lanes are both popular and effective, as **Duncan Dollimore** explains*

**A**s I read a piece in last Sunday's papers under the headline "End the cycle lane madness", I was reminded of Daniel Moynihan's quote that everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts. It's claimed that cycle lanes cause congestion, nobody uses them, and they're bad for local businesses – and the lie is halfway around the world whilst the truth is still putting on its shoes.

This negative reaction to cycle lanes or cycling in general has a name – bikelash – and it's not a new concept. It's been whipped up in recent months as local authorities have used government funding to put in temporary cycle lanes.

Instead of just screaming 'fake news', we've been trying to calmly present the evidence showing that cycle lanes: move more people in less space, reducing congestion; lead to more people cycling more often, whenever they are built well in the right place; and are good for the high street, with cyclists staying longer and spending more money. Unfortunately, some councils seem to be responding to the myths and are pulling out cycle lanes they've only just installed.

Survey after survey has shown that most

people support measures to enable more people to cycle, but if councillors only hear the voices of a vocal minority who oppose cycle lanes they can overestimate the opposition. To encourage councils to be bold with their plans for new cycling and walking infrastructure, they need to know there's wider public support.

To cut through the nonsense about the benefits or otherwise of cycle lanes, we've gone straight to the experts, capturing their voices in a film explaining the public health, air quality, economic and congestion benefits of building more bike lanes. We'll be fighting back against the bikelash, making sure councillors hear evidence from the experts not just speculation from sceptics.

Of course, there's always the risk that the doubters say they've had enough of experts, which is why we also need you to write to your council and local councillor to support active travel schemes in your area. We've made that really easy with template emails, and there's a link to both our online email action and our expert's case for cycle lanes film on our Space for Social Distancing web page: [cyclinguk.org/cycle-powered-recovery](https://cyclinguk.org/cycle-powered-recovery).

### Christmas

## GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Christmas is coming and Cycling UK membership is the perfect present for the cyclist in your life. Gift membership includes a Cycling UK neck tube and either: a Cycle of Good phone case or wallet made from inner tubes; or the new King Alfred's Way guide. Of course, it also provides access to our wonderful member benefits, such as £10m third-party insurance: [cyclinguk.org/festive-gift](https://cyclinguk.org/festive-gift).



Free Cycle of Good gift with membership

### Road safety

## SAFER ROADS IN SCOTLAND

Live in Scotland and want safer roads? Hurry: you've got until 1 December to tell the Scottish Government. They're consulting on a new Road Safety Framework. As our Campaigns and Policy Manager in Scotland explains (at [bit.ly/cycle-safer-roads-scotland](https://bit.ly/cycle-safer-roads-scotland)), achieving their ambition of no deaths on the road by 2025 will require a huge effort. Read our guide to responding: [bit.ly/cycle-safer-roads-response](https://bit.ly/cycle-safer-roads-response).

**Subscriptions**

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

New membership rates came into effect on 1 November. There are changes to some categories and fees but not the adult rate, which is frozen for a year. For details, look out for your next renewal letter or visit [cyclinguk.org/new-membership-structure](http://cyclinguk.org/new-membership-structure). Membership now comes with great new discounts and deals – see [cyclinguk.org/member-benefits](http://cyclinguk.org/member-benefits).



Free 30-day CycleSure insurance now offered

**Campaigns**

**CYCLE ADVOCACY NETWORK**

Cycling UK has launched the Cycle Advocacy Network to support those who stand up for cycling in our communities. There are so many local issues: safe riding to schools; cycle parking at the supermarket; accessible off-road countryside trails; direct commuter routes to town. By pooling ideas and resources, we can really make a difference. [cyclinguk.org/cycle-advocacy-network](http://cyclinguk.org/cycle-advocacy-network)

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**Zero increase in Cycling UK adult membership fee for the next year**



Cycle Sisters inspires Muslim women to cycle

Near left: Robby Spanring, Far left: Andy Collogly, Below: Alamy

**Volunteers**

**CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**

**D**iversity was the theme of Cycling UK's Volunteer Celebration on 3 October, an event that took place virtually due to the pandemic.

Interactive training sessions on safeguarding adults and unconscious bias were followed by a lively panel discussion on inclusive cycling groups, hosted by Cycling UK's Engagement Officer Anna Glowinski. Panellists included: Vicky Balfour;

Mark Holton from Cycling UK LGBT+ cycling group CycleOut London; Jolly Oluka from SCOREScotland; and Joanne Maw from Member Group CTC Swale.

We launched a new volunteering role for cycling groups: Diversity Champion [see p5]. This was led by Aneela McKenna, a professional in the field of equality and inclusion.

Evening entertainment was our first ever Big Bicycle Quiz, hosted

by Anna Glowinski and Cycling UK volunteer Lorraine Dixon. Hundreds of people watched the quiz on YouTube or Facebook Live.

Head of Volunteering Alex Cuppleditch then announced the names of the winners of a Lockdown Love Certificate of Appreciation, celebrating groups and individuals who have 'Gone the Extra Mile' during the pandemic – see [cyclinguk.org/going-extra-mile](http://cyclinguk.org/going-extra-mile).

**Member groups**

**CTC COVENTRY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY**

**CTC Coventry, which was formed in 1921, has announced a series of events to celebrate its centenary next year. The programme kicks off on Sunday, 11 April with a ride to commemorate the**

**club's inaugural ride. It will set off from the Coventry Transport Museum (right).**

**Other events during the year include a Triple Centenary Ride to mark the 100th birthdays of not only CTC Coventry but**



**also Memorial Park and the Meriden Service. For more details, see <http://live.coventryctc.org.uk>.**



Removing a barrier or reclassifying a footpath can connect a network for cyclists



New Trustee Sam Marshall has been a member since 1993

Off-road

# MISSING LINKS

Let's join the dots in the rights of way network by opening up bike access on some sections. **Sophie Gordon** describes how Cycling UK's new mapping tool will help

**C**ycling UK has launched a new mapping tool to help fill in the missing links for off-road cycling. It enables you to suggest improvements in the network and ask your council to include these routes in their future planning.

While Scotland and Wales have been fairly progressive in their approach to off-road access, England is lagging. Scotland's Land Reform Act 2003 allows responsible access to most land provided you follow the Outdoor Access Code. The Welsh Government is developing legislation to make many rights of way multi-use, as a result of campaigning by Cycling UK, OpenMTB, and others. However, in England not much has changed since Cycling UK (then CTC) won cyclists the right to ride on bridleways in 1968.

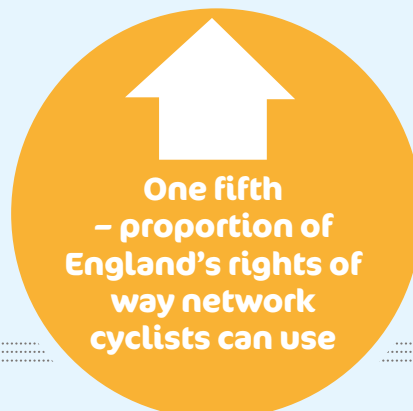
In a perfect world, an off-road ride would allow you to leave your home and follow a network of trails – from towpaths and disused railway lines to rocky trails – in one seamless flow. In reality, your ride is likely to include busy roads you'd rather avoid or a detour on muddy bridleways because the direct, better-surfaced route happens to be labelled a footpath. Opening up one short

missing link can make all the difference.

Local authorities produce cycling and walking plans, and also plans to improve off-road rights of way. But these plans often aren't connected. This isn't surprising when you consider they are created by separate teams within the council. That's why Cycling UK wants to gather all your suggestions on one map, where you can pinpoint the gaps in the network and ask your council to include them in their future plans.

We've never been more aware of the importance of being out in nature, and of the simple joy and escape of riding your bike. Let's join the dots to connect those routes and help more people get outdoors.

[cyclinguk.org/missinglinks](http://cyclinguk.org/missinglinks)



## Trustees UNDISPUTED ELECTIONS

Jacqueline Hills has been re-elected to the Cycling UK Board of Trustees and two new trustees – Sam Marshall and Robin Tucker – appointed, following the membership-wide elections at the end of October. All are Cycling UK members and have years of experience with key skills the Board was seeking. Read more about them online: [cyclinguk.org/trustees-2020](http://cyclinguk.org/trustees-2020).

## Raffle YOU WIN!

The Summer Raffle 2020 was one of our most successful to date. Thanks to all who took part: your support is vital to the charitable work we do. Thanks also to our sponsors: Raleigh, Brompton, Rapha, Freewheel, and Cotswold Outdoor. The winners were: 1st prize, Mrs Irene North (pictured below); 2nd, Mr J McCrone; 3rd, Mr Bill Stevens; 4th, Mr Jim Warden; 5th, Mr Phillip Batt; and 6th, Mr Alan Kay.

